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EDC Appoints New President and Chief Executive Officer

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., September 1, 2005 – The Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation (EDC) today named Mike Kazmierski its President and Chief Executive Officer, this after an extensive nationwide search involving 125 candidates and community-wide participation in the selection process. Kazmierski has been serving as EDC’s Chief Operating Officer since February, 2001.

“After multiple interviews with many extraordinary candidates from within and outside the community, we believe Mike presents unique qualities and abilities that will launch the EDC to the next level of community service,” said General John Lorber (retired), Chairman of EDC’s Board of Directors. “EDC’s board, as well as the community at large, has always admired Mike’s competence, loyalty and commitment, but the selection process also showcased his leadership, management and collaboration strengths. We are truly confident and excited about where Mike will take the organization.”

“I am excited and honored to have been selected to lead one of the best economic development organizations in the country”, commented Mike Kazmierski. “EDC has an impressive track record in job creation and community leadership. I look forward to expanding my role in working with the board, investors, community partners, and staff to create a strategy for EDC that will build on our successes and assess new opportunities for economic development in the Pikes Peak Region.”

The CEO selection process began in June with the announcement that EDC’s former CEO, Rocky Scott, would be leaving the position concluding a 16-year tenure. EDC’s Board formed a seven-person CEO Selection Committee, identified from the voting members of the board, and Ralph Braden of Nor’wood Development was named committee chairman by John Lorber, EDC’s Chairman of the Board. The selection committee engaged the executive search firm, Jorgenson Consulting, specializing in the economic development profession.

“At least 125 people nationwide raised their hands to be considered for the position. Our search firm strenuously screened 85 of those individuals, finally submitting five superior candidates for the selection committee’s consideration,” Braden said. “Wanting as much community participation as possible, we invited approximately 20 additional community leaders from business, government, military and education sectors to participate in a full-day of interviews with the five finalists. The selection committee also hosted a meet-the-candidates community reception with nearly 100 people attending representing all the community constituents that the EDC serves,” Braden added.

“The selection process was exhaustive and labor intensive, but it was necessary to reach such a successful conclusion,” Chairman Lorber commented. “In addition to Mike’s appointment, the process served to connect many community leaders, shed light on best economic development practices in other communities, and galvanize the EDC’s Board of Directors as to our future direction.”

Lorber stated that Kazmierski and the EDC board will work closely together to quickly reach agreement on specific organizational goals and strategies that will enhance the community’s future economic success. Specifically, EDC will hone initiatives to better serve existing primary employers in support of their growth, improve the entrepreneurial ecosystem to stimulate the creation and success of emerging primary employers, and to better attract prospective target employers seeking to relocate from other communities.

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. www.coloradosprings.org.