



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COLORADO SCHOOLS RISE TO THE TOP FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT AWARD**

*One Elementary, Middle, and High School Will Win \$15,000 each from The Succeeds Prize*

**DENVER, CO – May 7, 2019** – As the economy and labor market evolve, so must our education system. In Colorado, there are outstanding examples of schools that are putting students first to help them develop into agile learners – prepared to adapt and succeed in an uncertain future and solve problems that have not been created. For the third year in a row, Colorado Succeeds, 9NEWS, and mindSpark Learning have come together to award these top schools that are making a transformational impact on students through The Succeeds Prize.

“It is incredibly gratifying to witness the innovation and success taking place in Colorado schools,” said Kellie Lauth, CEO, mindSpark Learning. “We are honored to help share these stories and shine a bright light on the tremendous outcomes these educators are having on their students. We know each school has a unique story and look forward to hearing about what makes their work so transformational.”

The Succeeds Prize, a live-reveal awards ceremony on Sept. 19, 2019, will reward and recognize schools and educators having an impact in the state, highlighting schools working with a variety of student populations and across many different contexts. The Succeeds Prize is the most prestigious awards event for Colorado’s schools and educators. The one-of-a-kind awards ceremony is followed by a yearlong effort to strengthen the state’s public schools through training for educators aimed at scaling successful innovations and learning from best practices across Colorado.

“If we want to see schools innovate at scale, we have to elevate and invest in what is working. The Succeeds Prize not only rewards the efforts of educators who are making an impact in Colorado, but it also offers a platform supported by the business community to inspire education and policy leaders across the state,” said Scott Laband, President, Colorado Succeeds.

The Succeeds Prize offers awards in two categories: Transformational Impact and Excellence in Education. Each category has three awards.

Nine finalists have been named for the Transformational Impact Award. Starting with a robust data pull of schools across the state, these finalists have been identified for their student growth, offering an innovative approach to school/program design and implementation, and demonstrate an impact on growing the whole child - such as fostering a love of learning, acquiring diverse skills, and supporting well-rounded interests.

“9NEWS has been proud to feature previous year’s winners on our network to share their stories with millions of Coloradans. Congratulations to the finalists for Transformational Impact. Colorado is grateful for your work,” said Mark Cornetta, General Manager and President, 9NEWS/KUSA TV. “We’re looking forward to celebrating all teachers on September 19 and highlighting the best in Colorado education.”

Finalists for Transformational Impact in an Elementary School Award, sponsored by TTEC:

- Aurora Quest K-8, Aurora Public Schools
- Longfellow Elementary School, Salida School District
- Manassa Elementary School, North Conejos School District

Finalists for Transformational Impact in a Middle School Award, sponsored by DaVita:

- Academy of Advanced Learning, Aurora Public Schools
- Altona Middle School, St. Vrain Valley School District
- McAuliffe International School, Denver Public Schools

Finalists for Transformational Impact in a High School Award, sponsored by Slalom:

- Grandview High School, Cherry Creek School District
- La Veta High School, La Veta School District
- Loveland Classical School, Thompson School District

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The Succeeds Prize Advisory Committee is composed of Colorado education, government, and business leaders. Committee members have taught in a classroom, led a school building, served on a school board or charter school board, or worked in a district or state agency.

The winners for the Transformational Impact Award will be announced at a live reveal celebration on September 19, 2019 and broadcast live on My 20 KDTV. Each winner will be awarded \$15,000 for their program. For more information about the awards or sponsorship, visit [TheSucceedsPrize.org](http://TheSucceedsPrize.org).

**About The Succeeds Prize**

The Succeeds Prize is the most prestigious awards and recognition event for Colorado's public schools and educators. It honors the transformational impact Colorado's public schools and educators are leading across the state. It also serves as a year-long campaign to implement and scale successful innovations and best practices, so every student in Colorado can benefit.

The Succeeds Prize is sponsored by the business community in partnership with Colorado Succeeds, 9NEWS/KUSA, and mindSpark Learning. Learn more at [TheSucceedsPrize.org](http://TheSucceedsPrize.org).

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