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**2005 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS PRESENTED BY THE  
GREATER COLORADO SPRINGS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

(March 23, 2006) - The Greater Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation presented the 2005 Economic Development Leadership Awards at a lunch held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at The Broadmoor Hotel. Leadership Awards were given for: Community Economic Impact, Community Enhancement, Economic Impact, Outstanding Community Service, and Volunteer of the Year.

The 2005 Community Economic Impact Awards were presented to three companies who made substantial contributions to the Colorado Springs community in 2005. The first award was presented to Barclays for their decision to locate in Colorado Springs, ultimately employing 450 employees over one year with a \$6.5 million investment. SkyWest Airlines was recognized for their expansion of 200 additional employees with a \$20 million investment. Intel received an award for their 2005 commitment to invest \$190 million in the local facility.

Governor Bill Owens was recognized with a 2005 Leadership Award for his willingness to take a stand in support of Referendum C and for what he believed was in the best interests of the state. A Community Enhancement Award for the most significant positive impact on the community's economic development was presented to the Referenda C&D Citizens' Coalition.

Congressman Joel Hefley received a Leadership Award in appreciation for 30 years of outstanding service to the people of the Pikes Peak Region and for his role in supporting and expanding the region's military sector.

The 2005 Economic Impact Awards for the largest positive impact on the funding for the EDC program were presented to Colorado Springs Utilities, Nor'wood Development Group, La Plata Investments, Classic Communities, Inc., and the Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs.

The Downtown Partnership and Richard Skorman were honored with Outstanding Community Service Awards. Volunteer of the Year awards were presented to Ralph Braden, Phil Hagen and Jerry Heimlicher.

Steve Schneider, Chairman of the Board of The Greater Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation, commented, "These awards recognize corporations and individuals whose achievements have positively impacted our local economy. Last year saw continued improvement in economic development with 2,460 new jobs assisted by EDC with the support of our investors and community partners."

The mission of The Greater Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation, a private not-for-profit corporation, is to sustain quality of life through a healthy economy. It does so by providing economic development services that result in the current and future retention and attraction of primary jobs which provide for economic diversity, replacement of lost jobs and create job opportunities for those entering the workforce for the first time.

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