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Foundation Announces Generous New Scholarship Program for Las Animas County Residents

The Mary John Goree Las Animas County Scholarship Foundation has announced a new scholarship program providing generous scholarships for Las Animas County residents to attend four-year colleges and universities anywhere in the country (other than Princeton University).

The Mary John Goree Las Animas County Scholarships will provide a guaranteed award of full tuition and fees and a small book allowance without regard to financial need and the possibility of additional funds for room, board and other expenses based on financial need for all four years of college.

The new scholarship program will be administered by the Mary John Goree Las Animas County Scholarship Foundation (the "Foundation"), a Colorado nonprofit corporation and private foundation. The Foundation will hold its first selection process this fall for high school seniors planning to begin their college studies in the fall of 2015 and expects to award two to three scholarships this year. Additional information about the Foundation and the new scholarship program, including the criteria by which the scholarship recipient(s) will be selected and the application process, will be available on the Foundation's website when it opens to the public in mid-October. The website's address will be included in a separate announcement when the website opens.

On Sunday, October 5 at 6:30 PM at the Pioneer Room at Trinidad State Junior College, there will be a public meeting for persons interested in learning more about the new Mary John Goree Las Animas County Scholarships. This meeting will be followed immediately at 7:15 PM by a public meeting for persons interested in learning more about Princeton University and the Mary John Goree Scholarship at Princeton University. All are invited.

On Monday morning, October 6, at Trinidad High School, a representative of the Advisory Board for the Mary John Goree Scholarship at Princeton University will conduct private interviews of high school seniors thinking of applying to Princeton. Students interested in having a private interview should contact Louis Rino at Trinidad High School.

The new scholarship program has its roots in the Mary John Goree Scholarship for Las Animas County students at Princeton University founded by Trinidad native William M. John and named in honor of his sister.

Since 1962, 27 Las Animas County residents have attended Princeton University under the Mary John Goree Scholarship and two additional Las Animas County residents, Arthur MacWaters and Nick Ruybalid, have begun studies at Princeton this fall. During that time, however, the Goree Scholarship Fund, which is administered by Princeton and held as part of Princeton's endowment, grew dramatically as the rate of return on Princeton's endowment far

exceeded the rate of increase in the cost of attending Princeton. Consequently, the value of the Goree Scholarship Fund now far exceeds what is needed to support Las Animas County students at Princeton.

The Superior Court of New Jersey, with the full support of the Attorneys General of Colorado and New Jersey, recently approved a plan setting aside a portion of the Goree Scholarship Fund at Princeton University for Las Animas County residents to use at four-year colleges and universities (but not junior colleges or trade schools) other than Princeton.

The Goree Scholarship Fund at Princeton will still be available as a separate scholarship program for Las Animas County students to attend Princeton and the eligibility requirements, selection procedures and rules governing the amount of scholarship awards of that scholarship will remain unchanged. There is no restriction on applying for both scholarships.

David J. Vandermeulen, president of the Foundation, said, “The new scholarship program will continue and build upon my grandfather William M. John’s vision of a scholarship that rewards excellence and expands the range of college choices considered by Las Animas County students. The Foundation shares and is guided by Mr. John’s belief that if Las Animas County students work hard and excel in their studies, they can compete with anyone and should never impose limits on their dreams.”