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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### **The Women's Foundation of Colorado Announces New Board of Trustees Leadership and Members**

DENVER, COLO. (*January 13, 2014*) – The Women's Foundation of Colorado, a Denver-based nonprofit focused on building resources and leading change so that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves her full potential, announces its Board of Trustees 2014 Board Leadership and the appointment of six new Trustees.

The 2014 Board Chair is **Cathy James Hart** of Denver, and she began her one-year term on January 1, 2014. Hart retired in May 2013 as Corporate Secretary and Vice President of Business Services at Xcel Energy Inc. She joined The Women's Foundation of Colorado Board of Trustees in 2010 and has been an active volunteer and supporter in many roles.

Hart succeeds **Barbara Bridges** who founded Women+Film for The Denver Film Society, a nonprofit organization that uses films by and about women to entertain, educate and promote action. Bridges served as Board Chair from April 1 to December 31, 2013 and will remain on the Board of Trustees as Immediate Past Chair and Chair of the Governance Committee. Board Chair Elect for 2015 is **Anahita "Ana" Pazirandeh Kemp**.

New Trustees include **Kelley B. Duke** of Denver, **John Ikard** of Littleton, **Richard C. "Dick" Kelly** of Westminster, **Natalie Rekstad-Lynn** of Boulder, **Patricia "Trish" Bowie Orman, Ph.D.** of Pueblo and **Meredith "Meredi" Vaughan** of Colorado Springs.

The new appointments bring the number of Board Trustees to 25 members and enhance the Board's representation for the Colorado regions where The Women's Foundation of Colorado (WFCCO) has established local committees. They began their three-year terms on January 1, 2014.

"The addition of these new Trustees will further diversify the outstanding talents and wide-ranging experience our Board of Trustees brings to The Women's Foundation of Colorado," said Cathy James Hart, Board Chair for The Women's Foundation of Colorado. "Each of these remarkable individuals is a widely respected and experienced community and business leader. Together they will provide our Board and management team with new insight and talents to further our mission across the state to help all women and girls of Colorado achieve their full potential."

**Kelley B. Duke** is an experienced trial attorney who leads the litigation practice group at Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC in Denver. An active supporter of The Women's Foundation of Colorado since 2007, she founded its Empowerment Council, a group of philanthropic young professional women seeking to effect change. Duke also co-chairs The Foundation's Power of Extended Philanthropy (PEP) Club and is a member of the Development Committee.

**John Ikard** is President and CEO of FirstBank Holding Company in Lakewood. Ikard is deeply committed to advancing and supporting women and girls. His company is a multi-year major corporate sponsor of The Foundation, and he is a long-time PEP Club member.

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## ***The Women's Foundation of Colorado/2***

**Richard C. “Dick” Kelly** served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Xcel Energy Inc. until September 2011. He is a strong advocate for the professional advancement of women and has been recognized for his promotion of diversity in the workplace.

**Natalie Rekstad-Lynn** is Founder, Senior Consultant at Black Fox Philanthropy in Boulder, a nonprofit funding infrastructure and major gifts strategy consulting firm. She also founded Salon d’Arts, a social services nonprofit and world-class fine art exhibition. Rekstad-Lynn is a passionate supporter and community advocate for The Women’s Foundation, having co-chaired its 2011 Denver Luncheon and also as a PEP Club member.

**Patricia “Trish” Bowie Orman, Ph.D.**, is professor emerita of mass communications at Colorado State University (CSU) – Pueblo, where she also taught courses in leadership studies and women’s studies. In semi-retirement, she is academic director and adjunct faculty member for the President’s Leadership program at CSU-Pueblo, a founding member of the Coordinating Council of the Women’s Studies Program and a certified mediator for alternative dispute resolution. Orman has been an active member of The Women’s Foundation’s Pueblo Regional Committee and is a PEP Club member.

**Meredith “Meredi” Vaughan** is an entrepreneur and president of Vladimir Jones, an integrated marketing, advertising and communications agency with offices in Colorado Springs and Denver. As the chief executive of a woman-owned business, Vaughan encourages professional development of women and is passionate about programs that promote economic independence and leadership skills for women. Her company is a major sponsor of The Women’s Foundation, and she is a PEP Club member.

The Board of Trustees plays a crucial role in the governing of The Women’s Foundation of Colorado. Along with ensuring adequate financial resources and providing financial oversight for the organization, they support the chief executive, ensure effective planning and monitor and strengthen its program and services. For a full list of Trustees visit [www.wfco.org/pages/content/board-of-trustees](http://www.wfco.org/pages/content/board-of-trustees).

### **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](http://www.wfco.org) or call 303-285-2960.

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