

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Innovia Foundation's \$15,000 Grant to the College Success Foundation
Supports College Exploration Program for Underserved Students**

SPOKANE, WASH., August 14, 2018—Innovia Foundation has awarded College Success Foundation-Spokane a \$15,000 Community Strategies grant to support summer college exploration programs for 250 high school seniors in Spokane Public Schools. The Innovia Foundation grant is focused on CSF's summer college experience program which includes college campus visits, college and career exploration, and college preparatory activities designed to engage students academically and guide them on their college path.

CSF-Spokane's college preparation programs support more than 1,200 students annually at five high schools and three middle schools within the district. CSF makes college accessible and affordable to underserved students—those from low-income families, foster youth, students of color and first-generation college students who are less likely to graduate from college without our support.

"Promoting success through education is a key impact area for Innovia Foundation," said Shelly O'Quinn, CEO of Innovia Foundation. "All high school students should be encouraged to explore post-secondary learning opportunities, and Innovia's investment in CSF's summer college experience program will help make that possible by reducing barriers to higher education for underserved youth."

"CSF does everything in our power to help our students succeed," said CSF Regional Executive Director Susan Joseph Nielsen. "We inspire our students not only by providing supports and scholarships, but also by helping them develop the academic and emotional persistence necessary to successfully finish high school and graduate college-ready. More than 65 percent of our scholars are the first in their family to go to college, so the college preparation process is all new. The CSF program demystifies this process for students and their families through proactive academic advising, college planning, financial aid and scholarship search assistance, FAFSA completion, college readiness support and high school-to-college transition support."

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About Innovia Foundation

Innovia Foundation (formerly Inland Northwest Community Foundation) connects donor generosity to the region's most pressing causes and collaborates with community partners to drive transformation across 20 counties in Eastern Washington and North Idaho. Since 1974, the foundation's endowment has grown to \$120 million. Through the generosity of donors and the passionate support of our nonprofit and community partners, Innovia Foundation has awarded more than \$70 million dollars to organizations that improve lives. For more information, visit innovia.org.

About College Success Foundation

College Success Foundation provides a unique integrated system of supports and scholarships to inspire underserved, low-income students to finish high school, graduate from college and succeed in life. More than 9,500 CSF Scholars have graduated from college. CSF is a nonprofit headquartered in Bellevue,

Washington that serves students in Washington state, Washington, D.C. and colleges in every state of the nation. For more information, visit collegesuccessfoundation.org.