



COLORADO

**Wine Industry
Development Board**

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The Phillips-Rhodes Memorial Grant for Continuing Education in the Colorado Wine Industry

The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board (CWIDB) created an educational grant program available to current members of the Colorado wine industry to participate in educational programs or to conduct research as part of an academic or educational program, with the intention to advance the development of the Colorado Wine and Grape Industry. The program is to be titled the Phillips-Rhodes Memorial Grant for Continuing Education in the Colorado Wine Industry (PR Grant).

On Thursday, February 4, 2021, the CWIDB allocated up to \$6,000 for this program beginning in fiscal year 2021, ending June 30, 2021.

The Phillips-Rhodes Memorial Grant for Continuing Education in the Colorado Wine Industry will accept applications April 1, 2021 through May 31, 2021. Upon receipt of all applications, the selection committee, which will be designated by the CWIDB, will select the recipient(s) in such a way as to make the largest impact on the Colorado wine and grape industry and to best utilize the balance of the Phillips-Rhodes Memorial Grant for Continuing Education in the Colorado Wine Industry funds for that fiscal year. Selection announcements will be made no later than June 17, 2021.

Honoring:

Doug Phillips, founder of Plum Creek Cellars in 1984, originally in Larkspur. Doug was one of the very early adopters of the Colorado Grown message and recognized the need for quality grape-growing to make quality wine. So, he moved his operation to the Grand Valley and planted many grapes along G Road, on East Orchard Mesa as well as in the West Elks. He was instrumental in writing and passing the Colorado Wine Industry Development Act in 1990 and served as the Wine Board's first chair until 1998. And he was the visionary behind the Colorado Mountain Winefest.

Steve Rhodes, an accomplished cellist, spent his formative early adult years in a California wine cellar. He returned to Colorado to take over the family's farm and planted grapes on the slopes of the West Elks AVA between Hotchkiss and Paonia. Winemaking for Steve was as much about magic and passion as it was about science,

but “he always had some mighty fine wine.” He spread the bounty of Colorado wine to restaurants in Aspen and liquor stores along the Front Range one case at a time, and over time he created a very loyal and extremely enthusiastic following for S. Rhodes Vineyards.

The families and estates of Doug Phillips and Steve Rhodes are not involved in and derive no fiscal benefit in any way from this grant program. It is intended solely to memorialize the contributions both people made to growing and improving the Colorado wine industry and to honor their memories.

Use of Funds

The purpose of the Phillips-Rhodes Memorial Grant is to encourage current or prospective members of the Colorado wine and grape industries as well as Colorado college, graduate-level, or post-secondary vocational training students committed to the Colorado wine and grape industries to pursue training or educational opportunities that will advance the Colorado wine and grape industries. Colorado residents, or those who have worked in or volunteered for the Colorado wine and grape industry for at least two years, may request funds to cover tuition for coursework at any accredited post-secondary or vocational school or to cover registration and related fees for a short course, seminar, training, or similar wine industry oriented educational program. Applicants who are not residents of Colorado may apply for grant funds to attend a post-secondary institution or wine-related program within Colorado.

Such opportunities might be in grape-growing, water management, winemaking, marketing, business management, liquor code compliance, safety, or any field closely related to and beneficial for the Colorado wine and grape industries.

Grant proposals could supplement tuition and/or offset travel costs to attend seminars or university short courses. They could also help to fund a research project that is part of a student thesis or degree program, or costs involved for internships.

Subject matter may include wine-making, grape-growing, vineyard management practices (e.g.—irrigation, soil nutrition, canopy management, integrated pest management), marketing, liquor law compliance, or business management providing the focus of the subject matter is applied primarily to the wine and grape industries.

Project Timeline

- April 1 - May 31, 2021: applications accepted
- June 17, 2021: awards announced
- July 31, 2021: awards distributed, provided all paperwork is signed and approved
- September 30, 2021: first interim report due to CWIDB, and one every three months thereafter until the project is completed.
- May 2, 2022: deadline to request an extension for project activities from CWIDB staff
- January 1, 2021-June 30, 2022: awards may be applied to expenses for course work, training, or other approved activities during this period. All coursework or other project activities must be completed within this period.
- July 9, 2022: final project report due to CWIDB for projects ending June 30, 2022. Otherwise, final report due within 10 days of completion of activities.

Applicants may submit an application and any supporting documents electronically [using Google Tables. Click here.](#)

All applications must be submitted before 11:59 PM on Monday, May 31, 2022. No FAXed or mailed applications will be accepted.

Eligibility

Applicants must fall into one of the three categories listed in #1 AND meet the conditions of #2 and #3, below:

- 1) At least one of items a) through c) must apply to the applicant:
 - a) Have been employed or active in the Colorado wine or grape-growing industry for a minimum of two years. “Employment,” in this context, does not necessarily require monetary remuneration, and includes but is not limited to
 - i) volunteering or interning regularly at a vineyard or winery
 - ii) owning a vineyard or winery
 - b) Are currently enrolled in or have been accepted into a certified degree program at an accredited institution of higher education, whether as a graduate or undergraduate student, or as a vocational student in a professional

certification program or recognized wine industry educational program. Proof of acceptance is preferred within the application.

- c) Is a resident of the State of Colorado. Or is a non-resident who will attend an institution of higher education or wine industry program based in Colorado.
- 2) Is 18 years of age or older. PLEASE NOTE, Colorado law makes provision for 18-20 year olds to sample alcoholic beverages within a culinary arts or food service program at a post-secondary institution under the supervision of an instructor (CRS 18-13-122 (5)(c)). Any applicant for this grant who is under the age of 21, must certify that they will comply with all the liquor laws and regulations in Colorado, and agrees to return all grant funds if found to be in violation of the Colorado law.
- 3) Is not a member of the CWIDB or an employee of the Colorado Dept. of Agriculture (CDA). If appointed to the CWIDB or hired by the CDA after receiving the grant, CDA administration will review the situation for potential conflicts of interest.

Evaluation

The CWIDB will designate a review committee to assess the applications and determine which proposals will “make the largest impact on Colorado wineries and vineyards and ... best utilize the balance of the Phillips-Rhodes Memorial Grant for Continuing Education and Research in the Colorado Wine Industry funds for that fiscal year.”

Impact on Colorado wineries and vineyards may be evaluated by factors such as but not limited to:

- bringing new ideas, techniques, technology, or practices to Colorado viticulture or enology;
- improve the efficiency and/or efficacy of the Colorado wine and grape businesses;
- improving the quality and/or perceived quality of Colorado wine;
- how long the applicant and/or the impacts of the project will persist in the Colorado industry;
- how many businesses or people will benefit from this project;
- or elevating the image of Colorado wine and grapes.

Whatever the focus of each grant application, the selection process will fund those proposals that will bring the largest and broadest benefit to the Colorado wine and grape industries in the opinion of the Selection Committee. Each application should

address the question “How will this project improve the quality of Colorado wine or improve the wine and grape industry?” as thoroughly as possible.

After initial review of the proposals, the committee may request clarifications or modifications from the applicants, including if the applicant is willing and able to work with less than the dollar amount requested.

Awards and Reporting

The initial allocation for this grant program is \$6000 for the 2021 fiscal year. The decision on apportionment of the funds will be made by the Selection Committee taking into consideration the number of applications received and the potential impact of those proposals. The committee may choose not to award all funds allocated to this program within a fiscal year. Awards will range between \$250 and \$3000.

If awarded funding, applicants will need to submit a current, signed W-9 form in order to receive State funds.

Grant recipients will be required to submit progress reports to the CWIDB every three months or at least mid-way through the project if it lasts less than six months, as well as a comprehensive report upon completion of the educational opportunity or project which describes all activities paid for by the grant, a description of what new benefits the funded educational experience brings to the Colorado wine and grape industry, and provides documentation for all covered expenses. These reports should be in a format and a style that is accessible and understandable to the average industry member.

Rules and Guidelines

- 1) Funds can only be applied to educational opportunities or research projects that are part of an academic or educational program which will provide benefit to the Colorado wine industry.
- 2) Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- 3) Applications must arrive at the Colorado Department of Agriculture electronically before 11:59 PM on Monday, May 31, 2021.
- 4) In order to receive the funds for the award, each recipient must submit a current, signed W-9 form.

- 5) For the purposes of this application process and this grant project, the definitions of “wine” and related words contained in the Colorado Revised Statutes will take precedence over common usage or in the event of any contradiction in terms. As such, mead (“honey wine”) falls under this program as does raising bees, and honey harvesting. Any non-grape wine such as sake and the agricultural products used to make that wine also qualify, except that apples, pears, hard cider, and parry are excluded from this program pursuant to 35-29.5-102 (4)(b) and 44-3-103 (20) CRS.
- 6) Only one award will be awarded to each individual applicant per twelve month period. Applicants may reapply for additional awards when that period will have expired.
- 7) Applicants acknowledge that all projects must comply with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and statutes pertaining to the topic and activities of the proposal. Applicants must not knowingly or willfully violate any local ordinance or rule pertinent to the project. If an applicant is found to be willingly or negligently noncompliant with any alcohol or other law, ordinance, or rule, that applicant may lose all grant funding and may be liable for repaying any grant funds already expended.
- 8) Preference will be given to proposals that incorporate and/or benefit wine made from Colorado agricultural produce, including honey and fruit other than grapes, except as noted above.