



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:
Latia Henderson
720.982.4770

lhenderson@denverscholarship.org

John Ikard Joins Denver Scholarship Foundation Board of Directors

Denver, CO – [Denver Scholarship Foundation \(DSF\)](#) Board of Directors recently elected John Ikard as its newest member. Founded in 2006, DSF is committed to closing long-standing educational and economic achievement gaps through college access and success.

Ikard started with FirstBank in 1981 and was elected President and CEO of FirstBank Holding Company in 1999. In early 2017, after 35 years with the company, the last 17 years as CEO, Ikard stepped down as CEO but continues to serve on the FirstBank Board of Directors. Ikard is an active community leader having served as past chairman of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, Denver Area Boy Scout Council, and Denver Economic Development Corporation. On a national level, Ikard has served as Chairman of the American Bankers Association, the nation's largest financial services association, as well as serving on the Federal Reserve Board of Kansas City. In 2010, Ikard was honored with the prestigious "Community Banker of Year" award by the American Banker magazine.

"Giving back to the community has always been a pillar of Firstbank. Colorado is our home state and we have always felt that it is our responsibility to support nonprofits that help our community thrive. I am honored to aid DSF in getting DPS graduates to and through college. I am also eager to activate other corporate leaders join our work," shares Ikard.

His appointment comes at a high point in DSF's 11-year history. The organization's strategic investment in the community has provided \$36 million in scholarships to more than 6,300 low-income graduates of Denver Public Schools who attend Colorado colleges, universities and technical schools. With a unique approach that provides counseling and support services beginning in high school and extending through college completion, DSF Scholars persist in their drive to graduate by a remarkable rate of 76%.

"We are excited to welcome John Ikard to DSF's Board of Directors," said Lorii Rabinowitz, Chief Executive Officer for DSF. "He brings such great talent, expertise and energy, and we are very fortunate to have him on our Board as we continue to strengthen our work in the Denver community."

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About the Denver Scholarship Foundation

Denver Scholarship Foundation (DSF) is a 501(c)(3) public charity whose mission is to inspire and empower Denver Public Schools' students to achieve their college 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 to implement retention strategies that help Denver students complete their college education. DSF aims to create systemic change to prepare Denver's youth to succeed in today's evolving workforce. For more information, www.denverscholarship.org or connect with us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).