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CONTACT:  
Latia Henderson  
720.982.4770  
[lhenderson@denverscholarship.org](mailto:lhenderson@denverscholarship.org)

## **DENVER SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR ANNUAL GALA 2019**

*Event to feature Geoffrey Canada, founder of Harlem Children's Zone*

Denver, Co – Denver Scholarship Foundation has announced that Geoffrey Canada, founder of Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), will headline its Annual Gala on Tuesday, September 25, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center. An exclusive VIP reception with Canada will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by the dinner and the program at 6:30 p.m.

In his 20-plus years with HCZ, Canada has become nationally recognized for his pioneering work helping children and families in Harlem and as a passionate advocate for education reform. HCZ works with the community and families to increase high school and college graduation rates among students in Harlem. The New York Times Magazine called HCZ "one of the most ambitious social experiments of our time."

Canada grew up in the South Bronx in a poor, sometimes violent neighborhood. Despite his troubled surroundings, he was able to succeed academically, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bowdoin College and a master's in education from the Harvard School of Education. After graduating from Harvard, Canada decided to work to help children who, like himself, were disadvantaged by their lives in poor, embattled neighborhoods.

Denver Scholarship Foundation's Chief Executive Officer, Lorii Rabinowitz, commented "Each year, we work with thousands of Denver Public Schools' (DPS) students supporting them on their journeys to and through college graduation. We are honored to feature Mr. Canada, who was named one of 'America's Best Leaders' by US News and World Report, as our speaker for the Annual Gala. Every one of our students, and each of our DSF Scholars, have immense potential that we have the privilege of empowering, celebrating and mobilizing. Their success is significant, and it is our inspiration. Mr. Canada will ignite a needed fuel in our community to get more even more students to and through colleges across the state, in partnership with DSF. This is an evening you do not want to miss."

Denver Scholarship Foundation's Annual Gala has raised millions of dollars to make college possible for thousands of students in Denver. Since 2007, Denver Scholarship Foundation has

awarded \$38 million in scholarships to more than 6,300 DPS students. Along with the featured speaker, the evening's program will also highlight the inspirational stories of several DSF Scholars.

Event Co-Chairs include Michelle and John (DSF Board Member) Hanley, and Heidi and Bruce Hoyt, long-time supporters of Denver Scholarship Foundation.

Proceeds from the Annual Gala will make it possible for thousands of DPS graduates to complete a college degree. Thanks to the long-standing and generous support of the event's anonymous presenting sponsor, all event costs are underwritten and every dollar raised will go directly to scholarships. Additionally, every dollar donated to the scholarship fund will be matched, as available, by the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI), a program administered by the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities and ticket availability please call 303.951.4140, email [events@denverscholarship.org](mailto:events@denverscholarship.org), or visit [www.denverscholarship.org](http://www.denverscholarship.org).

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### **About the Denver Scholarship Foundation**

Denver Scholarship Foundation (DSF) is a 501(c)(3) public charity whose mission is to inspire and empower Denver Public Schools' (DPS) students to achieve their college goals. A direct service provider, DSF provides college and financial aid advice to Denver students and families and offers a renewable, need-based scholarship to support Scholars throughout their college careers. DSF also partners with colleges across Colorado to implement retention strategies that help Denver students complete their college education. DSF aims to create systemic change to prepare Denver's youth to succeed in today's evolving workforce. For more information, [www.denverscholarship.org](http://www.denverscholarship.org) or connect with us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).