As a plaintiff, Lobato and her legal team are seeking a declaration by the court that the current system of school finance established and maintained by the state legislature is not thorough and uniform, thus violating the Colorado Constitution and the substantive rights of local students.

"Right now, there are other children out there who don't have people to help them attain a proper education. They need the state to do that because that's what the state has guaranteed," said Lobato. "We have a long way to go. It won't be a win until the legislators provide an education system that provides for every single student in this state."

A graduate of Center High School in San Luis Valley, CO, Lobato felt academically behind as a freshman relative to her new classmates at DU. She credits the faculty at DU for guiding and mentoring her.

"My freshman year I might not have guessed I would ultimately receive the Student of the Year award from the department of media, film and journalism studies and is enrolled in a dual degree program for which she'll attain bachelor's degrees in strategic communication and public policy, and a master's degree in public policy. Outside of class, she is the named plaintiff in the Colorado Supreme Court case **Lobato vs. State of Colorado**. The lawsuit challenges the adequacy of public education funding in Colorado.

Taylor Lobato is making headlines in and out of class. She received the "Student of the Year" award from the department of media, film and journalism studies and is enrolled in a dual degree program for which she'll attain bachelor's degrees in strategic communication and public policy, and a master's degree in public policy. Outside of class, she is the named plaintiff in the Colorado Supreme Court case **Lobato vs. State of Colorado**. The lawsuit challenges the adequacy of public education funding in Colorado.
Year award. The faculty have been exceptional mentors and I cannot thank them enough for all they have done for me. I am humbled and honored to receive the award.” Her experiences inspired her to speak up for the rights of Colorado’s underserved public school students.

Regardless of a person’s stance on the case, Lobato’s nascent lobbying efforts have been applauded by many people, including her public policy classmates.

“People are interested in the case, which is great because no matter what side of the argument they are on, it always leads to a big discussion,” she said.

Lobato’s involvement in the case has influenced her career goals. She aims to combine her strategic communication and public policy degrees to do advocacy work by way of public relations, governmental affairs, policy writing or policy researching.

“The credit for the case really lies with the legal team and their advisers who took immeasurable amounts of time away from their families to fight for this cause. They’ve inspired me,” said Lobato.