



Media Advisory

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

Contact:

Diana Wilson

Chief Communications Officer

diana.wilson@jeffco.k12.co.us

303-982-6808

MEDIA ADVISORY

Wheat Ridge High School Hosts Local Bezos Idea Festival

When: March 10, 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Where: Wheat Ridge High School
9505 W. 32nd Ave.
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

What: Local Ideas Festival to catalyze response to issues of relevance to the community. Topics will include: depression, anxiety, self-harm, PTSD, suicide, homelessness/truancy, mental health in the LGBTQ+ community, and resources and alternative therapies.

Background:

Wheat Ridge High Student and Bezos Scholar, Caitlyn Hess, attended the Aspen Ideas Festival, where she gathered the tools and resources to launch her own community change project – a Local Ideas Festival that catalyzes response to issues of relevance in her community. Hess chose the issue of mental health. To support her work, Hess participated in webinars and applied for a \$1,000 seed grant to design and implement her Local Ideas Festival.

The event is open to middle school and high school students and their parents. Teachers are also welcome, since teachers are very important in supporting students. Attendees will deepen their understanding of different mental illnesses and things/topics that can affect mental health.

The Bezos Family Foundation provides an opportunity for schools to apply for funding to continue their festival for three consecutive years. Schools have continued to spearhead their festivals – three, four, and even seven years after their incipience.

Since launching in 2006, the Bezos Family Foundation has awarded 190 grants for Local Ideas Festivals. This includes festivals in 37 states across the country and in South Africa. Scholars from the African Leadership Academy have represented 13 countries to date – often taking their strong leadership skills and innovative thinking back to their home countries to create programs for community progress.

About Jeffco Public Schools

Jeffco Public Schools has been providing educational excellence for more than 65 years. Approximately nine percent of all the K-12 students in Colorado attend a Jeffco school. Our mission is to provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future. The district serves over 86,000 students at 157 schools on 168 campuses. Find [Jeffco Public Schools](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

###