



Cherry Creek School Graduates - A Bright Hope for tomorrow

There are numerous stories that illustrate the contributions our graduates are making — stories that reflect the result of an education in the Cherry Creek School District. They are making a difference and making extraordinary contributions. The following stories are a small sample of ongoing excellence.

Samantha “Sam” Johnson, a Boettcher Scholarship winner, spent the summer of 2010 researching chemical engineering in the Netherlands. Editor-in-Chief of Colorado Engineering Magazine, Sam is now preparing to present her summer research findings at the American Institute of Chemical Engineers National Conference. “I’ve learned the practicality of science and the need for it to touch people’s lives,” said Sam. She is a star from Cherokee Trail High who continues to shine!

During the summer of 2010, **Matt Ellwood** rode his bike an average of 75 miles a day. Matt’s community service work at Cherry Creek High led him to join the community-service-focused Phi Kappa Alpha at University of Colorado at Boulder. And then Matt spent a summer participating in the Journey for Hope – a bike ride from San Francisco to Washington D.C. In total, Matt and the other national fraternity riders logged over 3,900 miles. Matt solicited sponsors for his journey, and all the money raised was donated to assisting people of all ages with disabilities.

Brittany Barickman hoped to one day give back to students, just as her Cherry Creek High teachers gave to her. Brittany was passionate about science and education in high school. At the University of Colorado at Boulder, she observed classrooms at all levels before petitioning the School of Education for special permission to student-teach at her alma mater. One of three Coloradans selected to receive the 2010 Knowles Science Teaching Foundation Fellowship, Brittany is now at Cherry Creek High, proudly student-teaching biology and chemistry.

Foundation Scholarship recipient.....making a lasting impact.

At a summer camp four years ago, Kara Sanderlin met someone who would change the course of her life. Courtney, a one-year-old with Down syndrome, convinced Sanderlin that she was destined to become a special education teacher and work with special needs children. “I learned a lot from Courtney,” said Kara. “She taught me a lot of patience, about Down syndrome, and made me love special needs children even more. It was written on my heart.”

Kara was selected as the 2009 Monte Moses Inspiring Future Educators Scholarship recipient because of her passion for special needs children. In May of 2010, Kara wrote to thank the scholarship committee and to share the success of her first year in college. Her year was full of adventure and new experiences both in and out of the classroom. In her last semester, Kara earned a 4.0 grade point average. While in school, Kara has remained involved with Best Buddies — a club that links her with a member of the community with special needs.

We are proud of all Kara has accomplished and happy to share her good news.

“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.” — Martin Luther King, Jr.