



College Success Foundation-Yakima Receives Grant Funding from Yakima Valley Community Foundation

December 6, 2017, Yakima, WA: High school students at Davis and Eisenhower High Schools enrolled in the College Success Foundation - Yakima Achievers Scholars program will visit several college campuses this year and will receive a College Ready Pack with grant funding provided by the Yakima Valley Community Foundation.

The Foundation awarded the College Success Foundation - Yakima a \$15,000 grant for College and Career Exploration and College Ready Packs. The grant will provide funding for programs, college exploration and college transition support for hundreds of College Success Foundation Achievers Scholars in 11th and 12th grade at Davis and Eisenhower High Schools. Students in 11th grade will visit several college campuses throughout the school year and summer to aid in the college selection process. College Ready Packs will be distributed to seniors at the end of the school year to help with their transition to college. The College Ready Packs may include items such as a flash drive, plastic hangers, multi-plug surge protector, desk lamp, spiral notebooks, flashlight, bath towel, basic school supplies and a first aid kit.

In partnership with Yakima Public Schools, CSF provides a unique integrated system of supports and scholarships to inspire underserved, low-income students to finish high school, graduate from college and succeed in life. The CSF pipeline starts in middle school to build awareness of college and career choices. Students know before they enter high school that college is an option for them and what they need to do to keep that door of opportunity open. In high school, CSF offers proactive academic advising, college planning information, college readiness support, summer programming, campus visits, financial aid and scholarship search assistance and high school-to-college transition support.

“This funding will allow our students to evaluate and determine the best college fit for them,” said College Success Foundation Regional Executive Director Susan Joseph Nielsen.

“Additionally, the College Ready Packs will help our scholars begin their freshman year on the right foot with the basic items they need to ease the transition to college. These items will help students feel better equipped for classes, dorm living, homework and their new college life.”

Because most CSF - Yakima Achievers Scholars are the first in their family to attend college, visiting a campus is an important step in the selection process. “Students evaluate factors such as size, location/distance from home, campus life, on campus supports and overall cost,” said College Success Foundation - Yakima Program Manager Shannon Demant. “Many of our scholars receive more than one college offer, and a campus visit helps to narrow their decision based upon factors important to each student. Campus visits are often a tipping point in the decision-making process.”

Annually, CSF - Yakima provides scholarships and/or direct service to more than 1,000 students in Yakima School District middle and high schools. Ninety-two (92%) of CSF-Yakima Achievers Scholars are first-generation college students, meaning they are the first in their family to attend college.

CSF College and Career Coaches at Franklin, Lewis & Clark and Washington Middle Schools and College Preparatory Advisors at Davis and Eisenhower High Schools provide students with the academic, financial, social and emotional resources they need to achieve success on their path to and through college. As college champions for their students, they do everything in their power to help their students succeed.

About the Yakima Valley Community Foundation:

Yakima Valley Community Foundation has awarded grants in the Yakima Valley since 2004. The Yakima Valley Community Foundation's mission is to connect people, resources and ideas so people and communities thrive. For more information, visit the Foundation's website at www.yakimavalleycf.org.

About the College Success Foundation:

The College Success Foundation provides a unique integrated system of supports and scholarships to inspire underserved, low-income students to finish high school, graduate from college and succeed in life. Since 2000, CSF has awarded more than \$225 million in scholarships to students nationally. More than 8,200 students have graduated from college with scholarship support from CSF. For more information about the College Success Foundation, please visit www.collegesuccessfoundation.org.