The Community Foundation Receives $595,000 Grant for New Pilot Program to Improve College Completion Rates in Inland Area

Riverside, CA – The Community Foundation which serves Inland Southern California (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties) is pleased to announce it has received a two-year $595,000 grant from San Francisco-based Colleges Futures Foundation. The grant will launch the Foundation’s newly created Graduate Success Program, a partnership with College Futures to help low-income Riverside and San Bernardino County students apply to, enroll in and complete college.

“College Futures Foundation understands the importance of our region and the Foundation’s proven leadership on administering scholarship programs to help young people achieve their college and professional dreams,” said Dr. Jonathan Lorenzo Yorba, President and CEO of The Community Foundation. “Through the Graduate Success Fund, we are committed to making college a possibility for students who are critical to the region's future.”

The Graduate Success Fund Program will award needs-based scholarships as well as support services to students at targeted high schools when it begins in 2018. In support of students and their families, the Foundation is working with local education partners and donors to build scholarship funds to ensure students gain needed financial aid and college resources. The Foundation is also forging a new partnership with Coachella Valley Economic Partnership/NewOrg for assistance with designing and implementing new ways of doing the Foundation’s scholarship distributions work.

Research shows that students awarded scholarships based on financial need stay in college and graduate at rates similar to other students in the same institutions. “Many students have the desire and ability to succeed in college, but lack the means to do so,” said Dr. Yorba. “This investment in our Foundation will enable us to strengthen our commitment to providing more needs-based scholarships to low-income students who have the ability to succeed in college.”

The Community Foundation is one of seven community foundations in California chosen to partner with College Futures as part of its statewide initiative to improve college graduation rates for low-income and underrepresented students.

About The Community Foundation

The Community Foundation is the oldest and largest community foundation in Inland Southern California (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties). Established in 1941, at 76 years old The Community Foundation stewards more than $91 million in assets and provides college scholarships and grants to nonprofit organizations across the two-county region and beyond. Since its founding, the Foundation has awarded more than $86 million to support programs that strengthen the community. For more
information visit The Community Foundation’s website at www.thecommunityfoundation.net. Be a part of our conversation on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

About College Futures Foundation

College Futures Foundation believes that a vibrant future for California’s economy and communities requires more bachelor’s degrees, and that every student should have the chance to succeed in college. College Futures works to remove systemic and institutional barriers to college success, enabling students to access the knowledge, financial aid, and other resources they need to earn college degrees and choose their own futures. The foundation aims to chart a new course for student populations who are low-income and have had historically low college success rates by changing policies, practices, systems, and institutions in ways that better support students.

###