

NEWS RELEASE

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DENVER SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR 2015 ED GALA

Noey and Tom Congdon to be honored for their legacy of giving

Denver – The Denver Scholarship Foundation will hold its seventh annual Ed Gala, presented by Mike and Patty Starzer, on Thursday evening, October 29, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center. In 2014, the gala raised \$1.5 million in support of scholarships and college access services for economically disadvantaged high school students enrolled in the Denver Public Schools system.

Since 2007, DSF has provided college access counseling services to more than 33,000 DPS students and has awarded \$25 million in scholarships to over 4,500 students. This is the largest college access and success program serving Denver Public Schools students. Three quarters of all DSF Scholars have graduated or are working towards completing their college program. According to independent research conducted by the Pell Institute, these graduates go on to enrich Colorado's workforce by adding \$6 to \$8 million annually to the local economy.

The 2015 Ed Gala will honor the generosity of DSF Legacy Donors, Noey and Tom Congdon. For more than 50 years the Congdon's have made strategic investments in nonprofits serving the key educational and cultural needs of Colorado. They were among the very first major investors in DSF's endowment, and have continued to provide stalwart support to the organization.

Seven-time Emmy-award winning news veteran, John Quiñones, will deliver the evening's keynote address. His 25-year career with ABC News includes serving as co-anchor of the long-running newsmagazine, Primetime, as well as the Primetime limited series *What Would You Do?*, one of television's most highly-rated newsmagazine franchises of recent years. Like many DSF Scholars, Quiñones is a first generation college graduate who overcame many obstacles on his path to success.

"We are delighted to have this opportunity to shine a spotlight on Noey and Tom's exemplary philanthropy," said Cathey McClain Finlon, DSF Board Chair. "They quietly stepped up with significant early stage funding of the Denver Scholarship Foundation when DSF's programs were being conceived, and we look forward to honoring their years generous of support."

Along with her role as chair of DSF's Board of Directors, Finlon is serving as co-chair of the Ed Gala, along with Don Silversmith, Chairman, First Western Trust, Cherry Creek.



For more information on sponsorship opportunities and ticket availability please call 303.640.6568, email events@denverscholarship.org, or visit www.denverscholarship.org.



Gov. John Hickenlooper hosted DSF's 2015 college graduation celebration in May. DSF's graduated nearly 350 new college graduates in 2015.

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About the Denver Scholarship Foundation

The Denver Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity whose mission is to inspire and empower Denver Public School students to achieve their postsecondary goals. A direct service provider, DSF provides college and financial-aid advice to Denver students and families and offers a renewable, need-based scholarship to support scholars throughout their college careers. DSF also partners with colleges across Colorado on retention strategies to help Denver students complete their postsecondary education. DSF aims to create a community-wide movement to prepare Denver's youth to succeed in the sophisticated workforce of today and tomorrow!