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Dr. Kristin Waters hired as Chief Operating Officer at Denver Scholarship Foundation

Kristin Waters, Ph. D., who built a sterling national reputation as a Denver Public Schools middle and high school principal, began work this week as the Denver Scholarship Foundation's Chief Operating Officer.

Waters, who was lauded by President Barack Obama during his 2011 State of the Union address for her successful effort to turn around Bruce Randolph School (grades 6-12) in northeast Denver, has been an inspirational change agent in all her school leadership positions.

She will bring that same energy, passion and commitment to Denver Scholarship, said Nathaniel Easley, Ph.D., the foundation's Chief Executive Officer. "We are thrilled to have Kristin join our team," Easley said. "She knows how to make positive change happen, and she will strengthen an already strong team immeasurably."

Waters spent 18 years as a middle and high school principal in Denver Public Schools. She was credited with sparking major improvements at Morey Middle School, Bruce Randolph, which triggered new Colorado education legislation, and, most recently Denver South High School. She also served in a variety of district leadership positions, overseeing high school reform efforts and school innovation initiatives.

"I am very excited by this opportunity," Waters said of her Denver Scholarship position. "I have always worked with a diverse group of students and my passion has been to ensure that all kids have the opportunity to move beyond K-12 schooling and go to college or other post-secondary opportunities. I look forward to continuing that work with this great organization."

As COO, Waters will supervise all Denver Scholarship college access, scholarship, and college success programs.

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About Denver Scholarship Foundation: The Denver Scholarship Foundation inspires and empowers Denver Public Schools (DPS) students to enroll in and graduate from postsecondary institutions of higher education, by providing the tools, knowledge, and financial resources essential for success. Denver Scholarship awards scholarships to Denver students to attend regionally accredited, non-profit technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges or universities in Colorado.

Since its founding in 2006, Denver Scholarship has awarded more than \$33 million in scholarships to more than 5,600 students, of whom 91 percent are from ethnic minority backgrounds. Some 69 percent of Denver Scholarship Foundation Scholars are the first in their family to attend college. Over Denver Scholarship 11-year history, 75 percent of all Scholars have graduated or are working towards a degree or certificate program.

Denver Scholarship provides college access services to nearly 13,000 DPS students annually through 12 high school Future Centers serving 20 high schools and college success serves nearly 1,600 Scholars annually through written partnerships with 31 Colorado colleges.

Most recently, Denver Scholarship has established a new emphasis on skilled trade pathways, generating interest by high school students in local jobs that employers have struggled to fill.

For more information visit denverscholarship.org.