



WHEREAS, there is a growing crisis in the affordability of college that is increasingly putting college out of reach for many Denver students who otherwise have the grades and determination to earn a degree; and

WHEREAS, only 43 percent of the adult population in Denver has a post-secondary degree, and yet it is estimated that by 2020 (when today's Denver eighth-graders will complete high school), three-out-of-four jobs in Denver will require some level of post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, the College Matters proposal to create the Denver College Affordability Program is an innovative, results-oriented, pay-for-performance model that would provide scholarship reimbursements, as well as debt relief grants, at the conclusion of an academic year, or the completion of degree or certification, by eligible Denver college students; and

WHEREAS, the program is also designed to invest in scholarship organizations who fund ongoing support to help students with academic counseling, financial counseling and other students supports that help them succeed, stay in school, and ultimately graduate with a degree; and

WHEREAS, the proposed scholarship fund would have strong transparency, fiscal accountability and built-in checks to protect the interests of Denver taxpayers, including annual public audits, regular reporting to City Council, a 10 year sunset date when the program would need to be reapproved by voters, and governance by a publicly-appointed board that includes elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the program will have a positive impact on student performance and graduation rates at Denver high schools, as it provides students with a strong incentive to keep their grades up, graduate, and prepare for higher education.

WHEREAS, the program will position Denver as an innovative community that invests in the full P-20 education pipeline, starting with the Denver Preschool Program approved by Denver voters in 2006 and reauthorized in 2015;

WHEREAS, the benefits of the scholarship reimbursement and debt relief programs outlined in College Matters means more opportunity, more economic mobility and positive impact on cost of living, especially for Denver students who wish to stay in Denver to begin their careers

WHEREAS, the College Matters proposal will be on the November 2015 ballot (as "2A") in the City & County of Denver.

Therefore, the organization known as _____ hereby supports College Matters, and the ballot measure that Denver City Council will refer to the voters in in the November 2015 election.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Representative of Organization)

Print Name: _____

Contact for the Organization (if different from above):

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Please return this form to: Kaitlyn Randol at kaitlynr@strategies360.com