



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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### NEWS RELEASE

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## APPLICATIONS READY FEB. 1 FOR WELD COUNTY BRIGHT FUTURES GRANT PROGRAM

WELD COUNTY, CO – The next milestone in the Weld County Bright Futures Grant Program will be reached Monday as the applications for grants will be available on the web site February 1.

“The interest in the program, from the both the donation end and the academic end, has been fantastic,” said Commissioner Chairman Mike Freeman. “The program has received sizable donations from businesses and individuals alike particularly during the past few weeks. And now, with tax notices arriving in mail, we expect to see a big increase in donations to the program.”

Real property owners will see personalized information in the message box on their tax notice letting them know how they can receive their tax credit on the Weld County portion of their property tax bill. While anyone can donate to the Weld County Bright Futures Grant Program and take advantage of the state and federal income tax deduction for charitable donations, residents and businesses who own property in Weld County can also receive 50% of their donation back in the form of a property tax credit on the county portion of their taxes.

Currently, the program has received more than \$351,979 in donations and a \$259,869 grant from the state in just the first five months of its existence.

“This is a new program, and it will take some time for people to learn about it and understand why it is such a great thing for Weld County,” said Freeman. “This is the only program of its kind in the country, and that is a testament to the commitment Weld County residents have for education and desire they have to continue to make Weld County a great place to raise a family or build a business. When we have businesses and residents donating \$5,000, \$25,000 even \$100,000 to this, we know they believe in the program and in the future of Weld County students.”

The application process, which can be found on the web site at [www.weldcountybrightfutures.com](http://www.weldcountybrightfutures.com) on February 1, makes it simple for high school graduates, GED recipients and Honorably Discharged U.S. Veterans to apply. Funds will be dispersed in August 2016 and will be made directly to the schools on behalf of the student. Applications for the Fall Semester are due August 1, 2016.

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