

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Colorado's CollegeInvest rewards students for early college planning
Completing pre-collegiate coursework can mean up to \$1,500 for college

Denver, CO – Colorado 7th, 8th and 9th graders have the opportunity to start preparing academically and financially for college thanks to the CollegeInvest Early Achievers Scholarship. This year's 9th graders must apply by June 1, 2008, to be eligible. The program is offered by CollegeInvest, a division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education that serves as the state's not-for-profit higher education financing resource.

The CollegeInvest Early Achievers Scholarship encourages students to work toward college as a realistic and important building block for their future. It prepares them for college by requiring that participants take pre-collegiate coursework while in high school and graduate with at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA. The scholarship offers students from families demonstrating financial need support to attend college as long as they meet the scholarship requirements.

Students who are eligible for the federal Pell Grant when they're attending college, take the required pre-collegiate coursework, and meet other requirements could qualify for up to \$1,500 in assistance per year for up to five years at a qualifying Colorado college.

The CollegeInvest outreach team can provide detailed information to students about the Early Achievers Scholarship. Educators can request presentations at their schools about the Early Achievers Scholarship or any of CollegeInvest's programs to bring college within financial reach by visiting www.collegeinvest.org/EventRequest.

"When it comes to planning for college, the earlier you start, the better," said Janet Gullickson, Chief Outreach and Client Relations Officer at CollegeInvest. "The CollegeInvest Early Achievers Scholarship helps students put college on their road maps to success."

To be eligible for the CollegeInvest Early Achievers Scholarship, students must:

- Be legal Colorado residents and qualify for in-state resident tuition.
- Graduate with at least a 2.5 weighted cumulative GPA for all coursework completed in grades 9 through 12.
- Take selected pre-collegiate coursework throughout their high school careers.
- Qualify for the Federal Pell Grant upon enrollment in college.

The application deadline for current 9th graders is June 1, 2008. The deadline to apply for 8th graders is June 1, 2009, and 7th graders have until June 1, 2010. To download the application, or for further information on the requirements, go to www.collegeinvest.org/achievers or call 1-800-448-2424.

Please note that the final scholarship amount will depend on the student's dollar amount of unmet need, the number of students qualifying, and the annual available scholarship dollars.

About ColleeInvest

ColleeInvest is a not-for-profit division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Since 1979, ColleeInvest has helped more than half a million families break down the financial barriers to college by providing expert information, simple planning tools, scholarships, college savings plans, and low-cost student and parent loans. For more information, visit www.colleeinvest.org or call 1-800-448-2424.

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