



## **Voices in Support of Colorado Mountain College's Fund Sueños Program**

“Congress’s failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform has left millions of DREAMers in Colorado and around the country uncertain about their futures. Thankfully, Colorado’s colleges and universities are stepping up to fill the void. We applaud Colorado Mountain College’s leadership in creating Fund Sueños to make college accessible for DREAMers in our state.”

– **Michael Bennet, U.S. Senator from Colorado**

“Connie and I created Calaway Scholars to support first-generation student scholarships at CMC 15 years ago, and have supported CMC’s open access mission for decades. All students deserve a college education and opportunity to achieve their greatest potential in our community. Fund Sueños is another way our local college is opening its doors and welcoming everyone, including DREAMers.”

– **Jim Calaway, businessman and philanthropist, Carbondale, Colorado**

“The rising cost of higher education continues to be a barrier for many DREAMers, especially because they are not able to access traditional financial assistance. This is a very real challenge for a sizable population of students in our state. What CMC developed is truly groundbreaking and should serve as an example to the nation of how a creative, forward-thinking college can expand opportunities for all.”

– **Luis A. Colón, chair, Colorado Commission on Higher Education**

“Colorado Mountain College is creating a new paradigm for institutions seeking to support the students who have been historically left out of the postsecondary education pipeline. We are proud to be supporting such an innovative approach. We are also optimistic about its potential to change the conversation about access to higher education including the obligation institutions have to ensure outcomes tied to student success.”

– **Tonio DeSorrento, founder, Vemo Education**

“Our families and their children in our local schools overcome severe difficulties that our local organizations work to address, beginning with infant care and parenting skills and continuing through the entire educational process. At Valley Settlement, we work directly with our local immigrant communities, and we also are one of many employers who hire DACA students and graduates from Colorado Mountain College. I applaud the formation of Fund Sueños and the opportunities it will provide for those who now have an option for attending college.”

– **Jon Fox-Rubin, executive director, Valley Settlement**

“Our educational and social mission extends to all Coloradans. Fund Sueños is designed to break down persistent financial barriers for DREAMers and other students to ensure we are inclusive and accessible to everyone, modeling the democratic promise of higher education.”

– **Dr. Carrie Hauser, president, Colorado Mountain College**

“DREAMers deserve the opportunity to pursue an education. These students need champions like the leaders at Colorado Mountain College and its donors who continue to stitch a safety net in the absence of comprehensive immigration reform.”

– **Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper**

“Meaningful changes in American history are not always the result of power and influence, but rather innovation, tenacity, and resourcefulness. I have worked closely with Colorado Mountain College for years and know that it is a place of rare determination and imagination. CMC’s income-sharing agreement plan for DACA students is a significant contribution to the national dialogue on immigration and economic assimilation. It also provides a financial stimulus to the entire country, as having a steady stream of young, eager people from diverse backgrounds is critical for the overall vitality of our economy. Well done, CMC.”

– **Walter Isaacson, author and professor of history at Tulane University; former CEO of CNN, editor of Time magazine, and CEO of the Aspen Institute**

“We are very interested in having our fellow residents, and especially those with an undocumented status, achieve a better life in our valley. We saw this CMC program as an innovative, strategic opportunity to support a segment of the population we deeply care about.”

– **Tom McMahon, Basalt resident and CMC Foundation supporter, Fund Sueños donor (with wife Clarisa McMahon)**

“We applaud creative, student-centered funding opportunities for those who are too often left out of public financial aid systems. We are encouraged by Colorado Mountain College’s desire from the outset to evaluate the program to see if it delivers on its promises. The college is not just relieving financial stress for these students – it’s also helping Colorado find and develop talent that it desperately needs.”

– **Jamie Merisotis, president and CEO, Lumina Foundation**

“American colleges and universities remain committed to expanding opportunities for DREAMers, those outstanding individuals brought to the United States as children and raised as Americans but living under threat of deportation. These bright and talented young people are working, attending our schools and serving in the military. Yet they have been caught in an unacceptable legal and political limbo since the Trump administration’s decision in March 2017 to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

“The initiative by Colorado Mountain College to create income-sharing agreements for DREAMers, who are not eligible for state or federal student financial aid, is one more example of the many ways that U.S. higher education institutions are trying to meet the needs of DREAMers. We applaud these efforts. But this does not relieve Congress of its responsibility to promptly pass a permanent legislative solution protecting DREAMers, one that allows these exceptional individuals to make long-term decisions about their futures.”

– **Dr. Ted Mitchell, president, American Council on Education**

“As a proud donor to Colorado Mountain College’s Fund Sueños program, I am hopeful that these efforts will inspire others to explore new, innovative ways to support DACA students and others who struggle to make the dream of college a reality. CMC’s efforts should be celebrated and replicated. Congratulations, CMC. We are proud of your leadership and ingenuity.”

– **Carole Segal, co-founder of Crate and Barrel, Fund Sueños donor**

“The value of an educated workforce and the affordability of higher education cannot be understated. A strong community is one that invests in its people. We have been proud to sponsor the Latino/Hispanic Scholarship at CMC for more than 20 years, and employ many of these students. Fund Sueños further ensures that all community members have the opportunity to be critical contributors to the workforce in our mountain communities. I have been proud to be affiliated with CMC for more than four decades. The establishment of this bold and innovative program makes me even more proud of my personal and professional relationship with Colorado Mountain College.”

– **Bob Young, founder & chairman, Alpine Bank**