University of Colorado Denver Business School Makes Higher Education Financially Feasible

Annual gala celebrates student success, donor support and the school’s commitment to education access for all

DENVER, Colo., — Mar. 20, 2017 — Higher education remains one of the most important contributors to achieving higher earnings, greater economic mobility and an overall improved quality of life. For some, this pathway to higher education is peppered with barriers such as family income, pre-collegiate preparation, or unfamiliarity with the enrollment process. Since 1996, The University of Colorado Denver Business School has helped bridge the financial divide by partnering with the local business community for its Celebration of Success gala. To date, the gala has raised $3.3 million in scholarship aid and has benefited more than 1,800 students. This year’s event will take place on Thursday, April 20 at the Grand Hyatt Denver and will feature Presidential Historian and Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Doris Kearns Goodwin with local presenting sponsor DaVita.

In 2015, the gala raised more than $250,000 for undergraduate and graduate scholarships, making it the single largest source of financial aid for the Business School during this time period. On average, qualifying students receive up to $2,000 per year, but over the past two years, the Business School has been able to award even greater amounts based on the Denver community’s generous support. These funds have helped the Business School attract and retain top high school graduates and community college transfers and maintain one of the state’s most diverse student populations, with underrepresented students comprising 54 percent of last year’s freshman class and 39 percent of undergraduates.

“Scholarships are critical to the success of our students. Through scholarships, our students are able to pursue their dreams of higher education and achieve their highest potential,” Dean Rohan Christie-David stated. He added that, “The Denver community has long understood how their investments contribute to the future of Denver and this region, as our graduates will be the new business leaders that drive this region’s economy.”

Celebration of Success 2017

Located in the heart of downtown Denver, the Business School is actively engaged in the community it serves and is continuously working with local business leaders to co-develop student programs to better meet talent needs and fuel Colorado’s economy. This year, DaVita has pledged to preserve this partnership by signing on as the gala’s presenting sponsor. “DaVita is proud to sponsor the Celebration of Success gala this year, especially given the impact the event has on students across Colorado,” said Kent Thiry, chairman and CEO for DaVita. “The fact that this year’s gala is focused on presidents and their leadership styles should make for an entertaining and educational evening.”

In the past, world leaders, U.S. government officials and luminaries have graced the event stage, and this year “America’s historian in-chief” Doris Kearns Goodwin will examine the leadership triumphs, trials and tribulations of the men and women who have shaped this nation, culled from her lifetime examination of the U.S. presidency. One of the most recognized authors in the field, she has written six critically acclaimed, bestselling books including The Bully Pulpit and Team of Rivals. Among her many honors and awards, Ms. Goodwin is the recipient of the Charles Frankel Prize, the Sarah Josepha Hale Award and most recently the Carl Sandburg Literary Award. Ms Goodwin is currently writing a new book on U.S. Presidential leadership.

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Regarded as one the most prominent events within the Denver business community, Celebration of Success 2017 offers a myriad of options to support the event, including $350 individual tickets, $10,000 table sponsorship, a $25,000 namesake scholarship and various tiered-company sponsorship opportunities. The Celebration of Success Chairs include Kelly Brough, Alumna and President and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce; Dorothy A. Horrell, PhD, Chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver; and Patty and Mike Imhoff, Alumna and Managing Director of Stifel Nicolaus & Co., respectively.

The event will take place on Thursday, April 20 at the Grand Hyatt Denver from 6-9pm. For more information and to purchase a ticket or pledge sponsorship support, please visit [The University of Colorado Denver Business School](https://www.ucdenver.edu/Business-School/) website or contact Malena Brohm via email malena.brohm@ucdenver.edu or phone at 303.315.8002.

**About The University of Colorado Denver Business School**

[The Business School at the University of Colorado Denver](https://www.ucdenver.edu/Business-School/), located in the heart of downtown, is a hub of innovation, collaboration and discovery. With full AACSB accreditation it is the largest accredited graduate school of business in the Rocky Mountain region and places it in the top 5 percent of business programs worldwide. The Business School offers outstanding education to more than 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students each year who come from around the world to study in one of its twelve academic disciplines.

**About DaVita Inc.**

DaVita Inc., a Fortune 500® company, is the parent company of DaVita Kidney Care and HealthCare Partners. DaVita Kidney Care is a leading provider of kidney care in the United States, delivering dialysis services to patients with chronic kidney failure and end stage renal disease. For more information, please visit [DaVita.com/about](http://www.DaVita.com/about).

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