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Community support on display for retiring Columbine High School principal Frank DeAngelis

April 10, 2014, Lakewood, CO ~ A diverse group of Jeffco business and community leaders rallied around Jeffco Schools Foundation's fifth annual Love Our Schools Luncheon fundraiser to honor retiring Columbine High School principal Frank DeAngelis on April 10. They also raised more than \$25,000 to benefit the programs of the Foundation in the process.

The award, which is named for Jefferson County's Sen. Norma Anderson, recognizes individuals whose dedication to local schools have made the community a thriving, vibrant place to live.

Frank DeAngelis's career spans more than 35 years in Jeffco Public Schools as teacher, coach and principal.

On April 20, 1999, two students attacked Columbine High School. Frank had been the school's principal for just under three years at the time. He survived the day, but not without suffering a significant emotional toll. As he worked through his grief and guilt with the help of loved ones, trusted clergy and counselors, he eventually realized that he had been saved to fulfill an important role.

"I thought about our students," Frank said. "I realized that my reason was to help rebuild the community."

Frank has been doing that important work ever since. He made a promise to every student enrolled at Columbine High School in Spring 1999 that if they came back to Columbine, he would be there with them.

Frank continued to promise incoming freshmen that he would be there to see them graduate. He made the promise so many times that this year's graduating class—the Class of 2014—was not yet in preschool in April 1999.

"My heart and soul have been with this community," he said. "I have been so blessed to have worked with and been a part of the lives of wonderful teachers, students, parents and community."

"Frank truly embodies the spirit of the Norma Anderson Lifetime Service Award," said Katie Tiernan, executive director of Jeffco Schools Foundation. "We are grateful that we had a chance to honor him as a community before he retires."

The Love Our Schools Luncheon is traditionally sponsored by individuals who have business and education ties to Jefferson County. Sponsors of the 2014 event include: Tonya Aultman-Bettridge and Jeff Kirk (InvolveDad), Doug Bell (Columbine Courier), Bill Bottoms (Jefferson County Strategic Planning and Advisory Committee), Beverly and Tom Brayden (Jeffco Spellbinders), Lin Browning (Evergreen Chamber of Commerce), Anne Burkholder (Parent-Child Home Program Jeffco), Brenda Christy (Jeffco 3v3 Charity Basketball Tournament), Wanda Cooley (Community Volunteer), Lesley Dahlkemper (Jeffco Board of Education), Melinda Delmonico (Gibson Arnold & Associates, Inc.), Keith Evans and Mike Cummins (Kaiser Permanente), Jill and Ken Fellman (Jeffco Board of Education), Shawna Fritzier (Jeffco PTA), Mike Haley (Fuller Western Real Estate), Nancy Hoffmaster (Serving Kids), Sam Inman (Wells Fargo), George Kowach (Mutual of Omaha Bank), Todd Mikesell (Ball Corp.), Megara Pullen (Wheat Ridge Optimists), Dr. Renee Richker (Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist), Richelle Riley (Foothills Park and Recreation District), Emily Robinson (FirstBank), Ann Schmidt (West Metro Fire Protection District), Lynn Setzer (Jeffco Public Schools), Tami Shrader (Bandimere Family Foundation), Ron Slinger (Red Rocks Community College Foundation), Kami Welch (Arvada Chamber of Commerce), Don Wick (City of Arvada Police Department), Natalie Williams (Jefferson County Human Services), Brian Willms (West Chamber Serving Jefferson County), Kristi Wimbish (Winkfish Design), Kami Welch (Arvada Chamber of Commerce).

Proceeds from the Love Our Schools Luncheon support the programs of Jeffco Schools Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit organization. The Foundation that uses donations from individuals, corporations and grantmakers to develop new strategies that will ensure all students in Jefferson County Public Schools have a successful future. The Foundation has operated in Jeffco since 1983, making it one of the oldest education foundations in the state.

Learn more or make a donation at www.jeffcoschoolsfoundation.org.

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