



## News Release

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### **Arapahoe/Douglas Works! awarded for economic development role** *Workforce center employees win Cooperation Award from Metro Denver EDC*

**Centennial, CO** – Employees of the Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center were recognized by the Metro Denver Economic Development Council for helping to further the region's economic potential and bring jobs to the metro area.

Joe Barela, Dawn Gardner and Patrick Holwell all received the 2014 Metropolitan Cooperation Award at the Metro Denver EDC's annual meeting and awards luncheon April 10. This award recognizes individuals or organizations that promote the success of the entire metro region in practices and actions. Barela serves as the Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Division Manager; Gardner is Business Development Supervisor and Holwell is a Workforce Economist.

The trio was recognized for assisting the Metro Denver EDC and its state and regional partners with several major expansion and relocation projects last year. The workforce center played a key role in delivering occupational and wage data, industry profiles and workforce analyses to economic development entities seeking to attract companies and jobs to the region.

"By offering a sophisticated view of the local labor market, Arapahoe/Douglas Works! helped site selectors to recognize that metro Denver has a skilled workforce to meet their needs," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld. "We are proud of Joe, Dawn, Pat and their team at Arapahoe/Douglas Works! for this well-deserved award, which recognizes their hard work to develop and showcase our community's workforce and economy."

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! helped to bring 5,030 jobs to the region in two years by providing workforce intelligence to companies that chose to locate or expand in the area, including: Fidelity, Merrick & Company, Cool Planet, Hamon Deltak, Surrey Satellite, Zen Planner in 2013; and Arrow Electronics, Blockbuster/DISH, Charles Schwab, Connexions, Hitachi Data Systems, Kaiser, Redwood Trust and TriZetto in 2012.

"The depth and sophistication of their research and new ways to look at the value of Metro Denver's workforce help us win these projects," stated Mike Matthews, market president for Wells Fargo Bank and Metro Denver EDC Executive Committee co-chair.

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Arapahoe/Douglas Works! also offered no-cost recruitment services that saved local companies time, money and valuable resources when recruiting talent. The Business Development Team coordinated hiring events and job fairs, developed and marketed job listings, and assisted with screening and assessing candidates for over 500 businesses in 2013. These services provided added value to businesses that were seeking to relocate or expand in the region.

To learn about the no-cost services that Arapahoe/Douglas Works! offers to site selectors, employers and job-seekers, please call 303-636-1160 or visit [www.adworks.org](http://www.adworks.org).

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**Download photo:** <ftp://ftp.arapahoe.gov/Pub/Communication%20Services/Photos/ADW/>

**EDCAward.jpeg:** Arapahoe/Douglas Works! employees (from left) Patrick Holwell, Joe Barela and Dawn Gardener accepted the 2014 Metropolitan Cooperation Award from Tom Clarke, CEO of the Metro Denver Economic Development Council.