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## **NEWS RELEASE**

# **The Women's Foundation of Colorado Selects 2013 Class for Prestigious Girls' Leadership Council**

***20 High School Junior Girls from Across Colorado to Participate in Week-Long Leadership Program  
at University of Denver in late July***

**DENVER, COLO. (June 6, 2013)** — The Women's Foundation of Colorado (WFCO), a Denver-based nonprofit committed to building resources and leading change so that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves her full potential, announces the 20 female high school juniors selected to participate in its 2013 Girls' Leadership Council<sup>SM</sup>(GLC) class representing high schools in communities across the state of Colorado. More than 100 girls applied in March for the competitive program, and 35 finalists were interviewed in May.

Girls' Leadership Council is a prestigious program created by The Women's Foundation of Colorado coordinated this year in partnership with Girls Inc. of Metro Denver, experts in gender-based program delivery. Each summer, ascending high school junior girls are invited to participate in this one-week intensive, on-site program at the University of Denver. This year the program was expanded from 10 to 20 participants, and the experience will take place July 21- 27. The program inspires girls to be future leaders, advocates and philanthropists. Participants will engage in a challenging, hands-on program that allows each girl to discover the power to make an impact in her community and reach her full potential.

The following girls were selected for the 2013 Girls' Leadership Council:

- **Vismaya Bachu** – Rock Canyon High School – *Douglas County (Highlands Ranch)*
- **Jamie Briscoe** – Basalt High School – *Garfield County (Carbondale)*
- **Victoria Brozek** – Falcon High School – *El Paso County (Peyton)*
- **Chiara Degenhardt** – Ouray High School – *Ouray County (Ouray)*
- **Austin Dikeman** – Pueblo South High School – *Pueblo County (Pueblo)*
- **Ariel Gorsky** – Lakewood High School – *Denver County (Denver)*
- **Katie Hachen** – Faith Christian Academy – *Jefferson County (Arvada)*
- **Rachel Hernandez** – North High School – *Denver County (Denver)*
- **Lauren Howard** – Thompson Valley High School – *Larimer County (Loveland)*
- **Magdalena Landa-Posas** – Hinkley High School – *Arapahoe County (Aurora)*
- **Natasha Liggett** – Heritage High School – *Arapahoe County (Littleton)*
- **Brigitte Nguyen** – Rampart High School – *El Paso County (Colorado Springs)*
- **Kiley O'Neil** – Loveland High School – *Larimer County (Loveland)*
- **Brielle Pray** – Regis Jesuit High School – *Arapahoe County (Aurora)*
- **Kennede Reese** – St. Mary's Academy – *Arapahoe County (Aurora)*
- **Jaida Rollins** – Rangeview High School – *Arapahoe County (Aurora)*
- **Kelly Schmitt** – Regis Jesuit High School – *Douglas County (Highlands Ranch)*
- **Andra Turner** – Greeley West High School – *Weld County (Evans)*
- **Tabor Whitney** – Battle Mountain High School – *Eagle County (Avon)*
- **Baylee Wiemer** – Eagle Valley High School – *Eagle County (Eagle)*

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## **2013 Girls' Leadership Council/2**

"The Girls' Leadership Council is an amazing opportunity for Colorado's high school girls to participate in a program that has the potential to impact the rest of their lives," said Louise Atkinson, President & CEO of The Women's Foundation of Colorado. "These 20 young women are already demonstrating their ability to be leaders and support women and girls. The GLC program is designed to enhance those skills to give the participants even more confidence and ability to reach their full potential and inspire others to do the same."

Training components for the Girls Leadership Council will include: Foundation-led research; economic self-sufficiency of women and girls; education of women and girls; public policy and advocacy; diversity and inclusiveness; women in the workforce, including Science, Math, Technology and Engineering (S.T.E.M.) careers; women in leadership and civic engagement; women in media; women in philanthropy and grantmaking; and, team building and leadership-development activities.

The group will also have the unique opportunity to award grants to invest approximately \$20,000 in partner nonprofit organizations around the state working on issues affecting women and girls. At the end of the Girls' Leadership Council, two exemplary participants will be selected to each receive a \$1,500 Dottie Lamm Leadership Award to support their future educational expenses. Two participants who have demonstrated academic excellence and have an interest in pursuing a career in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math (STEM) will also be selected to each receive a \$1,500 Lockheed Martin STEM Career Academic Award.

Program sponsors include: Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Rhondda & Peter Grant, Lockheed Martin, Natalie Rekstad-Lynn, The White Rose Foundation of the Denver Chapter of The Links Incorporated and Xcel Energy Inc.

To learn more about the Girls' Leadership Council, visit [www.wfco.org/GLC](http://www.wfco.org/GLC) and view a video here: <http://vimeo.com/59194390#>

### **About The Women's Foundation of Colorado**

The mission of The Women's Foundation of Colorado is to build resources and lead change so that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves her full potential. We are committed to boldly leading systemic change to advance economic opportunity for all women and girls in Colorado; using research to build knowledge and guide action; building philanthropy that supports and champions women and girls in Colorado; demonstrating and promoting inclusiveness and commitment to diverse people, partners and ideas; and creating strategic partnerships throughout the state to service our mission. For more information, visit [www.wfco.org](http://www.wfco.org) or call 303-285-2960.

### **About Girls Incorporated of Metro Denver**

The mission of Girls Inc. of Metro Denver is to inspire all girls to be **strong, smart, and bold.**<sup>SM</sup> As an affiliate of the national nonprofit, Girls Incorporated, whose research-based programs and expertise on girls' issues date back to 1864, Girls Inc. of Metro Denver offers a variety of educational, enrichment and empowerment programs for girls ages 6 to 18. Programs are grounded in research and tested in the field and address the educational, societal, and economic barriers girls continue to face. These programs encourage girls to set goals, take on new challenges, build self-esteem, and achieve their full potential. For more information, please visit [www.girlsincdenver.org](http://www.girlsincdenver.org).

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