

**For immediate release**

## **Colorado State Spelling Bee Celebrates Its 75th Year** **Top spellers from across state to compete on March 14 at University of Denver**

**DENVER** (March 10, 2015) – More than 250 top student spellers from Colorado elementary and middle schools will gather at the new host venue, University of Denver’s Sturm Hall, on Saturday, March 14, 2015, to compete in the 75th Annual Colorado State Spelling Bee. The winner will advance to compete for a \$30,000 cash prize in the 2015 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. in May.

Over the 75 year history of Colorado students competing in the National Bee, a Colorado student has won the coveted national title seven times: 1957, 1959, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1989, and 2002. The current “pronouncer” of the National Spelling Bee, Dr. Jacques Bailly, competed in the Colorado Bee in 1980 and went on to win the national title for spelling “elucubrate” correctly.

“I’ve been privileged to meet and admire so many of our state’s outstanding spellers over the last 25 years,” said Dr. Ed Low, Head Judge and Professor Emeritus of English, Metro State University of Denver. “We can all be proud and pleased that our schools and teachers still focus on and teach the English language, its words, vocabulary, meanings, etymologies, and correct and effective usage.”

“We are proud to host and recognize the achievements of these incredible students from across the state. By supporting their efforts, we encourage all students to better themselves and know that with a little hard work, their dreams can come true,” said Tracy Ulmer, executive director of Denver Post Community Foundation.

The Colorado State Spelling Bee will include more than 250 pre-qualified 4th to 8th grade students from schools across Colorado. They will take part in written tests before advancing to the oral competition starting at 1 p.m. on March 14. This exciting, free event is open to the public.

For a list of this year’s competing spellers, please [click here](#).

For an image of the 2014 Colorado State Spelling Bee Champion, [click here](#).

*Cutline for photo: Hamilton Middle School 8th grader, Alex Jurich, celebrates after winning the 74th annual Colorado State Spelling Bee Saturday, March 8, 2014 at the Colorado Convention Center. Jurich won after spelling the word “diptych.”) Photo by Andy Cross/The Denver Post.*

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**About the Scripps National Spelling Bee:**

The nation's largest and longest-running educational program. The purpose of the Scripps National Spelling Bee is to help students improve spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts and develop correct English usage that will help them all of their lives. Visit [www.spellingbee.com](http://www.spellingbee.com) for more information about the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which is administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E.W. Scripps Company.

**About Denver Post Community Foundation:**

The Colorado State Spelling Bee is an event of The Denver Post Community Foundation. The Denver Post Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, serves to improve and enrich the lives of those in our community by raising and distributing funds to metro-area and Colorado nonprofit agencies serving the areas of arts, youth, education and human services. For more information, visit [www.denverpostcommunity.com](http://www.denverpostcommunity.com).

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