



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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NEWS RELEASE

Date: 4/19/16

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BRIGHT FUTURES SURPASSES THE \$1 MILLION MARK IN FUNDING

WELD COUNTY, CO – A \$50,000 donation made last week by PDC Energy pushed the funding total for the Weld County Bright Futures Grant program to more than \$1 million.

BY THE NUMBERS

437

Number of donors to the program

\$745,855.90

Total donated since September 2015

\$259,869.00

Grant funding received from the State

\$1,005,724.90

*Total amount for
Bright Futures Grant Funding*

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE AT ANY TIME FOR ANY AMOUNT. WELD COUNTY PROPERTY OWNERS CAN STILL MAKE DONATIONS THROUGH JUNE 15, HOWEVER, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FOR 2015.

"Reaching this milestone is fantastic," said Commissioner Chair Mike Freeman. "The donations we continue to receive for this program demonstrate the desire our residents and businesses have to make certain Weld County students have the opportunity to succeed in education and achieve their goals. The donations also will ensure the future economic success of our county."

"Bright Futures demonstrates a long-term commitment our county, our residents and our business community have toward building a strong work force," Freeman said. "The program's success is dependent upon individual donations, and we are off to a great start!"

Donations to the grant fund from any individual or business are encouraged. Donations made by real property owners in Weld County are eligible for a property tax credit on the Weld County portion of their tax bill. All donations are eligible for state and federal income tax deductions for charitable giving.

Donations can be made annually. This year, Weld County residents have until June 15 to donate to the fund and still receive the property tax credit on their 2015 tax bill (payable in 2016). Property owners who have already paid the first half of their property tax can still donate and have the credit applied to their 2015 tax bill.

"We strongly encourage Weld County property owners to donate every year in order to take full advantage of the property tax credit," said Freeman.

This grant program is unique in that it offers up to \$3,000 a year to Weld County residents who graduate high school or receive their GED starting in 2016 and honorably discharged U.S. Veterans for use on post-secondary education at any Title IV accredited higher education institution or certified training program in the country.

To learn more about the program, including how to donate, please visit www.weldcountybrightfutures.com.

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