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CONTACT:

Carole A. DeGruchy

Marketing & Strategic Communications Officer

425.213.5847 or cdegruchy@collegesuccessfoundation.org

**COLLEGE SUCCESS FOUNDATION SCHOLARS HONORED AT
FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA'S BEATING THE ODDS SUMMIT**

Two College Success Foundation (CSF) Scholars from Washington state and the District of Columbia attended First Lady Michelle Obama's Beating the Odds Summit on July 23, 2015, at the White House. The First Lady celebrated over 140 college-bound students from around the country who all came from different backgrounds but all had one thing in common, they have overcome momentous challenges to graduate from high school and make it to college.

Amairany Bautista, CSF Scholar from Tacoma, WA and Christopher Chandler, CSF Scholar from the District of Columbia were invited to participate in this special event that is part of the First Lady's Reach Higher Initiative. Bautista is a first-generation college student who knew she wanted to help her community and was determined to attend college to make that happen. "Education is what opens doors" she told USA TODAY. "Education was a must for me." Her determination paid off. This fall Bautista will attend the University of Puget Sound with a full-tuition scholarship. She plans on majoring in political science and then work for a non-profit.

Christopher Chandler is a graduate and valedictorian of H.D Woodson High School who will be attending Emory University in the fall majoring in engineering. Chandler is a recipient of the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship.

The Reach Higher Initiative is the First Lady's effort to inspire every student in America to take charge of their future by completing their education beyond high school. The College Success Foundation supports under-served, low-income students by providing academic, financial, social and emotional supports. This unique integrated support system improves high school and college graduation rates and disrupts the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

The summit focused on sharing tools and strategies that students can use to successfully transition into college, as well as resources to allow them to persist and complete their college education. The President of the United States Barack Obama made an impromptu visit at the summit and told students, "There is nothing holding you back except you; there is nothing you can't do." The summit panel was moderated by *E! News* host Terrance Jenkins and featured the First

Lady, US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, musical artist Wale and Manuel Contreras, a rising senior at Brown University and co-founder of 1vyG, an organization to empower first-generation college students.

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About the College Success Foundation

The College Success Foundation (CSF) provides the unique integrated system of supports and scholarships to inspire underserved, low-income students to finish high school, graduate from college and achieve success in life. CSF is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization headquartered in Issaquah, Wash.

For more information, visit collegesuccessfoundation.org.