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Jeffco Schools Foundation Honors Jefferson County Leaders and Teachers
Ken and Jill Fellman, Dr. Michele Haney, and Jeffco teachers Jesse Swift, Chuck Sprague, and Andy Yutyz honored at the Foundation's annual Love Our Schools Luncheon

Lakewood, Colo. (May 6, 2016) – Nearly 400 people gathered at the annual Jeffco Schools Foundation Love Our Schools Luncheon at the Lamar Street Center in Arvada on May 4 to honor five awardees.

Ken and Jill Fellman are both highly respected and appreciated Jefferson County community members. The couple received the *Salazar Excellence in Philanthropy Award* from the [Jeffco Schools Foundation](#), honoring their contributions to the community. Ken Fellman, former City of Arvada Mayor and a lawyer at Denver-based [Kissinger & Fellman P.C.](#), currently serves as the Board Chair for the newly created nonprofit Arvada Center for the Performing Arts and Humanities. Jill Fellman, a former Jefferson County Board of Education member and educator, former Board member of Jeffco Schools Foundation, Vice-Chair of the Sooper Credit Union Foundation board, and Board Chair of the Arvada Community Food Bank, also was honored. The Fellmans were selected because of their deep commitment to public education and philanthropic values of giving to causes in the City of Arvada and countywide. The couple understands that all schools and all students are in need of financial support from Jeffco Schools Foundation programming.

“Ken and Jill were the obvious choices for this award, based on their tireless work on behalf of our schools, students, and the community in general. A philanthropist says “yes”, no matter what, and there has not been one time when Ken or Jill has said “no” to Jeffco students, schools, or educational causes,” said Foundation Executive Director Denise Delgado.

Jeffco Schools Foundation awarded Red Rocks Community College President Dr. Michele Haney the *Norma Anderson Lifetime Achievement in Education Award*. The award was created to recognize the tenacity of former State Senator Anderson, a formidable force at the State Capitol that advocated not only on behalf of Jeffco

schools, but the entire public education system in Colorado. The award honors individuals who have had a broad impact on public education not only in Jefferson County, but nationally. Dr. Haney joins an elite group – only nine others have received the award – and was selected this year for her passion and ongoing commitment to public education endeavors and community partnerships which impact current and future Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) students. Under Dr. Haney’s leadership, vision, and culture, RRCC has been partner of the Jeffco Schools Foundation for decades. Such support includes supporting the Foundation’s newest Initiative *Beyond Jeffco: Post-Secondary Work Force Pathways* and the *Hero Awards*. RRCC provides full-ride scholarships to students who otherwise would not pursue higher education as part of the *Hero Awards*.

“Dr. Haney believes the most important part of the RRCC’s name is ‘community’, and there is no other individual who has been, and will continue to be, dedicated to public access to higher education,” said Delgado.

Jesse Swift, a teacher at Bell Middle School, was recognized by the Jeffco Schools Foundation in partnership with the Jeffco Energy Action Project as *Science Teacher of the Year*, for support of the district’s Vision 2020 core competency in content mastery. Chuck Sprague and Andy Yutzy of Wheat Ridge High School were recognized with the Foundation’s inaugural *Education is Everyone’s Business Award* for excellence in working alongside business to provide unique learning experiences for Jeffco high school students. Sprague is responsible for an award-winning STEM program, and Yutzy is responsible for the launch of the STEAM program that incorporates the arts into science, technology, engineering, and math. Yutzy worked in partnership with Sprague’s STEM students to showcase a sculpture at Lutheran Medical Center later this summer.

About Jeffco Schools Foundation

Jeffco Schools Foundation was created over 30 years ago. Its mission is to ensure the academic and personal growth of all Jeffco schools by inspiring personal philanthropy and private sector partnership. Our mantra is that all Jeffco students thrive. We do this by both fundraising and implementing operating programs which align with the District Vision 2020 and District Improvement Plan, supporting the areas of K-4 Literacy, Math, and Post-Secondary Work Force Pathways. For more information visit. www.jeffcoschoolsfoundation.org or call 303-982-2261.

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