Bob Craves, Visionary College Success Foundation Co-Founder, Dies

Former Costco founding officer built organization that helps thousands of low-income and minority students graduate from college

Issaquah, WA – Bob Craves, a passionate advocate for equal access to higher education, died Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014, surrounded by family. He was 72.

Craves co-founded the College Success Foundation (CSF) with Ann Ramsay-Jenkins in the spring of 2000 to provide college scholarships and mentoring to low-income, high-potential students. The foundation evolved from former Washington State Governor Gary Locke’s 2020 Commission on the Future of Post-Secondary Education, which recommended the establishment of an independent, non-profit organization to build and sustain public understanding of the need for higher levels of educational attainment and lifelong learning. By the end of 2013, 3,818 CSF Scholars had earned bachelor’s degrees, with over 5,000 more still attending college.

“Bob knew that the best way to change the trajectory of an underserved student’s life was through higher education, and he worked tirelessly to help pave the path to college for as many students as possible,” Ramsay-Jenkins said.

Craves retired as the foundation’s CEO in September 2013 and remained a member of the CSF Board of Directors. His death followed a recent diagnosis of cancer.
“We are deeply saddened to lose our friend. I can’t think of anyone who has displayed more enthusiasm for the education of students throughout our country,” said Yolanda Watson Spiva, Ph.D., CSF President & CEO.

“Bob has left a very tall and proud legacy for all of us to continue,” said former Gov. Gary Locke. “His efforts have inspired and uplifted a generation of young people to help secure a brighter future – not just for them, but for all of us. This is a very sad day for higher education in our state.”

Please visit the College Success Foundation’s Bob Craves memorial page for additional information.

###

**About the College Success Foundation**

Founded in 2000, the College Success Foundation provides the unique integrated system of supports and scholarships to inspire underserved, low-income students to finish high school, graduate from college and succeed in life. For more information about the College Success Foundation, please visit collegesuccessfoundation.org.