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Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado Scholars Participate in Envision U Event

The annual event brings together rising high school seniors for college preparatory activities.

June 28, 2024 -Last week, 18 scholars from Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado traveled to Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California to attend Envision U with more than 60 of their peers. Boys Hope Girls Hope is a nonprofit organization with affiliates in cities across the United States and Latin America serving more than 1,200 young people. Through our voluntary, application-based program, the organization supports motivated young people in need through middle to high school, post-secondary education, and career launch.

Envision U offers incoming 12th graders a valuable opportunity to plan for their future goals and learn how to achieve them successfully. Scholars engage in team building and service activities to develop essential skills such as communication, problem-solving, teamwork, and a sense of community. Participants also have the chance to explore options at over 20 colleges and universities nationwide through a college fair featuring partner schools and local admission representatives.

“At Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado, we believe that access to quality education, opportunity, and a network of support changes everything for a young person,” said Mary Fran, Executive Director of the Colorado affiliate of Boys Hope Girls Hope. “This event is just one of the many avenues of support we provide to them locally to help them seamlessly transition into the next phase of their academic journey and ensure their long-term success.”

Envision U gathers experts from across the country to train and discuss key topics relevant to rising college freshmen. This year's seminars were led by notable corporate partners such as Cisco and Edward Jones, along with subject matter experts and Legacy Leaders—Boys Hope Girls Hope alumni who have either graduated or are currently enrolled in college.

A highlight of this year's Envision U week was a visit to Cisco, led by Boys Hope Girls Hope Board Member Jason "JP" Pernel, Worldwide Vice President of Go-to-Market Sales Operations at Cisco. Students also participated in Edward Jones Networking Night, where they had the opportunity to practice their networking skills and learn about careers from a diverse group of professionals.

Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado not only prepares scholars for college through their ongoing programming and special enrichment opportunities like Envision U, but also continues to provide emotional, financial, and educational support for collegians. Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado alumni also have access to networking, mentoring, career assistance, service, and leadership opportunities to help them continue to succeed as they progress through college.

This critical, ongoing support has a demonstrated impact on students. In fact, 100% of Boys Hope Girls Hope scholars graduate from high school and, for the past five years, 96% of graduating high school seniors have gone on to college. Over the past 10 years, the annual college persistence rate of Boys Hope Girls Hope collegians has remained steady at over 90%.

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About Boys Hope Girls Hope

The mission of Boys Hope Girls Hope is to nurture, and guide motivated young people in need to become well-educated, career-ready men and women for others. Boys Hope Girls Hope addresses the opportunity gap at-risk youth entering high school face through provision of academic and personal support in a setting where all belong.

Boys Hope Girls Hope supports scholars through two programs which provide a continuum of care. The **Academy Program** connects with motivated high school scholars who navigate systemic barriers to opportunity through touchpoints four to five times a week, college-preparatory support, life skills training, scholarships, and access to internships. The close-knit sense of community creates a safety net and an environment where young men and women can thrive. The **College Program** tracks collegians through the postsecondary journey into the launch of their career postgrad.

All scholars and collegians are first-generation and/or low-income youth that participate in the program.