Together, We Can Realize the Promise of Colorado and Potential of Coloradans.
“We want to deepen our impact. Many Boettcher Scholars like me would love to give back to the Foundation that has given us so much.”

KENZO KAWANABE
1990 Scholar and former Trustee (2014-22); Partner, Davis Graham & Stubbs

We all have them, those pivotal moments that live in our memory forever. We call them turning points, moments in time when we know the conditions surrounding us have changed fundamentally — and life will be different.

For me, the date was April 4, 1993.

That was the day I opened the envelope that would alter my life: I was a recipient of the Boettcher Scholarship. The magnitude of the moment was massive. For my parents, it was a relief: they no longer had to worry about paying for my postsecondary education. For me, it was validation for years of hard work and focus.

It was in that moment, among hugs and tears of joy, that I would make a lifelong commitment to pay it forward.

More than 30 years have passed since that envelope arrived in my family’s mailbox – and, today, as President & CEO of the Boettcher Foundation, I am more committed than ever for us to think bigger and do more.

Simply put, this is our moment. It is time, as members of the Boettcher community, to expand our impact as never before.

In 2023, we announced the creation of the Boettcher Scholars Fund, a new 501(c)3 public charity to which Scholar Alumni can donate to increase the numbers of Scholars, build more Scholar programming opportunities, and support the Foundation’s strategic grantmaking.

The need is apparent – as every year we turn away many promising students and have limited funding to create more enrichment program opportunities for current Scholars. With our goal to keep Colorado talent in Colorado, the more robust programming we can offer, the more students will seek us out and the more dynamic learning experiences we can curate.

We hope to support our Scholar Alumni immediately following and long after college graduation. Through a strategic emphasis on leadership and civic engagement, philanthropic support can help us to create new and expanded opportunities for meaningful, lifelong involvement.

Our Trustees, staff, and Alumni Board are excited to launch the Boettcher Scholars Fund as we imagine a future Colorado with more courageous leaders and organizations making a transformational impact.

Sincerely,

KATIE S. KRAMER
President & CEO
The Boettcher Scholarship Program is the Foundation’s flagship program. Founded in 1952, the scholarship has supported the postsecondary pursuits and catalyzed the careers of more than 2,800 Colorado leaders.

Conceived by Claude Boettcher in 1952 and modeled after the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, the Boettcher Scholarship originated as a statewide competition recognizing high school seniors in the areas of service, leadership, and academic achievement. Today, the Boettcher Scholarship remains a four-year, merit-based scholarship for extraordinary Colorado students that is awarded in partnership with our state’s four-year higher education institutions.

After initially being awarded to 12 Scholars, the Boettcher Scholarship quickly grew to an annual cohort of 40, remaining that number for nearly 60 years. In 2015, a donor stepped forward to support two additional scholarships that brought the total to 42.

Beginning with the class of 2022, the Boettcher Foundation will award 50 scholarships annually – at minimum – in perpetuity.

In addition to the scholarship, the Foundation has a legacy of building Colorado through support of infrastructure projects that bring Coloradans together, supporting, or deepening the connections between individuals or organizations.

A lot has changed since the Boettcher Scholarship Program began. With more accomplished, talented, and service-oriented Colorado students applying for the scholarship every year, the potential for long-term impact is greater than ever.

Growing the number of Boettcher Scholars and increasing the program offerings for Scholars will have an impact on college campuses and Colorado for years to come.

Over the past several years, Boettcher staff has researched top scholarship programs nationally. One major finding of this research is that supplemental programming for current Scholars would raise the prestige of the Boettcher Scholarship, increasing its appeal during recruitment and selection beyond the award. These opportunities could include more robust and new partnerships with civic organizations, academic enrichment programs, and other Colorado organizations that invest in developing leaders.

With an emphasis on community engagement, the Foundation can create a strategic approach to create opportunities for Alumni to serve on nonprofit boards, government commissions, and other leadership roles in their communities. This will help Boettcher Alumni to become a go-to think tank for subject matter experts and leaders.
I had opportunities to leave Colorado but the unique combination of being a Boettcher Scholar at Colorado School of Mines was by far my best return-on-investment opportunity.

— Justin Hayes
2004 Scholar, Vice President, Reservoir Engineering & Analytics, Bedrock Energy Partners

Being a Boettcher Scholar has given me countless opportunities for personal, academic, and professional growth as well as many lifelong friendships.

— Dr. Lindsey Paulson
1999 Scholar, Family Medicine Specialist, Wray Community District Hospital, Current Foundation Trustee

Boettcher has set me on a life trajectory that I could only dream of, empowering me to believe in my potential. I am inspired every day to remind my community to believe in their potential to enact change.

— Maria De Los Angeles Bustillos
2019 Scholar, University of Denver, Global Economic Affairs

As a first-generation college student from a blue collar family, the scholarship ensured that I could actually go to college in the first place. Also, it made me accountable to something larger than myself for the first time and planted the all-important seed of giving back.

— Jason Wheeler
1992 Scholar, Former Chief Financial Officer, Tesla; Former Vice President of Finance, Google; Current Foundation Trustee

BOETTCHER SCHOLARS FUND

For more than 70 years, the Boettcher Foundation has invested in the promise of Colorado and potential of Coloradans. While our impact has been profound, it can be even more transformational for Colorado communities with your support.

Giving can happen in a myriad of ways. Your contribution will help us to grow the number of annual Boettcher Scholarships, increase Scholar programming, and support other Foundation leadership programming.

Whether you choose to support our work with a meaningful recurring or one-time gift, or desire to engage in estate planning, your contribution will help to build a better Colorado. Be our partner and help us to think and do the extraordinary.

Permanent Support
Help us to increase the number of Boettcher Scholars and deepen the impact of the scholarship program. As Colorado’s population continues to grow along with the number of talented leaders who apply annually, we need your help to support more deserving doers and difference makers.

$2M
Funds 1 New Scholarship Permanently

$1M
Funds ½ of a New Scholarship Permanently

$20,000
Funds a Scholar for One-Year

Ongoing Support
A contribution of any amount will support educational enrichment opportunities for Scholars, helping to impact the current and future leadership landscape in Colorado. Additional Scholar programming will help us to forge deeper partnerships with organizations that foster civic-minded leadership.

$25
Per Month Supports a Student’s Attendance at Summer Scholars Experience Program

$250
For 12 Months Supports an Educational Enrichment Opportunity for a Scholar

The ripple effect of your support will help to elevate current and future Colorado leaders. Together, we can equip individuals and organizations to address local and statewide issues.
OUR WHY

We believe in the promise of Colorado and the potential of Coloradans because courageous leadership benefits every community in our state. By investing in people, programs, and organizations, we provide a foundation for transformational impact and community building.