



2021 Award Nomination Form National Philanthropy Day in Colorado

***Please see Nomination Instructions (afpcc.org) for information on completing and submitting nominations**

Nominee Information

Nominee			
Name:	Ann Lowdermilk		
	<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>	
Organization:	<u>Colorado Chapter of Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundations (ARCS)</u>		
Address:	PO Box 460874		
	<i>Street Address</i>	<i>Apt./Unit #</i>	
	Denver	CO	80246
	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>ZIP Code</i>
Primary Phone:	Alternate Phone:		
Email:			

Category of Nomination (please check ONLY ONE)

- ☐ Lifetime Achievement
- ☐ Outstanding Large Business (Number of Colorado employees _____)
- ☐ Outstanding Small Business (Number of Colorado employees _____)
- ☐ Outstanding Foundation
- ☐ Outstanding Philanthropist
- ☐ Outstanding Professional Fundraiser
- ☐ Outstanding Professional Grantmaker

XX Outstanding Service Organization

- ☐ Outstanding Volunteer
- ☐ Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser
- ☐ Inspiration Award

Nominator Information

Submitted/Nominated By:

Name:	Jane	Marsh
	<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>
Organization:	Univerisity of Colorado Boulder	
Address:	1305 University Ave / 461 UCB	
	<i>Street Address</i>	<i>Apt/Unit #</i>
	Boulder	CO 80302
	<i>City</i>	<i>State ZIP Code</i>
Primary Phone:	jane.marsh@colorado.edu	
Relationship to Nominee:	Email:	
	Grantee	

How did you hear
about us? We've known about NPD Colorado for a long time

If your nominee is not selected, would you like them to be notified that they were nominated? ☐XYes
☐No

If your nominee is selected, can we share a copy of the nomination with them? ☐XYes ☐No

Refer to the Nomination Instructions for Complete Directions

Please remember:

- Each nomination must include:
 1. Nomination Form
 2. Nomination narrative
 3. Two letters of support (additional letters will not be accepted)
- The nomination deadline is **Friday, July 16, 2021 at 5:00 PM (MST)**
- No exceptions!
- All nominations must be complete when submitted
- If you would like feedback on your nomination from a member of the Awards & Selection Committee (not the judges) before formally submitting your nomination, please submit your draft materials by **July 7** via email with a note to that effect.
- Complete nominations must be emailed to DeAnn Acosta, CFRE, deann@afpcc.org.

Thank you for supporting National Philanthropy Day in Colorado afpcc.org



Questions? Contact DeAnn Acosta: deann@afpcc.org

Narrative for Nomination of ARCS Colorado Chapter in the Outstanding Service Organization Category for National Philanthropy Day in Colorado

1. *What are the nominee's specific achievements?*

In 1976, a small group of women formed the Colorado chapter of ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) Foundation to address our state's need for new scientists and engineers who can solve the most pressing problems in our communities and world. Over the last 43 years, these women have recruited dozens of others. Together they have given outstanding undergraduate and graduate students with financial need opportunities to pursue degrees in science, engineering and medical research.

What makes Colorado ARCS so remarkable is that it is 100% driven by a group of dedicated volunteers who, through their own fundraising efforts, have awarded over \$4.6M to more than 1,000 students. Being volunteer-driven, ARCS has no overhead, which means 100% of every dollar donated goes directly to students. Members engage corporations, civic organizations and individuals to combine their resources and leverage the impact of their giving through this compelling model.

The work of the ARCS Foundation reaches across Colorado and provides support to students enrolled in one of six state-supported universities, including Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, University of Colorado Boulder, Denver, and Colorado Springs, along with CU's Anschutz Medical Campus. An ARCS scholarship (\$6,500) provides significant aid to scholars, and nearly 90% of them say the ARCS award made a significant difference in their education. These scholars continue making significant contributions to their fields after graduation. ARCS alumni strengthen both science and leadership in our country, going on to develop new technologies, earn patents, launch science-related start-up companies and inspire the next generation of future scientists.

2. *What impact has the nominee had on the community through financial contributions and/or volunteerism? What impact has the nominee had on efforts to promote diversity?*

ARCS Foundation Colorado bridges funding gaps needed to advance important science, and for students to access and thrive in a higher education setting. Their efforts bring success to a diverse group of highachieving students with financial need.

Financial contribution impact: Science and medical research has faced major funding cuts in recent years which has made the work of ARCS more important than ever. ARCS' fundraising and volunteerism addresses our communities' need for new scientists and engineers who create knowledge and innovative technologies, contribute to our science infrastructure and culture of discovery, or develop scientific solutions to public health crises such as our recent Covid-19 pandemic. At CU Boulder the Colorado ARCS chapter supports research important to our specific community including aerospace, cancer, clean water, and wildlife protection, to name a few.

This remarkable group brings critical resources to public higher education. State support for Colorado's public universities has declined by nearly 70% since ARCS was founded so that today the University of Colorado receives just four percent of its funding from the state. With ARCS scholarships, the University can attract and retain the best students no matter what their economic circumstance.

Volunteer Impact: The women of ARCS ensure students' success by spending time getting to know the scholars, providing encouragement and showing confidence in their abilities. In most years, annual 'meet and greets' and an ARCS's scholar luncheon bring students face-to-face with local members many

Narrative for Nomination of ARCS Colorado Chapter in the Outstanding Service Organization Category for National Philanthropy Day in Colorado

of whom are leading scientists in their field and philanthropists in our community. These interactions form unique bonds and establish a sense of responsibility for both scholars and donors. The students are grateful for the personal attention, as well as for the monetary assistance to their education.

Becky Simon, an ARCS scholar who earned a PhD in Geological Sciences from the University of Colorado Boulder can attest to this. *"Ultimately you apply for scholarships for financial support. ARCS though has given me so much more because the members are truly interested in my work. Since the meet and greet, I have emailed and exchanged book recommendations with a couple of the women. Marci and Bruce Benson who funded my particular award even took time to visit my lab!"*

Impact on promoting diversity: Because scholarship recipients are selected by university financial aid offices, awards are available and awarded to students from diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds, including many non-traditional or first-generation students. ARCS's awards are totally unrestricted making them easy for universities to help scholars with a wide variety of financial challenges.

ARCS also helps women succeed in STEM, which is a growing area of economic opportunity and one that has failed to close gender gaps. Close to half of ARCS scholars are women. In 2019, ARCS scholar Heather Hava from the University of Colorado Boulder led a team competing in NASA's BIG Idea Challenge. Theirs was the first all-woman team in the event's history to enter the competition. NASA awarded them the 2019 Most Innovative Award. NASA had called for innovative ideas to design and operate a Mars greenhouse. The team's project, titled 'Sustainable Integration of Regenerative Outerspace Nature & Agriculture', or SIRONA, is both a human habitat and vertically integrated agricultural ecosystem to grow and harvest food and then recycle the resulting waste.

3. What leadership qualities does the nominee possess that promote philanthropy and/or volunteerism?

The women of ARCS Foundation Colorado lead by example. They have formed a powerful community comprised of passionate volunteers, generous philanthropists, university leadership as well as highly talented students and alumni of Colorado's state universities. This community activates and inspires others to give.

Their leadership example is one of commitment. ARCS has no paid staff - the members perform all administrative duties and fund expenses through their membership dues. All members of ARCS volunteer their time to raise funds for scholarships, actively engaging companies and individuals to support and encourage young people interested in helping humankind.

Barb McDonald, ARCS member since 2011, says that *"it's impossible not to become personally involved when our scholars reveal the personal impact an ARCS award has had on their lives. It is without a doubt the most impactful organization I've ever been involved with."*

The opportunity to experience the joy of giving awaits future members as well. Scholar Becky Simon's words say it all. *"Most scholarships do not instill a strong personal desire to see the mission through the future. Because the ARCS ladies are so engaged, informed and supportive, I've never doubted in my mind that I'd become a supporting member after graduation. I'm looking forward to eventually joining the group and carrying their mission of inspiration forward."*

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Office of the Dean
1801 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-1801 www.natsci.colostate.edu

July 2, 2019

Association of Fundraising Professionals
National Philanthropy Day Award Committee
PO Box 24745
Denver, CO 80224

Subject: Support letter for the Achievement Rewards for College Scientist Foundation (ARCS)

Dear Members of the Awards Selection Committee:

It is an honor to write this letter of support for the Colorado Chapter of the Achievement Rewards for College Scientist Foundation (ARCS) on behalf of Colorado State University. The Colorado chapter chartered in 1976, and began supporting CSU in 1981. Over the past 38 years, ARCS has given nearly 1 Million dollars to CSU in scholarship support. Their inspiring commitment to improving the future through higher education is incredible, as well as their volunteerism and belief in what our students can achieve.

ARCS Scholars are all high achieving students in academically challenging programs at CSU within the College of Natural Sciences, the Walter Scott, Jr. College of Engineering, and the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. By supporting our outstanding students, the ARCS foundation is playing a vital role in our efforts to provide our talented students with the opportunities needed to become the next generation of scientists, engineers, medical scholars, and leaders. We are grateful for their partnership in our mission and they are truly changing lives through their generosity.

ARCS is unique in many ways – serving as a model for women’s STEM philanthropy and creating a unique partnership between science and society. By investing in students and research in the STEM disciplines, they recognize that education and research in the sciences is essential to our Country’s economic growth and global competitiveness. With the increased cost of higher education, and the decreases we’ve seen in State support for higher education, providing scholarships to high ability students can be the difference in that student attending college or not or completing their degree or not. As Dean, I have the opportunity to see their generosity in action every day through the accomplishments of our students. I have also had the chance to watch the ARCS



volunteers engage with their scholarship recipients, and it is heart-warming to see how passionate they are about encouraging these students to pursue their academic dreams.

Ivan Pavlov, a great physiologist and psychologist, who may best be known for his research on the salivary system of dogs, once said, "Perfect as the wing of a bird may be, it will never enable the bird to fly if unsupported by the air." The hardworking ARCS volunteers are the air that has supported so many students across Colorado so they could pursue their dreams and contribute to the advancement of science, technology, and medical research. On Behalf of myself and the College of Natural Sciences, Dean Stetter, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and Dean McLean, Walter Scott, Jr. College of Engineering, I would like to extend our full support for ARCS receiving this well-deserved honor.

The Colorado State University community is pleased to give our highest recommendation for the ARCS Foundation to be awarded this very prestigious honor.

Best regards,

Janice L. Nerger, Dean
College of Natural Sciences



July 25, 2018

Association of Fundraising Professionals
National Philanthropy Day Award Committee
PO Box 24745
Denver, CO 80224

Subject: Support letter for the Achievement Rewards for the College Scientist Foundation (ARCS)

Dear Members of the Awards Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the Colorado Chapter of the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundations (ARCS) on behalf of Colorado School of Mines. The Colorado Chapter began providing support to Mines in October of 1979. Over the past 39 years, ARCS has donated over \$1 Million dollars in scholarship support. Not only is this tenured support impressive and admirable, it is even more inspiring considering that all fundraising efforts are organized through a 100% volunteer committee.

Colorado School of Mines is unique among academic institutions as its sole focus is on educating students and professionals in the applied sciences, engineering and associated fields relating to our core areas of earth, energy and environment. The ARCS Foundation's mission to boost American leadership and aid advancement in science and technology is a perfect match. Our ARCS Scholars are amongst the best and brightest at Mines and the ARCS Scholarship helps us attract talented students who bring a rich diversity of experience to the Mines community. Receiving scholarship funding not only reduces students' financial obligation, it acknowledges their academic achievements and the strengths that they bring to the university community. Students who receive financial assistance not only have a smaller debt burden when they graduate, they also reap much broader benefits. By working fewer hours during the school year, students have time to engage more fully in all aspects of the Mines experience. The ARCS Scholarships are a vital part of their success and many scholars have expressed gratitude for the financial freedom it provides them by not having to work part time and attend college.

The Colorado Chapter of ARCS is passionate about increasing students in STEM and getting to know their ARCS Scholars personally. They take a keen interest in each scholar's research topic and remember to ask about their progress upon their next meet up. Their encouragement of our students is infectious. Our students light up when the ARCS women engage with them. It is wonderful to see the interest they take and the support they offer our students.

Recently, one of our ARCS Scholars found out her father had been an ARCS Scholar during his time in college and now teaches science at the University of Northern Colorado. It has been rewarding to see generations connecting over this amazing scholarship and seeing the impact, it has on them.

On behalf of the Colorado School of Mines community, I enthusiastically provide our recommendation for the ARCS Foundation – Colorado Chapter to be awarded this prestigious recognition for what they contribute to our community.

With gratitude,

Amy Kusek
Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations