



THE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2015

WHAT: 2015 Summit and Luncheon: *Seeing is Believing*

WHEN: **TODAY**, Friday, April 24 from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Sheraton Downtown Denver, 1550 Court Place, Denver 80202

The Colorado Education Initiative Hosts 2015 Summit and Luncheon: *Seeing is Believing*
Celebrating 47 Colorado Healthy School Champions and successes of students and educators

DENVER, CO – More than 1,000 educators, students, parents, business leaders and public education partners come together to honor some of Colorado’s healthiest schools and to celebrate innovation and collaboration in public schools around the state.

[The Colorado Education Initiative](#) (CEI) recognizes 47 of the state’s healthiest schools as *2015 Healthy School Champions*. Schools earn the recognition based on their use of best practices in school health measured by an online assessment tool, a narrative outlining their work, and letters of support from their school community.

“This annual event allows us to celebrate schools and districts that are doing great work,” said **Glenna Norvelle, president and CEO of CEI**. “These schools know how critical the link is between student health and academic achievement.”

For five years, the program has granted more than \$207, 000 in awards to over 100 schools, ranging from \$300 to \$6,000 per school, with support from [The Colorado Health Foundation](#). This year, more than \$43,000 has been granted to our schools.

New to this year’s celebration, Pagosa Springs Middle School will receive the inaugural *2015 Governor’s Award for School Health and Wellness*. “This award represents a collective and steadfast commitment to educating the whole student,” said **Principal Chris Hinger**. During a time where many narrowed the focus of education, we embraced our communities’ values and expanded efforts to develop healthy and productive children.”

CEI partners with The Governor's Council for Active and Healthy Lifestyles to support school communities that are focused on improving and supporting student and staff health and wellness programs.

“Our state agencies have been working closely with The Colorado Education Initiative, teachers, administrators and education leaders from across the state to identify a framework for comprehensive school health and wellness. We applaud all of the schools who are striving to achieve these goals,” said **Lt. Governor Joe**



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Garcia. “The awards for school health and wellness are a way for us to recognize excellence and our shared commitment to our educators, our children and our future.”

The luncheon keynote speaker will be Dr. Mae Jemison, physician and NASA astronaut — and the first woman of color to travel in space. She will explore the intersection of technology design and scientific research of sociocultural and economic realities.

Also, Paul Tough, author of *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character*, will talk about qualities that matter most, skills like perseverance, curiosity, conscientiousness, optimism and self-control. [Learn more.](#)

“It’s CEI’s time to shine the spotlight on successes from the past year,” said Norvelle. “We’re able to connect with our education partners and show them what their support has meant in our schools and communities. This work is important work. We like to stop, celebrate, and share those success stories with our supporters and encourage others to support our efforts.”

Summit workshops feature CEI experts reflecting on CEI’s five areas of work:

- Colorado Legacy Schools (increasing access to Advanced Placement classes for underrepresented students)
- Health and Wellness
- Next Generation Learning
- Professional Learning
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)

CEI partners with Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and other vital school health stakeholders to host the summit.

Learn more about [CEI](#) and the [2015 Summit and Luncheon: Seeing is Believing.](#)

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.

Interested media can contact Melissa Reeves at 303-856-8098 for interviews with teachers, students and educator

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