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Long time Arapahoe County Human Resources Director retires

Ann Harden retires after 28 years of dedicated service to the County

Littleton, Colo. --- After 28 years with Arapahoe County, Human Resources Director Ann Harden retired Feb. 1. Harden will work through Feb. 15 to assist with the transition efforts as the new Director, Valorie Jamison Waldon begins.

“Ann has been such an important part of Arapahoe County,” said Commissioner **Susan Beckman**. “She has been involved in some important projects here including the employee benefit program, in-house training program and the years of service recognition program. She has been the backbone to this organization and will be missed greatly by all.”

Harden began her career with Arapahoe County in 1979 while going to school to get her Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Denver. It was while she was finishing her degree that Arapahoe County contacted the University of Denver and requested a student intern to work on various projects. The University selected Ann and she arrived at the County on Aug. 20, 1979.

At that time, the personnel and budget functions were combined into one department so Ann worked on both personnel and budget projects. After just two months, Ann was hired as a full-time employee. When the personnel and budget functions were split in 1983, Ann was selected as the Personnel Director, which later was renamed Human Resources Director.

Harden has been instrumental in many of the large projects at Arapahoe County. She helped implement a pay for performance plan in the late 1980s, helped create an online benefit enrollment process and was responsible for the development of the employee newsletter, *CountyLine News*, when it debuted in May 1982.

“I’ve had a fabulous career at the County and I’ve truly loved my job,” said Ann. “I appreciate all of the individuals who have been elected and employed by the County for the last 28 years and who have made Arapahoe County an outstanding organization. My job has been easier because of the professionalism of our employees.”

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