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## Speaker urges women to tap their passion for issues

### WHAT IT IS

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is a nonprofit organization based in Denver that promotes the participation of women and girls in society.

Since it began in 1987, the foundation has awarded about \$2.5 million in grants to 120 organizations dealing with women's issues.

Some of its programs include Voices Carry, which trains teens to become community leaders; Women, Wealth and Wisdom, which helps women manage and grow their assets; and Cyberpink, which encourages computer software for girls to promote their interest in technology.

### HISTORIC EVENTS

**At its luncheon Wednesday, The Women's Foundation of Colorado identified several key events as significant to women's history in the state.**

**1893:** Colorado is the first state in which all registered voters voted for women's suffrage. Colorado is the second state to give women the right to vote.

**1894:** Colorado women vote in the first general election.

**1894:** The first three women ever elected to a state legislature in the United States are voted into office in the Colorado General Assembly: Clara Cressingham, Carrie Holly and Frances Klock.

**1913:** Helen R. Robinson is the first woman elected to serve in the Colorado State Senate.

**1972:** Patricia Schroeder becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the state of Colorado.

**1976:** Nancy Dick becomes the first woman elected lieutenant governor in Colorado.

**1998:** Mary Mullarkey becomes the first woman chief justice of the Colorado Supreme Court.

By **Gina Perales**/The Gazette

Women should tap into their passion about a particular issue to propel them past their fears, Kathryn Beisner advised hundreds of women at an annual luncheon Wednesday held by the Women's Foundation of Colorado.

Beisner, the author of "Ordinary Women with Extraordinary Spirit," said that would help women tackle the challenges of the next millennium.

"So much of women's history revolves around someone's idea on what women should look

like," Beisner said. "But what is the essence of these historical women? It's their passion."

The luncheon, held at the Antlers Adam's Mark Hotel, focused on the century's extraordinary women, their achievements and the challenges women will face in the next 1,000 years.

About 587 attended the luncheon where the foundation also announced this year's grant recipients. The nonprofit awarded grants to the Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo, Chins Up Youth and Family Services Inc. and Partners in Housing.