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**DANIELS FUND AWARDS COLORADO EARLY COLLEGES $500,000 FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING**

**Colorado Springs, Colo.  –** Colorado-based Daniels Fund has recognized Colorado Early Colleges (CEC) expertise and innovation in education with a $500,000 grant to support the build out of career pathways focusing on Biomedical, Information Technology and Multimedia.  Additionally, the grant will fund equipment and curriculum for the new homeschool program, Everest Point Homeschool Academy K-12, that is located on the CEC Colorado Springs 15-acre campus. The grant funding will also support additional industry certificates via in-school certification labs to provide students with the job-ready credentials they need to launch their careers.

“Colorado Early Colleges prepares students with alternative pathways for in-demand career opportunities available in today’s workforce,” said Hanna Skandera, President & CEO of the Daniels Fund. “We are thrilled to make this investment in empowering students with the technical skills they need to build a bright future.”

CEC has long been the leader in helping students achieve debt-free associate as well as bachelor’s degrees, saving students and their families thousands of dollars and allowing them to fast track their academic careers.  Since its founding more than 17 years ago, CEC has saved families millions of dollars in tuition fees.  Colorado Early Colleges is a leader in the educational choice movement, continuing to innovate and provide students with unique opportunities to pursue their career and educational goals at no cost.

“As careers continue to evolve with a heavy focus into more technical fields,” says Jennifer Daugherty, Head of School of CEC’s Colorado Springs campus, “we believe it’s important to support our students as they enter an educational track and career trajectory that supports and jump-starts those skill sets.”

Colorado’s 2022 Talent Pipeline report identifies the fields of healthcare, cybersecurity and IT as offering current students some of the best opportunities for career development as they enter the workforce.

“Colorado Early Colleges has long recognized and supported the need to serve the whole student as they develop the educational and career trajectory that best suits their talents, goals and  needs,” says CEC Chief Executive Administrator Sandi Brown, “we are constantly looking for ways to enhance our educational opportunities to serve our students and families and we are grateful to the Daniels Fund for their support to help us continue to exceed educational expectations.”

**About Colorado Early Colleges:**

*Colorado Early Colleges (CEC) is the largest and most successful network of tuition-free public charter schools in the state, providing Colorado families with accessible, flexible and individualized learning with a direct path to debt-free college degrees and career credentials through our three middle school campuses, six high school campuses, a statewide online education program and a college direct satellite office.  In addition, we offer part-time enrollment options for on-campus and online programs to both homeschool students and students attending tuition-based schools — to supplement and enhance their academic and elective studies. Included in this offering is our unique partnership with Everest Point Homeschool Academy, where homeschool students from kindergarten through the 12th grade can attend classes one day per week.*

**About Daniels Fund:**

*The @DanielsFund, established by cable television pioneer Bill Daniels, is a private charitable foundation dedicated to making life better for the people of Colorado, New**Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming through its grants program, scholarship program, and ethics initiative. Visit DanielsFund.org to learn more.*

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