



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 8, 2016

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Dr. Ryan Ross Named 2016 9NEWS Leader of the Year
Ross recognized for outstanding community leadership and dedication to education equity

DENVER – Today, 9NEWS and the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation jointly announced Dr. Ryan Ross, dean of Student Development and Retention with the Community College of Denver, as the 2016 9NEWS Leader of the Year. The award was given in front of more than 600 guests at the annual Celebrating Civic Leadership Luncheon benefiting the Leadership Foundation’s emerging leaders scholarship program. Hundreds of Leadership Foundation alumni cast their votes, selecting Ross from three impressive finalists.

Ross has committed his career to advocating for education equity in Colorado. As dean of Student Development and Retention at the Community College of Denver, Ross ensures students have the support services they need to be successful and complete their degrees and certificates. Ross’ passion continues to increase awareness of the barriers facing low-income students in Colorado.

“I am totally humbled being named 9NEWS Leader of the Year. This is an honor I hope to really live up to one day. I am thankful for the support of so many people, especially my wife and kiddos, and am truly inspired by the thought of what leaders in Denver can accomplish working collectively,” Ross said.

“We are thrilled to present Dr. Ryan Ross with this year’s 9NEWS Leader of the Year Award,” said Leadership Foundation Executive Director Dan Lewis. “Dr. Ross truly exemplifies what it means to be an inspiring, visionary leader – and we are grateful for all he has done for our community. He is a role model for each of us aspiring to make positive change in the world around us.”

The 9NEWS Leader of the Year Award recognizes outstanding leaders who are inspiring the community and leading the way for change. This year’s selection process was different than years past, with Leadership Foundation program alumni selecting the winner from three finalists through an online voting process. This year’s finalists included Ross and:

- **Heather Lafferty**, executive director and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver
- **Michael Mitchel**, executive director and commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1 and managing partner of OC Consulting

“The 9NEWS Leader of the Year Award is a true celebration of leadership. Every year, we are more and more impressed with the caliber of nominees and the positive impacts their actions have had on the community. On behalf of 9NEWS, we congratulate Dr. Ryan Ross and the other finalists and thank them for their dedication to positive community change,” said 9NEWS President and General Manager Mark Cornetta.

Each of the finalists will receive \$1,000 from the Leadership Foundation to donate to a not-for-profit of their choice.



For more information about the 9NEWS Leader of the Year Award and the many impactful programs of the Leadership Foundation, visit denverleadership.org.

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About the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation

An affiliate organization of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation provides the knowledge, skills, networks and experience to inspire leaders to engage in issues critical to the region's success. The Leadership Foundation creates leadership capacity through a continuum of programs, including Leadership Denver, Impact Denver, Leadership Exchange, Access Denver, the Colorado Leadership Alliance and the Leadership Alumni Network. For more information, please visit denverleadershp.org.