

**Shiza Shahid, Co-Founder and Global Ambassador of the Malala Fund,
Named Keynote Speaker for 22nd Annual Denver Luncheon
of The Women's Foundation of Colorado**

DENVER, Colo. (Oct. 16, 2014) – The Women's Foundation of Colorado announces Shiza Shahid will be the keynote speaker for its 22nd Annual Denver Luncheon on **October 23, 2014** at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver.

The Women's Foundation of Colorado's Annual Denver Luncheon, one of the state's largest annual gatherings for women and philanthropists who support women and girls, carries a long-standing tradition of hosting well-known keynote speakers who bring a message of empowerment, collaboration and inspiration to support the organization's mission of building resources and leading change to help Colorado women and girls reach their full potential.



Shiza Shahid is an entrepreneur and social activist of Pakistani origin. She is the co-founder and global ambassador of the Malala Fund, the organization representing the young Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Taliban for her campaign for girls' education and is the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

A graduate of Stanford University, Shiza was previously a business analyst at McKinsey & Company in the Middle East. She is now leading the Malala Fund in its work to empower girls through education. Shiza was recently named one of *TIME* magazine's "30 Under 30 World Changers" and to *Forbes* "30 Under 30" list of social entrepreneurs.

"We are thrilled to bring Shiza Shahid to Colorado as our Denver Luncheon keynote speaker," said Louise Atkinson, President and CEO of The Women's Foundation of Colorado. "We cannot imagine having a speaker more closely aligned in mission to our organization, which aims to lift all Colorado women and girls into economic self-sufficiency through education. Shiza has made a difference for girls worldwide, and we look forward to the wisdom she will bring about girls and education."

Around the world, over 600 million adolescent girls are denied a formal education because of social, economic, legal and political factors. And in being denied an education, society loses one of its greatest and most powerful resources. The Malala Fund aims to change that by empowering girls to raise their voices, to unlock their potential, and to demand change through education. The Malala Fund's solutions are grounded in inspired innovation: they are girl-centric approaches to education that support the Fund's goal of creating a world where every girl reaches her true potential.

About the Denver Luncheon

Who: The Women's Foundation of Colorado
What: 22nd Annual Denver Luncheon with Keynote Speaker Shiza Shahid
When: Thursday, October 23, 2014 / 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Where: Colorado Convention Center – Denver, CO
Expected Attendance: 2,000 guests

Tickets on sale soon at www.wfco.org. For table sales and sponsorship opportunities contact shaynab@wfco.org. Many thanks to our corporate sponsors: FirstBank, Vladimir Jones, Western Union, MillerCoors, Anadarko, Barbara Bridges, CH2MHill, DaVita, Atlantic Trust, Black Fox Philanthropy, FirstWestern Trust, Arrow Electronics, MWH, Noble Energy, CBS4, Denver Post and Comcast.

About The Women's Foundation of Colorado

The mission of The Women's Foundation of Colorado is to build resources and lead change so that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves her full potential. We are committed to boldly leading systemic change to advance economic opportunity for all women and girls in Colorado; using research to build knowledge and guide action; building philanthropy that supports and champions women and girls in Colorado; demonstrating and promoting inclusiveness and commitment to a diversity of people, partners and ideas; and creating strategic partnerships throughout the state to service our mission. For more information, visit www.wfco.org or call 303-285-2960.

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