



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Lori Canova, President & CEO of “I Have A Dream” Foundation of Boulder County,
announces retirement**

After nearly 23 years at the helm of the non-profit organization, Canova led “I Have A Dream” through many milestones and leaves a legacy of tireless community service

BOULDER, Colo. (Oct. 31, 2019) – “I Have A Dream” Foundation of Boulder County (IHDF) today announced its President & CEO, Lori Canova, will retire from the organization. The Board of Directors will commence an executive search for her successor immediately.

“Lori’s contributions over the last 23 years have allowed our organization to thrive and to achieve our mission of empowering children from low-income families to succeed in school and continue to and through post-secondary education,” said Eva Gaudio, Chair of the Board of Directors of the “I Have A Dream” Foundation of Boulder County. “Her vision and unwavering commitment to this community has been instrumental to our growth. The number of students we have served since 1997 has grown from 100 to 1,100, making Boulder County “I Have A Dream” one of the largest affiliates in the country. She has led with professionalism and passion, and her sincere compassion for the youth and families we serve will be missed.”

Since joining the non-profit in 1997, Canova led IHDF through many achievements, including:

- Providing more than 1,100 low-income youth in our local communities with academic, social and emotional support from elementary school through college – a 16-year commitment for each participant. In 1997, the organization had been serving 100 youth and their families.
- Achieving a high school graduation rate of more than 90% among the students served by IHDF, and an 85% rate of students who pursue college and post-secondary educational programs.
- Awarding more than \$3 million in scholarship funds for scholars served by IHDF.
- Launching new programs to include mentoring and tutoring, which expanded the organization’s number of volunteers from 10 in 1997 to 600 today.
- Establishing valuable partnerships in the community designed to reach more youth and families, including IHDF’s AmeriCorps partnership, which is one of the largest in Boulder County.

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- Expanding into the St. Vrain Valley School District with IHDF locations in Longmont and Carbon Valley, in addition to serving Lafayette and Boulder.
- Completing a successful campaign to purchase a building that provides long-term stability, and a central location for the organization's headquarters and programming operations.
- Galvanizing support from throughout the community to ensure the organization's long-term success.

"When I started with "I Have A Dream" in 1997 as part-time Executive Director with one staff member, it was a small organization with a passion to make a difference for people in our community who need it the most," said Canova. "Today, our organization includes 39 employees, 22 AmeriCorps members and 600 volunteers who support more than 1,100 families in 13 schools and housing sites in Boulder Valley and St. Vrain School Districts. This has been a dream job for me, but after more than two decades, it is time for me to move on to fulfill other dreams. We are well positioned for a new leader to set a course for the future that enriches even more children's educational opportunities."

Canova will continue in her capacity as President & CEO until transition plans are in place for a new President & CEO. She will remain involved in the organization's mission through her role as a Board Member of the National "I Have A Dream" Foundation.

"So many individuals and organizations have supported the mission of IHDF," said Canova. "Without our staff, parents, Dreamer Scholars, volunteers, donors, Board members and sponsors, none of our achievements over the last two decades would have been possible. I have made lifelong friends and have been inspired by the generosity in our community."

About "I Have A Dream" Foundation of Boulder County

Since 1990, the award-winning "I Have A Dream" Foundation of Boulder County (IHDF) has assisted more than 1,100 children from low-income communities achieve their dreams of college by providing long-term personal and academic support, tutoring, mentoring and four-year tuition-assistance scholarships to each graduating student. The program follows the national model established in New York in 1981 by founder Eugene Lang. The organization sponsors entire groups of students from elementary schools or low-income housing sites, and works with these children and their families through high school graduation and into post-high school education. Currently, there are 13 active "I Have A Dream" classes in the Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley School Districts. IHDF has doubled expected graduation rates for program participants and has awarded more than \$3 million in local scholarships to date.

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