



RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION 2020-2021

# ANNUAL REPORT

For the fiscal year ending June 2021

  
RED ROCKS  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION



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## EXITING MEMBERS

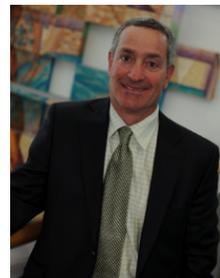
*Thank you to our exiting Board of Director Members!*



Kristin Anderson: 18 years of service, joined 2002.  
Former BOD President. Retired, Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank



Kevin Bervik: 19 years of service, joined 2001.  
Vice President and Senior Trust Officer AMG National Trust Bank



Jim Dascalos: 14 years of service, joined 2006.  
Former BOD President. President/CEO, Resources Opportunity Corporation Int.



Jim Whitfield: 14 years of service, joined 2006.  
VP of Operations and Business Development, Hi Country Wire and Telephone

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## FOUNDATION OFFICERS

### President

John Trefny, PhD  
*Retired, President, Colorado School of Mines*

### Treasurer

Michelle Fournier Johnson  
*Chief Human Resources Officer, Denver Health*

### Vice-President

Doris Stipech  
*Owner Agent, State Farm Insurance*

### Secretary

Michele Haney, PhD  
*President, Red Rocks Community College*

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## 2020-2021 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Kristin Anderson

*Retired, Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank*

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*President, Square Peg Enterprises*

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*Community Volunteer*

### Clarence Low

*Director of Organizational Relationships, Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers*

### Kevin J. Bervik

*Vice President and Senior Trust Officer AMG National Trust Bank*

### Tom Menk

*President, Menk Family Investments*

### Jamie Biesemeier-Wilkins

*President, Industrial Chemicals Corporation*

### Melinda C. O'Rourke, MD

*Medical Director/Owner, Northwest Eye Center, P.C. and Essence Laser and Wellness*

### John G. Brant

*Lawyer*

### Skip Olson

*Retired, Business Development Manager, Lennox Industries Inc.*

### Kim Carver

*CEO, The Leading Network*

### Shaw Schulder

*Market Manager, W.W. Grainger, Inc.*

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### William Conrad

*Manager, Xcel Energy, Key Accounts Group*

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*Retired, Director, Mobile Sources Program Colorado Dept. of Health and Public Environment, Former State Representative*

### Michael Coughlin

*Owner, 240 Union Restaurant*

### Carl Craig

*Principle, Craig Corporate Advantage*

### Denise Waddell

*Retired, President, FirstBank of Wheat Ridge*

### Jim Dascalos

*President/CEO, Resources Opportunity Corporation Int.*

### Jim Whitfield

*VP of Operations and Business Development, Hi Country Wire and Telephone*

### Robb Gair

*Retired, Investment Advisor, Piper Jaffray Corporation*

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## FOUNDATION STAFF

### Angela King

*Executive Director*

### Travis Ogburn

*Program Coordinator*

### Ian Maphet

*Operations Manager*

### Allison Dumas

*Director of Grant Development*

# A Letter From The Presidents

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

At Red Rocks Community College, we believe in the power of education to transform lives. We believe it because we have watched it happen year after year in our classrooms, hallways, and learning commons. Students are stepping forward for themselves and their future.

Since our inception in 1991, the RRCC Foundation has supported over 4,400 students and awarded nearly \$8 million in scholarships and support services resulting in 1,271 Associate Degrees and 1,465 Certificates. The Foundation is also able to support whole student approaches such as on-site food pantries and a Veterans Services Center. In addition to our strong student supports, gifts to the Foundation help fund innovation grants, faculty professional development and other programs that drive excellence at Red Rocks Community College.

Higher education plays a critical role in reviving our economies and providing the education and skills pathways needed for most high wage jobs. We are a critical component to building an educated, informed citizenry. Higher education, and community colleges in particular, have a special role to play in addressing the historically entrenched inequities that affect low income students and students from marginalized communities. Red Rocks Community College has been on a mission to change that for over 50 years. Our communities need us more than ever.

We recognize the challenges that too many students continue to face in enrolling, persisting and graduating from college. We are certain that talent is everywhere. We are equally certain that, together, we can ensue that equitable opportunities are equally available. When we couple talent with opportunity, we dynamically shift the future of our communities for the better.

In this report, we share with you a snapshot of the previous year and the amazing work that has been occurring here at Red Rocks Community College. We hope that reading these stories will remind you of the importance of higher education to the vitality of our region-focused on students, committed to individual integrity, intellectual excellence, and social responsibility. Red Rocks Community College stands ready to serve each student that comes to its doors and is willing to put in the work required to achieve their goals.

We thank each of you that chose to step forward for students in addressing equitable educational opportunities for all in our region. You demonstrated the amazing things we can accomplish when we come together with a shared vision.

Thank you.



*John Trefny, PhD, Board President  
Red Rocks Community College  
Foundation*



*C. Michele Haney, PhD, President  
Red Rocks Community College*

# Student Spotlight

As a young girl, Jamie O'Reilly never dared to dream that she could attend college. Determined to improve her life, she decided to enroll at Red Rocks Community College. That October, she suddenly found herself homeless with her kids.

Scholarships and emergency supports from the Foundation helped Jamie overcome those barriers and stay in school.

She's incredibly thankful for the opportunity to chase her dreams. Thanks to your support, Jamie continues to work on her engineering degree. She's excited to provide a better future for herself and her children. Scholarships made the impossible - possible.



*“Thank you so much again for your generosity and support, I could not be achieving these goals and my dreams for myself and my children if it were not for people like you willing to invest in our future.” ~ Jamie O'Reilly*

## EXCELLENCE AT RRCC



### Theater Department Wins Bernice Joseph Award

Red Rocks Community College was named the winner of the 2021 Bernice Joseph award by the Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (the Alliance) for its inventive and creative plan for how a Spring 2020 theatre history class would respond to a theater closure during a pandemic as artistic directors/producers. The Alliance created the Award to recognize problem-solving and innovation among community colleges in the western United States while honoring Bernice Joseph, an influential University of Alaska educator who passed away in 2014.



### RRCC Named Best Medical Assistant School in Colorado

The RRCC Medical Assistant program was named the number one medical assistant school in Colorado for 2021, by the journal of Medical Assistant Advice. The program is committed to providing professional training that translates into suitable placements soon after graduation. Students can choose between a certificate or associate degree, depending on career goals. The RRCC family is very proud of the hard work of all the faculty and students that are part of the Medical Assistant Program!



### RockSat-X Flight

RRCC students, joined students from seven other community college and universities, to help with the launch of the Terrier-Improved Malemute sounding rocket from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility. RRCC students collaboratively worked on projects with a mix of technology and science experiments. The projects included development of a 360-degree camera for sounding rockets, space debris removal concepts, solar array deployment system, and collecting of space particles for research on the origins of life. The experiments are being flown through the RockSat-X program in partnership with the Colorado Space Grant Consortium. This was the tenth flight of a RockSat-X payload, and the experiments, along with any stored data, will be provided to students.

# ENDING STUDENT FOOD INSECURITY

## RRCC Student Life

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*“This is great. My family has been struggling to get groceries since COVID started, and this is just awesome. Thank you.”*

- RRCC Student

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COVID -19 changed everyone’s daily lives. It also created a serious food assistance access issue for students. As both RRCC campuses went remote, the college saw that students’ needs for food assistance were greater than ever. Student Life had run a non-need based food bank for several years prior to COVID. During the campus closures, Student Life pivoted to provide home deliveries, as well as curbside pick-ups. This was a lifeline for many of our students, and it also highlighted how vital the food pantry was to so many RRCC students. An effort was made to create a more substantial food program for RRCC students.

The importance of food security was recognized by many people, especially one anonymous family. The family approached the Foundation to see how they could help make sure RRCC students had access to food. They agreed to donate \$5,000, if the college



The RRCC Student Pantry

could match the total. This helped to create the RRCC 5K Food Pantry Challenge. In a week’s time, the RRCC community raised the matching \$5,000. The family was so impressed with the generosity shown for this cause, that they put up another \$5,000 for matching. Once again, the RRCC family stepped up, and an additional \$5,000 was raised for the food pantry. In total, just over \$20,000

was raised to support efforts of the Student Pantry.

The Student Pantry also formed a partnership with the Food Bank of the Rockies to further stretch each dollar given. The Food Bank of the Rockies provides food and necessities to people in need through signature programs and by teaming up with hundreds of Hunger Relief Partners to serve

communities across Colorado and Wyoming, the largest food bank coverage area in the contiguous United States. The Food Bank of the Rockies visits RRCC once a month with a huge semi-truck full of boxed and canned goods, some produce, and occasionally dairy and eggs.

Thanks to our community of donors, the Student Pantry has moved from a table in the hallway to an entire room on campus. The new space has an area for students to heat up items and eat together. These food resources have been so important for students this

last year. Non-perishable food or unopened hygiene items may be dropped at either the Lakewood or Arvada campuses.

You can also make a monetary donation online: [www.coloradogives.org/rrccfoundation](http://www.coloradogives.org/rrccfoundation)



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*“It was a lot of work to get this space up and running, but the payoff in terms of helping our students is immeasurable.”*

- Mika Matzen, Student Project Center Coordinator

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The RRCC Student Pantry

# CHAMPION OF EDUCATION

Dr. John Trefny

The RRCC Foundation Board of Directors recognized Dr. John Trefny for his commitment to changing lives through education. This past year, Dr. Trefny completed his term as the President of the RRCC Foundation Board of Directors. Dr. Trefny has also served as the President to the Colorado Community College System Board of Directors, as well as being the former President of Colorado School of Mines. During his time at the School of Mines, Dr. Trefny helped usher in the current standing transfer agreement between Red Rocks Community College and the Colorado School of Mines. During the 17-18 academic year, RRCC launched the Trefny Honors Program. Dr. Trefny's tremendous support has been felt by students here at RRCC, and throughout Colorado. Dr. Trefny is a true Champion of Education for the state of Colorado.



# KEEPING STUDENTS IN CLASS

Student retention became a priority at Red Rocks in 2020-2021. Students were facing incredible financial barriers to staying in class. Last fall, college enrollment numbers dipped across the nation as students and families made difficult decisions in the face of a global pandemic. In September of 2020, The Washington Post reported that, "Low-income students are dropping out of college this fall in alarming numbers", in a trend that was, "unusual and particular to this pandemic, as typically enrollment jumps during economic downturns when jobs are scarce."



available on a one-time basis to assist students in addressing the financial crisis that may cause them to drop out of school. Funds supported housing and utility needs, additional technology, childcare and a host of other needs. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, over \$165,000 in support went out to 348 students in need. The average award per student was \$476. That gift meant the difference between staying in class or dropping out for these students.

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***"Thank you so much! You have no idea how much this means to me."***

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When low income students stop attending school, they rarely return, diminishing their job and wage prospects for the rest of their lives. After taking just one year off from college, students overall are 30% less likely to ever earn a bachelor's degree. Moreover, students who stop before finishing their degree find themselves entering the workforce in a weak economy and during a time of great chaos and uncertainty.

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***"Thank you again for all of your help today. You were able to take a big weight off of my shoulders."***

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***"Thank you so much. I can't say how much I appreciate your help. All the best to you and your loved ones!"***

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Recent surveys on the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic show that students of color and working class, low-income, and indigenous students were experiencing higher rates of hardship. The College understood that access to a wider variety of financial aid would support our students' likelihood of completing a degree. That's when we turned to our donors to provide a much-needed lifeline for students in crisis.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Foundation launched an Emergency Grant program funded by private individuals and community foundations. The fund was made

Thank you to the individuals and community partners that helped us provide these much-needed funds this past year. We are grateful to the hard-working teams in both the Financial Aid office and the Business Office who helped to coordinate and implement this special effort on behalf of our most vulnerable students.

# Red Rocks Community College Honors 27TH ENDOWED TEACHING CHAIR WINNER

*It is the Foundation Board of Directors honor to announce the 2021 The Student Voice Endowed Teaching Chair winner, Jennings Prevatte. Jennings is a Faculty member and Program Lead of RRCC's Education Program. Jennings will be awarded \$22,500 over the next three years with salary enhancement and professional development funds.*

Student success is directly influenced by faculty excellence, and RRCC strives to deliver exceptional educational experience to all students by recruiting, recognizing, and rewarding exceptional faculty. The RRCC Foundation is committed to ensuring we support that vision with meaningful faculty support and programs.

RRCC Foundation provides numerous opportunities to assist our faculty. RRCC Faculty receive support through our Adjunct Tuition Reimbursement Program, Dr. Agneta Albinsson Endowment Fund Professional Development Grant, Foundation Board of Directors Innovation Challenge Program, and Endowed Teaching Chair Program.

The 2020-2021 Academic Year saw the Foundation provide over \$30,000 in support to Full Time and Adjunct Faculty. Our faculty has had to quickly adapt to a new learning environment and we can not thank them enough for their teaching excellence and continued support to our RRCC students! We look forward to continuing to support our faculty during the 2021-2022 Academic Year.



*Jennings Prevatte, Faculty Member and Lead of RRCC's Education Program*

*"I am very grateful for the ETC opportunity and award. It has been an amazing journey of professional growth. I also want to thank the faculty, administrators, and students who supported me through this process. My goal is to continue to develop my excellence in teaching and coaching in a variety of ways that advocate and support quality teaching and learning for faculty, instructors, and students, as well as to have a positive impact on equity, inclusion, and access for all students. This summer I will begin working with colleagues to design a teaching and learning center at RRCC and expand the Professional Learning Community (PLC) pilot."*

*~ Jennings Prevatte*

## Endowed Teaching Chairs

*The RRCC Endowed Teaching Chair Program is the only multi-year faculty award in the Colorado Community College System. It is a meaningful way to recognize and award our outstanding faculty.*

### Endowed Teaching Chairs Past and Present:

Year	Awardee	Award Donor
2021-2023	Jennings Prevatte	The Student Voice Endowed
2020-2022	Sally Cirincione	Swede Johnson/Coors
2019-2021	Elyse Marsh	Leprino Family Foundation
2018-2020	Brenda Forland	The Student Voice Endowed
2017-2019	Brandon English	Swede Johnson/Coors
2016-2018	Stina French	Leprino Family Foundation
2015-2017	Merri Mattison	The Student Voice Endowed
2014-2016	Berndt Savig	Swede Johnson/Coors
2013-2015	Wendy Bird	Leprino Family Foundation
2012-2014	Heather Duncan	The Student Voice Endowed
2011-2013	Fawn Oates	Swede Johnson/Coors
2010-2012	Paul Gallagher	Leprino Family Foundation
2009-2011	Sherry Dewald	Foundation Board of Directors
2008-2010	Steve Kaye	Swede Johnson/Coors
	Stephanie Berg-Oram	The Student Voice
2007-2009	Marjorie Berman	The Student Voice
	Amy Braziller	Leprino Family Foundation
2006-2008	Chuck Smith	Friends of Red Rocks
	Liz Kleinfeld	RHCC Foundation
2005-2007	Terry Reeves	Dr. Eric Reno
	Cindy Somers	Swede Johnson/Coors
2004-2006	Kerry Edwards	RRCCF Endowed Chair
	Rick Reeves	Student Voice
2003-2005	Pamela Mencher	RRCC Bookstore
	Joey Spillyards	RRCC Foundation
2002-2004	Candace Garrod	Swede Johnson/Coors
	Jack Stanesco	Leprino Family Foundation

Red Rocks Community College Foundation

# STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## ASSETS

ASSETS	2021	2020
Cash and cash equivalents	\$859,374	\$412,859
Accounts receivable, other	50,541	1,281
Accrued interest receivable	13,319	6,862
Prepaid expenses	1,987	2,000
Investments	7,669,415	5,973,746
Art and donor recognition walls	17,758	17,758
Beneficial interest in charitable remainder unitrusts	127,525	112,625
Beneficial interest in life insurance, cash value	28,760	27,437
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$8,768,679</b>	<b>\$6,554,568</b>

## LIABILITIES

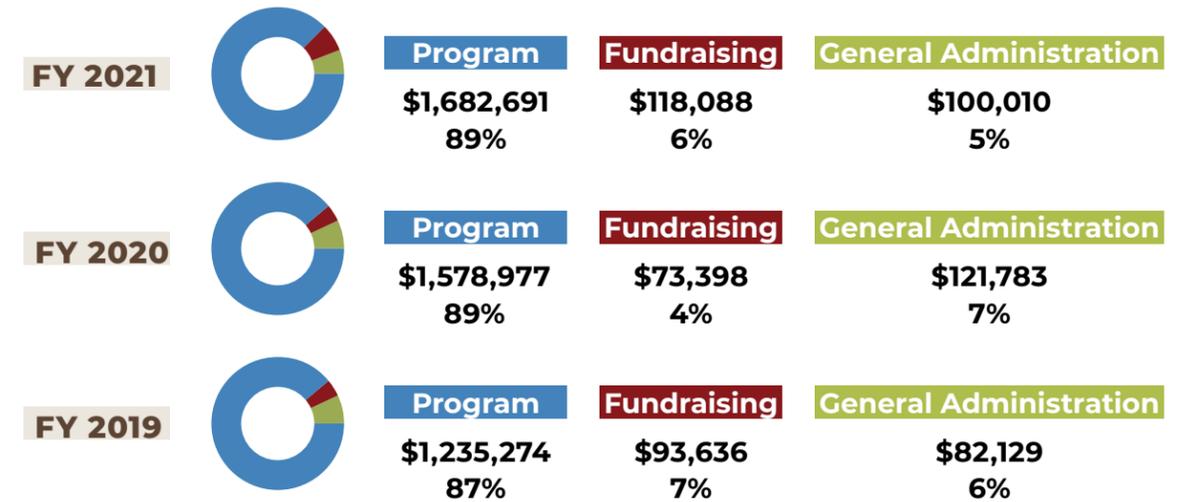
Accounts payable, trade	\$102,081	\$30,017
Accounts payable, related party	33,718	65,653
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>135,799</b>	<b>95,670</b>

## NET ASSETS

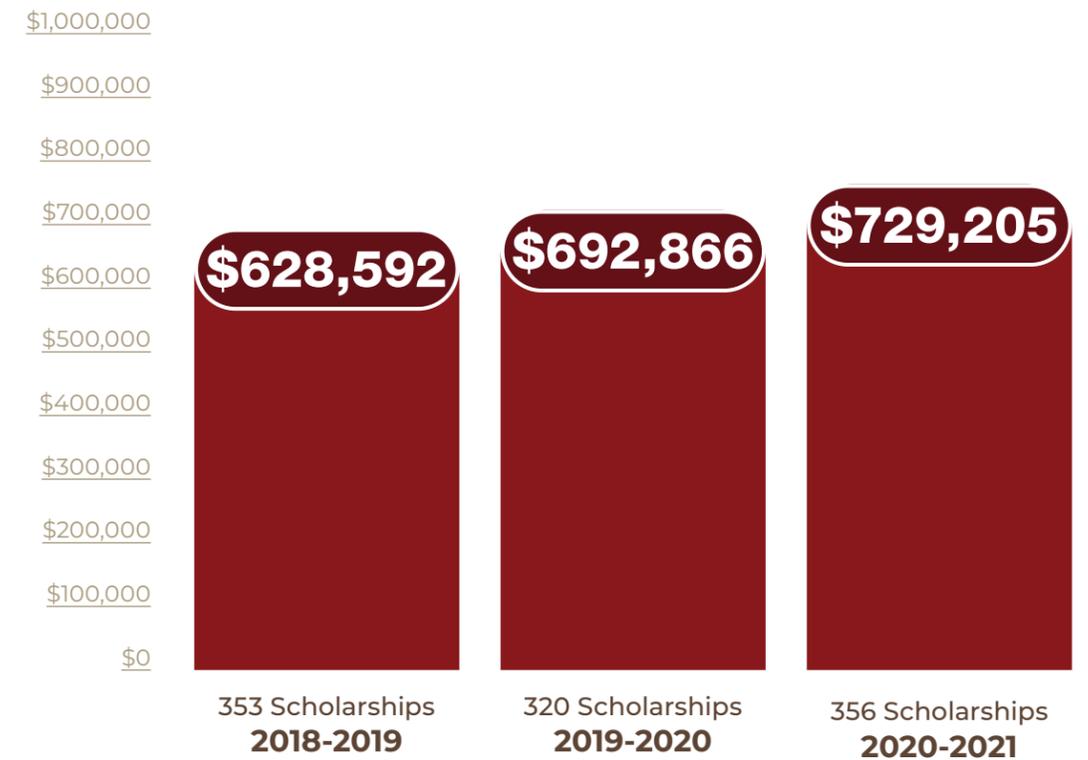
Without Donor Restrictions:		
Undesignated	2,125,400	1,310,393
With Donor Restrictions:		
Purpose Restriction	2,084,729	1,520,232
Perpetual in nature	4,422,751	3,628,273

**Total net assets** **\$8,632,880** **\$6,458,898**

**Total liabilities and net assets** **\$8,768,679** **\$6,554,568**



### FOUNDATION EXPENSES BY FISCAL YEAR



### SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS AWARDED

# OUR COMMUNITY OF DONORS

The Red Rocks Community College Foundation is grateful to the many donors and friends who have given their support during the 2020-2021 academic year. It is the policy of the Red Rocks Community College Foundation to promptly acknowledge the receipt of all donations. Every effort has been made to create a comprehensive list of supporters. If your name is missing or incorrect, please contact us at 303-914-6308 so that we may correct the error.

## DONORS \$100,000 AND MORE

Colorado Department of Higher Education  
The Colorado Health Foundation  
The Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges

## DONORS \$25,000-\$99,999

Agneta Albinsson and Mats Wahlstrom  
Margaret Barber  
Colorado COVID Relief Fund  
Community First Foundation  
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Johnson Foundation of the Rockies  
Kingdom Enlightenment Scholarship Foundation  
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Dorothy Welty  
West Metro Fire Chiefs Fund  
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## DONORS \$500-\$999

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City of Wheat Ridge

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# MORE THAN \$904k

*in program support was contributed to RRCC during the year!*

# OUR COMMUNITY OF DONORS

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Shyrel Smith-Hosseini  
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Suzanne Sullivan  
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Allen & Patricia Wulf



# Honor and Memorial Donations

**In Memory of Cody and Shelby Allen,  
Designated to the Cody and Shelby Allen  
Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund**

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*Thomas Lemcke and Tammy Keffeler*

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Membership in the Sandstone Society expresses these donors' belief in RRCC and a commitment to improving the future through quality, accessible higher education. Their generosity not only works as a catalyst for positive change, but inspires others to continue to step forward and make a difference. We are so incredibly thankful for their support

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“We have been proud supporters of RRCC Foundation for many years. When working on our estate plan, we wanted to make a substantial contribution to a cause that could provide the most bang for the buck for many years going forward. RRCC rose to the top when doing our research.

For a small investment in each student, we hope to make a big impact by helping them become someone who can have a positive impact on the future of our nation.

Our hope is that these students will contribute back to the school and help another generation to achieve success, magnifying the impact of our gift.”

# Endowment Funds

The Red Rocks Community College Foundation gratefully acknowledges the donors who have given so generously as to provide the following endowment funds:

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