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Colorado Schools Recognized as 2015 Healthy School Champions

DENVER, CO – More than 40 Colorado schools are being highlighted as some of the state’s healthiest schools at The Colorado Education Initiative’s (CEI) [7th Annual Summit and Luncheon: Seeing is Believing](#) on **Friday, April 24**, at the Sheraton Denver Downtown, 1550 Court Place, Denver.

New this year, **Pagosa Springs Middle School** will receive the inaugural *2015 Governor’s Award for School Health and Wellness*.

This annual celebration – known as the *2015 Healthy School Champions* – recognizes Colorado schools that create and support a healthy school environment and implement effective school health efforts. CEI recognizes these schools’ efforts to create successful health and wellness programs that support student learning.

“We recognize schools and districts that ignite the power of public education through collaboration, innovation, and capacity building,” said Glenna Norvelle, president and CEO of CEI. “Forty-seven Colorado schools demonstrate the critical link between student health and academic achievement. We’re excited to present these awards to schools that work to increase student achievement through health and wellness programs.”

The program is in its fifth year, with more than \$163,000 in awards granted, with support from The Colorado Health Foundation, over the past five years in the range of \$300 to \$6,000 per school.

“We award schools based on their implementation of best practices in school health through an assessment tool, a narrative outlining their work and letters of support” said CEI Health and Wellness Director Amy Dillon.

For the winning schools, it’s about striking the right balance of academics and health and wellness for students at school. “We have built in chances for students and staff to move more during the day by building extra time into our school’s master schedule,” said **Jeffco Schools’ Patterson International School Principal Valerie Pollitt**. “That alone increased movement by 15 minutes for every student. The award validates all the work we have put in over the last year to create that balanced lifestyle for Patterson students — like our 100-Mile Club, before- and after-school activities led by staff and parents, and Run for Fund fundraising efforts.”

The summit is sponsored by the Colorado Health Foundation and hosted in partnership with the Colorado Coalition for Healthy Schools, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Colorado Department of Education. Learn more about [CEI](#) and the [7th Annual Summit and Luncheon: Seeing is Believing](#).

See the entire list of [2015 Healthy Schools Champions](#).

About The Colorado Education Initiative

The Colorado Education Initiative is an independent nonprofit working in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education to unlock the unique potential of every student by incubating innovation, shining a spotlight on success, and investing in sustainable change that improves outcomes for all students. CEI envisions that every student in Colorado is prepared and unafraid to succeed in school, work, and life, and ready to take on the challenges of today, tomorrow, and beyond.

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