



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Brian Jensen
FirstBank
Brian.Jensen@efirstbank.com
303-235-1400

Jake Kubié
Linhart Public Relations
jkubie@linhartpr.com
303-951-2414

Fifty-one Local College Students to Receive Scholarships from FirstBank and the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation

Scholarships totaling \$126,000 awarded to students enrolled in the Leadership Foundation's Colorado Leadership Alliance (CLA)

DENVER, Aug. 27, 2015 – [FirstBank](#), Colorado's largest locally owned bank with a passion for developing future community leaders, and the [Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation](#) awarded 51 students from five Colorado colleges with \$126,000 in scholarships through the FirstBank Colorado Scholarship program. Since 2014, this program has awarded more than \$1.7 million in scholarships to 345 in-state college students.

"The Leadership Foundation is proud to stand with FirstBank in recognizing the outstanding student leaders of the Colorado Leadership Alliance," said Dan Lewis, executive director of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation. "These remarkable young people have demonstrated a deep commitment to our communities through their leadership. They represent the best of our state's emerging talent, and we want to encourage them to remain here and help build a stronger Colorado for all."

The FirstBank Colorado Scholarship is awarded in partnership with the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation's [Colorado Leadership Alliance](#) (CLA), the more than 700-student organization that unites leadership education programs at 13 Colorado colleges and universities, equips students with skills for civic engagement and career success and connects students to Denver leaders.

"FirstBank officers believe in growing and developing the next generation of Colorado trailblazers," said John Ikard, CEO of FirstBank. "Since 1988, our officers have personally taken up the charge to grow this endowment fund in order to provide the monetary support needed to help these bright students excel and continue on the path to becoming great leaders."

The merit-based FirstBank Colorado Scholarship was created by FirstBank officers to provide outstanding students at in-state colleges with scholarships in order to retain emerging leaders who will help further economic development in Colorado. Banking officers donate personal funds toward the endowment, and FirstBank Holding Company matches up to 85 percent of an officer's donation – up to \$5,000. As of October 2014, the market value of the fund has grown to \$3.4 million.

For more information about the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, and its work to develop future community leaders, visit www.denverleadership.org. To learn more about FirstBank's commitment to the communities it serves, visit www.efirstbank.com.

About FirstBank

FirstBank operates more than 120 locations in Colorado, Arizona and California. FirstBank is the largest locally owned banking organization in Colorado, serving more than 650,000 customers. Since 2000, FirstBank has contributed more than \$50 million and thousands of volunteer hours to charitable organizations. FirstBank is unique in that a majority of its stock is owned by management and employees. For more information, go to www.efirstbank.com.

About the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation

An affiliate organization of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation provides content, context and access to inspire leaders to engage in issues critical to the region's success. The Leadership Foundation encourages community and civic trusteeship through a continuum of leadership programs including Leadership Denver, Access Denver, the Leadership Exchange, Impact Denver, Colorado Experience, the Leadership Alumni Network and the Colorado Leadership Alliance. For more information, visit denverleadership.org.

###

Member FDIC