

### For Immediate Release

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### Big Idea Project Receives Daniels Fund Grant

*Daniels Fund grant enables Big Idea Project to grow generous leaders.*

**Denver – November 19, 2015** – Big Idea Project, a non-profit organization that teaches leadership and life skills to high school students through service, announces today that it has received a \$50,000 grant to support development and expansion of the program.

Big Idea Project is a service learning experience for high school students that teaches practical skills, character and social awareness through hands on projects. Big Idea Project exists to grow high school students into future leaders, employees and citizens by teaching them how to lead generously and connecting businesses with classrooms.

In 2009, Bryan Halsey, a business teacher at Columbine High School created the first leadership course for public schools after seeing a lack of problem solving and leadership skills in his high school students. Since then Big Idea Project has gained momentum outside of the Columbine school walls. Currently there are nearly students and 13 metro area high schools and countless businesses mentors. More about Big Idea Project:

- Big Idea Project's chief aim is to develop students in 'generous leaders' by helping them practice professional skills through the lens of empathy
- Students learn team leadership, social awareness and giving back, entrepreneurial confidence, creative problem solving, public speaking, project planning and implementation and more.
- Students work in teams to identify a need in society they would like to do something about and work with business leaders to put their knowledge and plan in to action.
- Big Idea project is a results contest, not a pitch contest. Students are required to put their ideas and plans into action by leading real community change
- In May 2015 Big Idea Project hosted Colorado's first state competition, with the winner awarded a college scholarship.

"Earning the vote of confidence from the Daniels Fund means Big Idea Project can make a deeper impact in Colorado's schools. Their generous gift helps us build organizational capacity so that we can provide programming and support to more teachers, develop more



empathetic leaders in high schools across Colorado and strengthen the bridges we've already built between business and education. Big Idea Project is mobilizing a generation of generous leaders who will solve our nation's toughest leadership problems. Daniels Fund is a major player in making this mission a reality", explains Tricia Halsey, Big Idea Project Executive Director.

Take a few minutes to watch last year's [state competition winners and generous leaders in action](#).

The Daniels Fund, established by cable television pioneer Bill Daniels, is a private charitable foundation dedicated to making life better for the people of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming through its grants program, scholarship program, and ethics initiative. Visit [DanielsFund.org](http://DanielsFund.org) to learn more.

### **What People Are Saying About BIP**

"The Big Idea Project was a once in a lifetime chance to actually give to the community with a lot of support all around us. It was so empowering and uplifting so see change happen. I feel proud and honored to have been a part of the project."

- Stephen Hoffman, Student

"As a parent of a Big Idea Project student, it's exciting to see how you are inspiring a generation of public-spirited leaders who are focused on giving back to others. I watched my own daughter as she broadened her social conscience, set goals, worked as a team member, took initiative and stretched her comfort zone. As a result, she discovered that she has the power to make a difference in her world. Thank you."

- Linda Cole, Parent

"As a corporate employee at MillerCoors, LLC I've been honored that you've included me in the Big Idea Project. I recommend other business leaders seriously consider lending a hand to your efforts. The program builds business skills, produces a successful outcome for every student, and their work helps others in the community. To me, that's innovative, unbelievably admirable, and worthy of other business leaders to consider supporting."

- Bill Young, Director of Beer Policy at MillerCoors, LLC