

## CCESF provides \$52,710 towards Kellen's education

Please consider donating to the Colorado Correctional Employees Scholarship Fund. Below is a story about the impact this fund had on a truly amazing young man! This could not have happened without all of the CDOC employees that support the Fund!

In 2011, at the age of 12, Kellen lost his father, Southern Parole Associate Director Robert McDonald and little brother Jaden in a car accident. The family had been vacationing in the Four Corners area of Colorado. Kellen sustained injuries from the accident and it took a lot of time to heal.

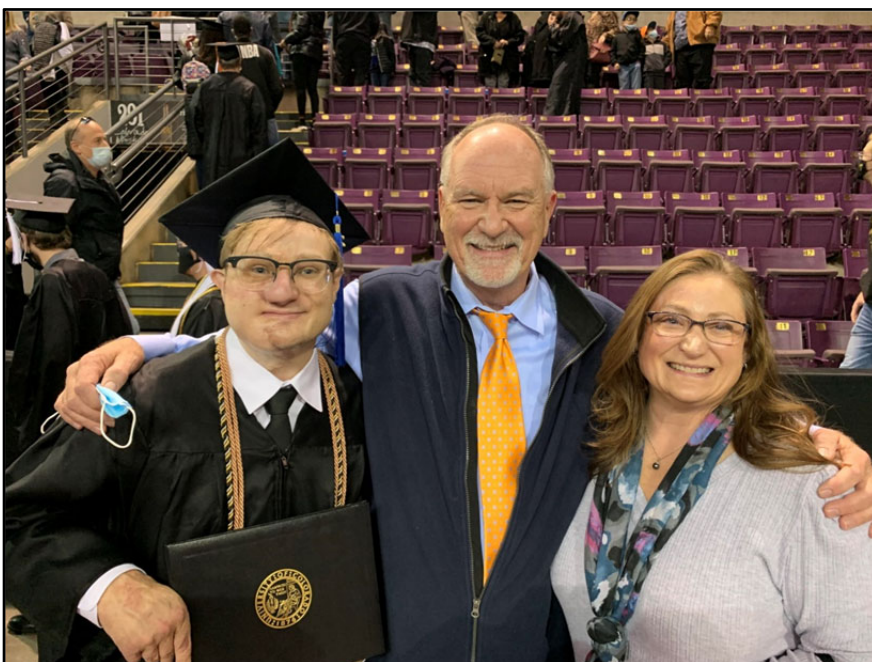
Kellen first applied for a CCESF scholarship in August of 2017. He attended CSU Pueblo from the Fall of 2017 through the Spring semester of 2019. In the fall of 2019, he transferred to UCCS where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree on December 17, 2021. **CCESF funded a total of \$52,710 in scholarships for Kellen.**

Kellen always ensured a timely, thorough application every time he applied for scholarships. The board was amazed in the Spring of 2021, when Kellen did not need the full amount requested because of a class that was canceled and actually returned \$852.73. Yes, he **RETURNED** the money! He also sent the Board a certificate of appreciation just before his graduation this year. Time and time again, Kellen has proven to be prompt, hardworking and above all, honest.

Just before graduation, Kellen was asked what this scholarship meant to him and he said, *"Growing up without a father was incredibly hard, and it felt like I was at a disadvantage. However, thanks to my support system, I am now graduating from UCCS with a Bachelor of Science in Business with an emphasis in Business Administration. One crucial part of the support that helped me get there was the Colorado Correctional Employees Scholarship Fund. The CCESF backed me through my entire bachelor's degree, and I am incredibly grateful for all the help. After graduation, I am planning on working as an operational manager. Thank you to everyone who directly works with the CCESF and all the donors; your work has helped me realize my dreams."*

Since CCESF issued its first scholarship in 2009, there have been 22 students benefiting with a total of nearly \$370,000!

Won't you consider donating to CCESF on a regular basis? Our goal is to have every DOC employee donate at least \$1 per month. Please contact Nancy Miller at AVCF or your facility representative if you are interested. A payroll deduction form is attached for your convenience.



Kellen is shown with his mom and CCESF board member, Larry Turner, who was honored to attend graduation. Larry and Kellen's dad had been friends and the reason for Larry joining the Board in 2013.