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Jeffco Schools Foundation unveils new image, celebrates 30 years of service at 2013 Crystal Ball gala

October 12, 2013, Denver, CO – Jeffco Schools Foundation, formerly known as The Jefferson Foundation, celebrated three decades of service to Jeffco Public Schools with the unveiling of a new name, honoring the organization’s founders, and a champagne toast to the next 30 years at the annual Crystal Ball gala at the Sheraton Downtown Denver.

The event began with a reception for all former and current Board members and executive directors of the Foundation, including event honorees **R. Kent Landmark, Jane Oehm, Judy Carstens-Wonning, Jim Urban, Nancy Clement Hoffmaster, Dr. John Peper, Steve Binder, Mary Silleck** in honor of her husband **R. Hadyn Silleck, Cheri Lyons** and **Mona Sandoval**.

Reception guests were the first to learn about the organization’s new name with a special presentation from current Foundation executive director **Katie Tiernan**. Effective October 13, 2013, The Jefferson Foundation became Jeffco Schools Foundation. The new name is a trade name and will not affect donors’ prior estate or other contribution plans.

“I’m so glad the Foundation finally did this,” said Sandoval, executive director of the Foundation from 1993 to 2009. “We had talked for years about changing the Foundation’s name to something that was more reflective of our mission, and I think the new name does just that.”

During the gala itself, **Dr. Cindy Stevenson**, Superintendent of Jeffco Public Schools, presented the Crystal Globe for Distinguished Service award to the founding Board members of the Foundation, its prior executive directors, and **Anton Delgado**, the Foundation’s Director of Marketing and a beloved community figure.



The Jeffco Schools Foundation announced its new look at the 2013 Crystal Ball gala.



Jesus “Angel” de la Cruz addressed attendees of the Crystal Ball gala and thanked them for their support.

Despite the choreographed honors and announcements, the evening was stolen by a presentation with Jeffco Public Schools graduate and 2013 Jeffco Schools Foundation Hero Award winner **Jesus “Angel” de la Cruz**. De la Cruz received a standing ovation after telling the crowd that despite having to drop out of school as a freshman to care for his younger siblings, he worked his way back to graduation day as class valedictorian and is headed to college to earn a degree.

“What was really special,” said Tiernan, “was that Dr. Michele Haney, president of Red Rocks Community College, was in attendance at the gala and heard Angel’s story. Red Rocks is going to provide a scholarship to Angel to reward him for his hard work, which is well deserved. Everyone in this community does something to support our students, and everything that we do matters.”



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Additional student performances and presentations included **Peiffer Elementary School**, **Bear Creek High School's** choir, **Wheat Ridge High School** art students and **Youth Leadership Jefferson County**, a program of the **West Chamber Serving Jefferson County**.

Jeffco Schools Foundation's major supporters include **FirstBank**, **Kaiser Permanente**; **Kroenke Sports and Entertainment**; **Target**; **Comcast**; **Wells Fargo**; **Billings Investments**; **Caplan and Earnest, LLP**; **DaVita, Inc.**; **Lewis Roca Rothgerber**; the **Colorado Rockies**; the **Salazar Family Foundation**; **Mile High United Way**; the **Leon Lowenstein Foundation**; **Schomp Automotive**; and **Gibson Arnold and Associates**.

For more information about Jeffco Schools Foundation, please visit www.jeffcoschoolsfoundation.org