

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

## For Immediate Release

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## **NEW SCHOOL TO OPEN IN WEST GLENWOOD SPRINGS FALL 2014**

### *Two Rivers Community School, a Tuition-free Public Charter School*

Monday March 24, 2014

**Glenwood Springs, CO** — After years of hard work and perseverance, the **Two Rivers Community School** will welcome students through its doors this fall. Two Rivers Community School (TRCS) is a free public charter school that received authorization from the Colorado Charter School Institute. The school is founded by a group of community members, parents, and teachers who recognize the need for an innovative school of choice in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. TRCS offers K-8 education in a small school environment (168 students at opening) that provides students with the skills needed to enter secondary school poised for postsecondary education, workplace readiness, success, and a love of learning. This school is based on the nationally-recognized **Place Based Learning** curriculum combined with **Project Based Learning**. The combination of these two learning designs is called **Place Based Projects** or (PBP.) In addition, TRCS emphasizes goals specific to engaging family involvement, multicultural understanding, the power of diversity, and a strong Spanish language/literacy program. Students enrolled at TRCS will be representative of the diversity of the local community.

“We are thrilled to take our next steps toward the realization of a three-year effort led by the vision and passion for educational rigor, strong family and community relationships, and a highly relevant curriculum preparing students for outstanding success,” commented **Manette Anderson, Interim School Board President**. “The school founders and leadership team have demonstrated the very characteristics that we hope to instill in our students: tenacity, resilience, creativity, innovation and an unwavering insistence on excellence. We are Two Rivers Community School and we invite you to join us in making this school exemplary in every way.”

**VISION AND MISSION:** The **Vision** of Two Rivers Community School is to be an exemplary K-8 school founded upon the belief in Academic **Rigor**, Authentic **Relationships**, and Curricular **Relevancy**. The **Mission** of Two Rivers Community School is to cultivate in every student: Passion for learning and high achievement through creating rigorous, interdisciplinary learning experiences on topics relevant to the students that culminate in original work aimed at engaging and positively impacting the community and the world. Deep, supportive relationships among staff, students, families, and the community through the small school setting, multi-age classes, a two-year teacher commitment and high parental involvement. Respect for and interest in human diversity through second language acquisition and cross-cultural studies that build a broader world perspective and essential collaboration skills to become leaders in our changing world.

**FUNDING and FUNDRAISING:** Earlier in March, the School was awarded the Colorado Department of Education’s 2013-2014 **Start-Up Grant** through the Colorado Charter Schools Program. This award qualifies the school to receive \$196,500 annually for three years for a total of \$589,500 ensuring a strong beginning for this unique and innovative school. The school will launch its fundraising campaign to match these funds in April. Those interested in contributing financially to the success of the school may contact, **Jenifer Seal Cramer at jlsbasalt@gmail.com**.

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**LEADERSHIP:** The **leadership** of the school is also unique. A **shared leadership** structure verses a singular Head of School sets a tone of collaboration for the school's students and all of its highly qualified teachers and partners. An announcement of the school's Leadership Team is planned in April.

**VIEW INTO DAILY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:** **Students** will participate daily in integrated learning blocks which culminate in **Place Based Projects**. The Projects are directly linked to community research and needs. Students will present what they learn twice a year to real community audiences. Relationships and collaboration among students and educators are nurtured daily through advisory meetings. Students work on habits of a learner such as collaboration and perseverance through team building activities. Through these meetings, students learn to honor and value individual differences while learning to become an integral part of group.

Language acquisition is equally valued. All students will take Spanish classes everyday beginning in year two. Portions of Place Based Project presentations are delivered in Spanish after three years of coursework. Art will also be integrated into final projects by each student. Physical movement is incorporated into classes throughout the day. TRCS believes active bodies equal active minds. Physical and outdoor education are prioritized as specials.

**TESTING: Required State Testing** will occur at TRCS in addition to authentic assessments which allow students to demonstrate what they have learned to real audiences.

**TRANSPORTATION:** During the first years of operation, TRCS will not offer transportation. TRCS will help families coordinate car pools and walk students from public bus stations in West Glenwood Springs to and from the school site.

**ENROLLMENT:** Enrollment for 2014 will begin in April for grades K-7. (Grade 8 will be added for the 2015-2016 school year.) Community information meetings will be held in mid-April and enrollment packets will be available on the school's website and at meetings. If demand for available space in the school exceeds capacity, a lottery will be held in late April.

**GET INVOLVED:** Building a vibrant, diverse, community-oriented school from the ground up is a huge undertaking. Committees are forming now and a commitment of time, energy, enthusiasm and skills are what the school is looking for the most. The school's top priorities in March and April are:

- To create bilingual marketing and outreach materials and start spreading the news!
- To hire a part-time Business Manager that will help us administer the grant funds.
- To begin the hiring process for all teachers and support staff.
- To finalize student enrollment packets and host an enrollment orientation in April.
- To create our fundraising plan & priorities and continue to write grants and secure funding.
- To recruit and build a strong governing board of directors that will be appointed July 1, 2014.

**For more information see the TRES website: [www.TwoRiversES.com](http://www.TwoRiversES.com)**

**TRES Interim Board of Directors:** Manette Anderson, Rick Blauvelt, Rachel Connor, John Gorman, and Nancy Metrovich.