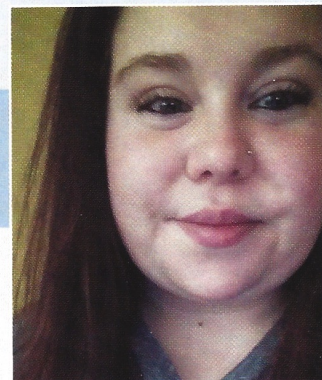


# Adams State senior Stephanie Wolfe receives scholarship support

No matter what roadblock or obstacle life throws at her, Stephanie Wolfe finds a way to overcome it and to keep working and achieving her goals.



That perseverance has helped Wolfe thrive during her time at Adams State University, where this spring she'll graduate with a degree in business administration and management.

In addition to her own grit and determination, Wolfe has succeeded as a Grizzly thanks to a scholarship from the Adams 14 Education Foundation back home in Commerce City and matching funds from the Adams State Foundation.

But beyond the financial support, the scholarships have created a dedicated team of cheerleaders rooting for Wolfe since she first arrived in Alamosa.

"Everything that would cause someone to say, 'I'm going to put my head in the sand and be done,' she's just bucked the challenge," said Dale Mingilton (Class '85), executive director of the Adams 14 Education Foundation, which formed in 1996 to support students in Adams County School District 14. "We just think she's dynamic. She's an incredible young lady. I'm very proud of her."

When Wolfe first began thinking about life after high school, she knew that paying for college would be difficult. She comes from a single-parent household and often worked 30 to 40 hours a week as a cook at Pizza Hut during her senior year at Adams City High School.

A guidance counselor suggested she look into Adams State, which turned out to be the perfect fit for Wolfe.

"The small class sizes made it really easy to integrate into college, which was nice," said Wolfe.

Adams State was also a fitting partner for the Adams 14 Education Foundation, which asks colleges and universities to provide matching funds for students who receive its scholarships.

The foundation doesn't just make financial investments in students. It also encourages them throughout their time in college with regular meetings and events. Mingilton and his wife, Teri, for example, have stayed in close touch with Wolfe over the years and they plan to attend her graduation (Adams State has cancelled its May 9 spring commencement due to COVID-19 public health concerns and is working on a new date for its spring graduates).

"We should be watching over and supporting these young people so that if something slips and we have the ability to catch it, we can be there to help," said Mingilton.

Last year, the Adams 14 Education Foundation awarded more than \$220,000 in scholarships. High school students are evaluated based on their financial need, grades, community service or volunteer efforts, and their performance during an in-person interview with the foundation's board of directors.

"We look for students who are driven to be successful," said Mingilton.

Once they're at college, scholarship recipients must submit their grades and their upcoming class schedule to the foundation, too, which gives Mingilton another opportunity to check in and see how things are going.

Asking universities to contribute matching scholarship funds creates an additional layer of support.

"It makes sense to have a partner (institution) because now there are two organizations watching out for this student," Mingilton said.

Wolfe has experienced first-hand just how meaningful it can be to know that someone cares. She's been so inspired by her connection with Mingilton, his wife, and other members of the foundation's board that she's now considering a career working with students who are struggling to pay for college or just need a little extra mentoring and general support.

During her time at Adams State, Wolfe has worked at Career Services and as a mentor to fellow students through Student Support Services. She's also president of the ASU Pride Club and a member of the League of the Arts student group.

Her advice to high school seniors getting ready for college? Get involved, get to know your professors and always, always trust your gut.

"Don't second-guess yourself," she said.

*by Sarah Kuta*



**Adams 14 Education Foundation**