



Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80120-1136
Phone: 303-795-5467
Fax: 303-734-5470
www.arapahoegov.com

For release: April 17, 2013

Contact:

HALEY MCKEAN

Communication Services Specialist II

Direct: 303-636-1945

Mobile: 303-726-6608

E-mail: hmckean@arapahoegov.com

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! manager receives economic development award *Joe Barela named 'Partner of the Year' by Economic Development Council of Colorado*

Centennial, Colo. – Arapahoe County employee Joseph Barela was named 'Partner of the Year' by the Economic Development Council of Colorado at its annual conference April 4.

Barela serves as Division Manager for Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, a publicly funded workforce center that offers no-cost services to connect job-seekers and businesses in Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. He was recognized by the Economic Development Council of Colorado for his role in helping Colorado's economic development organizations to strategically retain, expand and attract primary employers.

Under Barela's leadership, Arapahoe/Douglas Works! has worked with the Denver South Economic Development Partnership and Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation to deliver labor market information to companies looking to locate to or expand in the Denver metro area. The workforce center uses statewide databases to analyze competitive wage information, workforce and employment trends, and industry earnings and sales.

"Joe has played an important role in delivering competitive packets and presentations to site selectors that have helped to attract new companies and encourage job growth in our community," said Lynn Myers, Vice President of Economic Development for Denver South EDP, who nominated Barela for the award.

In 2012, Arapahoe/Douglas Works! assisted Denver South EDP with site selection data that resulted the location and expansion of Arrow Electronics (750 jobs) and Redwood Trust (550 jobs), and the expansion of Charles Schwab (480 jobs). Arapahoe/Douglas Works! also assisted Metro Denver EDC with site selection data resulting in location or expansion of the U.S. Patent Office branch location in Denver (50 jobs), and helped the organization with a variety of other data packages.

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! also offered customized employment services to new companies that recently located to the region. This included Connexions (550 jobs), TriZetto (750 jobs), Trulia (100 jobs), Blockbuster/Dish Network (150 jobs), Gordon Composites (240 jobs) and the expansion of Kaiser Permanente (100 jobs).

Altogether, these efforts contributed to growing the region's economy by 8,760 jobs with worker earnings exceeding \$880.8 million dollars.

Barela also was recognized for working with community leaders to create a dynamic Workforce Investment Board comprised of leaders in private industry and non-profit, educational and government agencies. This board helps the public workforce center track business needs in the region and better assist companies with recruiting and training talented workers.

“Joe has been instrumental in shaping the workforce center into one of our region’s greatest assets,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Bill Holen. “We commend him for this well-deserved award, which recognizes his skills at forging partnerships and leading his organization in its mission for economic vitality.”

To learn about Arapahoe/Douglas Works! please visit www.adworks.org or call 303-636-1160.

###

To download photos, please click this link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/ADW/>

JoeBarela.JPG: Joe Barela, Division Manager of the Arapahoe/Douglas Works! workforce center, was named ‘Partner of the Year’ by the Economic Development Council of Colorado.