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The Jefferson Foundation

Thompson Education Foundation

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School Foundations Continue to Fill Funding Shortfalls in Public Education through Private Fundraising

Over \$10.3 million distributed through school foundations last year

DENVER (May 30, 2008) – As another school year draws to a close, tens of thousands of Colorado’s students once again benefited from substantial, private contributions to public schools, facilitated by local school foundations.

The Colorado School Foundations Association collects data on funding raised and distributed to school districts throughout the state through school foundations. In the 2007-2008 school year, 17 school foundations have collectively distributed more than **\$10.3 million*** to public schools to support a wide range of programs, including classroom grants, after-school programs, leadership training, scholarships, performing and visual arts programs, mentoring and tutoring programs, and much more. This funding came from foundations, businesses and individual donors.

School foundations serve as the central fundraising entities for their school districts. Through these foundations, the community can make tax-deductible gifts to support local schools or strategic initiatives within a school district. Colorado ranks 43rd in funding K-12 education as a share of state income, according to the annual *Education Week* report, “Quality Counts.” Colorado’s per-pupil funding is more than \$1,000 per student lower than the national average. Often, school foundations attempt to fill this budget shortfall by fundraising from the community.

“Our students and schools in Colorado have so many needs, and school foundations raise money to try to meet some of those needs. We can also be the source of funding for innovative new programs to help our students achieve,” said Gaye Leonard, president of the Colorado School Foundations Association and executive director of the Cherry Creek Schools Foundation. “We work directly with leadership at the school districts to identify areas that need funding. We also work with donors to direct their gifts to programs that most effectively

meet their funding interests and requirements. School foundations are a critical resource for our public schools.”

Members of the Colorado School Foundations Association include:

- 27J Education Foundation
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For more information, visit www.supportcoloradoschools.org.

*Numbers provided by foundations are projected. Audits typically occur in the summer.

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