December 3, 2013

*“Remembering the life of Robert F. Kennedy 45 years after his life was tragically taken by a senseless act of violence. His final campaign of peace and justice (that sadly last only 85 days) still echoes true near a half a century later. His words will speak truth to the end of time: Humanity must strive to choose peace over war, love over hatred, nonviolence over discord and violence. We must continue caring for those in need. Remembering that in spirit we are one. When we use our energy to destroy others...in the end we destroy ourselves and a piece of humanity in the process.” –*

*Timothy Pina, Bullying Ben: How Benjamin Franklin Overcame Bullying*

***Days Until the 2014 Legislative Session Begins: 36***

**Annual Pre-Session Fundraiser Dates Set- Last Call for 2013**

**Senate Democrats** **House Democrats**

Monday, January 6th Monday, January 6th

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Ritchie Center at DU The Cable Center at DU

Gottesfeld Room 2000 Buchtel Blvd

2240 Buchtel Blvd. Denver, CO 80210

Denver, CO 80210

**Senate Republicans** **House Republicans**

Tuesday, January 7th Tuesday, January 7th

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The Cable Center at DU Colorado Auto Dealers Association

2000 Buchtel Blvd 290 E Speer Blvd.

Denver, CO 80210 Denver, CO  80203

***Denver Post*: Evie Hudak Resigns: Colorado State Senator Avoids Recall Election**

State Sen. Evie Hudak resigned her seat Wednesday, ending a recall effort being waged against her days before gun-rights activists were to turn in petitions to try to oust the Democrat from office.

In her resignation letter, Hudak said her decision would spare Jefferson County residents from having to shell out more than $200,000 for a special election, especially after the county has cut programs for seniors and mental health.

She praised the gun laws Democrats passed in the 2013 session that sparked recall efforts against her and two fellow Senators, Senate President John Morse of Colorado Springs and Sen. Angela Giron of Pueblo.

Several Democratic lawmakers conceded that a recall election would have served as a distraction during the 2014 session for them and for Gov. John Hickenlooper, who is up for re-election.

And if voters in Hudak's district had voted to oust her and replaced her with a Republican, the GOP would have gained control of the Senate by one seat. Democrats now have only an 18-17 majority over Republicans, thanks to the successful recalls of Morse and Giron, who were replaced by Republicans.

Under Colorado law, Hudak's successor will be a member of her own party.

The names mentioned most often as possible successors are state Rep. Tracy Kraft-Tharp of Arvada, who unseated Republican Rep. Robert Ramirez of Westminster in 2012, and Arvada City Councilwoman Rachel Zenzinger.

In a tweet on Friday, Kraft-Tharp announced she would not seek the appointment to the Senate District 19 seat and instead said she endorses former State Representative Sara Gagliardi for the seat.

Hudak's replacement will serve in the upcoming legislative session but will have to run for the seat in November 2014 to keep it.

About two dozen Hudak supporters gathered outside the Arvada Public Library on Wednesday to applaud the lawmaker for her work. They held signs that read "Thank you Evie."

The senator was not present.

"Her record spoke for itself," said Dennis Larsen, who has worked with Hudak and is a constituent. "She was a champion for education and cared about veterans and senior citizens."

Recall supporters also showed up at the rally and at times shouted, "Let the voters decide."

"This is a cowardly way out of the recall," said Joe Neville, Political Director for Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, which initially opposed the Morse and Giron recalls, but took the lead on the Hudak effort. "We're still charging toward Tuesday, and no matter what we'll submit the petition signatures."

Under state election laws, had recall supporters submitted enough valid elections to force a recall, Hudak still would have had 10 days to resign her seat, which would have ended the special election.

Conventional wisdom said Hudak couldn't survive a recall: She had won re-election in 2012 by less than 600 votes, and her inartful questioning of a rape victim during a hearing on one gun bill had made her a national target of Second Amendment activists.

An initial attempt to recall Hudak over the summer sputtered and failed. Activists then concentrated on Morse and Giron, the first state lawmakers ever recalled in Colorado history.

Hudak was at the Colorado Springs hotel on Sept. 10 when Morse gave his concession speech. She cried for the then Senate President but had no idea then that the ordeal was about to begin again for her.

"This decision has been difficult to make," Hudak wrote in her resignation letter. "I believe I have listened closely to the ideas and concerns of my constituents in the past five years, both through over 100-town hall meetings and community coffees I have hosted, and in the thousands of e-mails and phone calls from engaged citizens in my community."

A host of Democrats locally and nationally praised Hudak, a former teacher who also had served on the state Board of Education.

"Sen. Hudak is a tireless advocate for at-risk individuals, women, seniors and for the education of Colorado's children," Senate President-elect Morgan Carroll, an Aurora Democrat, said in a statement. "She has accomplished great things for her district and the people of Colorado, and she will be greatly missed."

The liberal ProgressNow Colorado circulated a petition thanking Hudak. In it, the group accused the "right wing" of "breaking our democratic process by initiating an endless string of recall elections."

But Ryan Call, Chairman of the Colorado Republican Party, said Hudak's resignation should be a lesson to all politicians.

"Do not ignore your constituents," Call said.

**Colorado Dems are Leading Talks on Workers' Comp Reform Bill**

Reporter- *Denver Business Journal Ed Sealover reports:*

Colorado legislative Democrats will revive an effort in 2014 to reform the state's laws on workers' compensation — laws that the business community have credited with keeping rates low and making the state a more attractive place to operate a company.

State Rep Angela Williams, a Denver Democrat and the chairwoman of the House Business, Labor, Economic and Workforce Development Committee, has begun discussions with both business and labor leaders and said she hopes to find areas of agreement before moving any bill forward.

Both Williams and House Speaker Mark Ferradino who asked her to carry the bill, emphasized that they will be hesitant to move any legislation without some agreements from the two sides.

“While labor is driving this, I’m going to make sure we have some good, open conversations,” Williams said. “We have some concepts and the devil is in the details. As chairperson of the business and labor committee, I will continue to lead that effort to make things work collaboratively.”

Colorado’s workers’ comp laws were rewritten in 1991 after business leaders said they led to premiums so high that companies were refusing to look at the Centennial State as a place for expansion.

Legislators at the time eliminated a vocational-rehabilitation benefit program that led to lawsuits as workers sought to be compensated for damages that weren’t well-defined, and they established a doctor-certification program that created a more limited pool of physicians dealing with injured workers.

In 2012, a study from the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services ranked Colorado’s premiums the eighth-lowest in the country.

**Duran Takes Over as JBC Chair**

Representative Crisanta Duran (D-Denver) took over as Chairwoman of the legislature’s powerful Joint Budget Committee on Thursday, November 7, as Gov. John Hickenlooper appeared before the panel to discuss his 2014-15 budget proposal.

“Last year we worked in a bipartisan way to really come up with a strong budget for the state of Colorado, while also being fiscally prudent,” Rep. Duran said after the outgoing committee Chairman, Sen. Pat Steadman (D-Denver), handed her the gavel. “I look forward to working with both sides of the aisle to do that again this year.”

The leadership of the budget-writing JBC alternates each year between the House and Senate majority caucuses. In her second term representing House District 5 in central Denver and her second year on the JBC, Rep. Duran is the panel’s senior House Democrat.

Gov. Hickenlooper told the JBC that Colorado’s budget process is a national model for bipartisan cooperation. The budget has received broad, bipartisan support in each of his first three years in office.

Gov. Hickenlooper touted his budget proposal’s increase in the general fund reserve to 6.5 percent and the additional $223 in per-pupil funding for K-12 education across the state, but noted that constitutional benchmarks established by Amendment 23 call for an additional spending increase of $1,200 per pupil.

He also noted that Colorado is in its fourth year of uninterrupted economic expansion and has risen from 40th to fourth among the states in job creation.

**Connect for Health Colorado and Colorado Medicaid Update**

Between October 1 and November 16, more than 53,000 Coloradans have signed up or been approved for health coverage that takes effect January 1, 2014, according to data released late last month from Connect for Health Colorado and the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.



Through state laws, Connect for Health Colorado was established as a non-profit entity with a Colorado mission. In addition, Colorado is expanding eligibility for Medicaid. Private health insurance purchased through Connect for Health Colorado’s competitive marketplace and the expanded eligibility for Medicaid both take effect starting January 1, 2014. Enhanced federal funding that is available starting January 1, 2014 will support the Medicaid expansion.

[Colorado.gov/PEAK](http://colorado.gov/PEAK) is the online application for Medicaid and the Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+).  Medicaid and CHP+ do not have an open enrollment period and take applications year round.

Connect for Health Colorado has been open since October 1 and operates with separate technology and customer service operations from the federal marketplace, [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov/).

Connect for Health Colorado is open to individuals, families and small businesses, offering health insurance options that will take effect as early as January 1, 2014. Open enrollment for Connect for Health Colorado continues until March 31, 2014. Individuals and families can choose from up to 150 private health insurance plans from ten carriers and small employers can create small group plans from up to 92 health insurance plans provided by six carriers. New financial assistance will be available to nearly 500,000 Coloradans to reduce costs. The Customer Service Center is open from 7 am to 8 pm Mondays through Saturdays at 1-855-PLANS-4-YOU (855-752-6749). More information is available at [www.ConnectforHealthCO.com](http://onsightpublicaffairs.us4.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=bc4bffd17f1231309d708beae&id=8874d42e51&e=d253aac2b0).

Colorado Medicaid and the Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) are public insurance programs for low income Coloradans. The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing administers these programs. Coloradans have multiple ways to apply for coverage, [Colorado.gov/PEAK](http://colorado.gov/PEAK) is the online application for public assistance programs including medical assistance.

**House Republicans Announce 2014 Education Agenda**

On Wednesday, November 6, following the defeat of Amendment 66, House Republicans announced their education agenda for the upcoming 2014 legislative session. The agenda includes bills addressing school spending transparency, student counts, capital construction and transportation equity for charter schools and English language proficiency. Included in the agenda are some provisions of Senate Bill 13-213, which under current law will not become effective without a tax increase.

Democrats conditioned all of SB 213, even the components Republicans supported, on the passage of a tax increase. Now that voters have rejected the tax increase, Republicans propose implementing these education reforms within existing resources.

“By rejecting the massive tax increase championed by Governor Hickenlooper and Democratic leadership, Colorado voters are telling us they want real education reform but they want it done within existing resources,” said Minority Leader Brian DelGrosso (R-Loveland). “House Republicans are listening to Colorado and have found ways to enact education reforms without requiring a massive tax increase. The reforms we have proposed will have a very positive impact on our schools and will do so in a way that keeps our economic recovery on track.”

Representative Jim Wilson from Salida, a House Education Committee member and former school district superintendent, will be introducing a bill to require additional school spending transparency so that communities will be able to better understand how education dollars are being utilized.

House Minority Leader Brian DelGrosso will be introducing a bill to change the method with which the state counts students in funding our public schools. Currently, the state has one count date each year, October 1st. Rep. DelGrosso’s bill will base school funding on average daily membership.

Assistant House Minority Leader Libby Szabo from Arvada, a member of the Capital Development Committee, will be introducing a bill to provide equity for charter schools in the allocation of capital construction monies.

Representative Carole Murray from Castle Rock, the ranking Republican on the House Education Committee, will be introducing a bill to ensure equity between charter schools and neighborhood schools in the allocation of transportation funding.

Representative Clarice Navarro of Pueblo will again be introducing a bill to direct more funding to English language learners in Colorado. Last year, Rep. Navarro’s House Bill 1211 passed the House 60 to 2 and the Senate Education Committee 8 to 1 before being killed in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**Flood Update: Gov. Hickenlooper Announces all Damaged Highways Reopened Before Thanksgiving**

With the opening of U.S. 34 and State Highway 7, all highways damaged by the September flooding reopened days ahead of the Dec. 1 goal.

“The united effort of the Colorado Department of Transportation and its road repair partners has been remarkable,” Gov. John Hickenlooper said. “After the flooding, we faced the daunting task of restoring 485 miles of damaged or destroyed highways. CDOT, the Colorado State Patrol, the National Guard and local governments have worked round the clock to reconnect Colorado communities.”

SH 7 between Lyons and Allenspark reopened at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26. This was the last of the 27 highways damaged or destroyed to reopen.

Even as roadways open, workers from Office of Emergency Management, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other agencies continue to collaborate to address the needs of Coloradans impacted by the flooding. Specifically:

* Of the 18,000 people forced to leave their homes due to the flooding, 24 families remain in temporary housing while more permanent solutions can be found.
* As of Nov. 18, FEMA had approved $54.4 million in Individual Assistance – helping more than 15,600 Coloradans impacted by the flooding. Individual Assistance provides grants for temporary housing, home repairs and other needs. People eligible for assistance need to submit applications before the Dec. 2 deadline via [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov/).
* As of Nov. 18, the FEMA Public Assistance program had committed $16.7 million for flood recovery projects such as debris removal, emergency protective measures and repair of public-owned infrastructure in the 20 counties eligible for Public Assistance. The deadline for applications was Nov. 30.
* As of Nov. 18, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) had approved $71.2 million in low-interest disaster loans to 1,491 homeowners and 198 businesses. SBA loans are available for businesses, homeowners, renters and nonprofit organizations that have experienced physical or economic injury due to the flooding. Deadline for applications is Dec. 2.
* National Flood Insurance payments of $43.5 million have been provided to more than 1,500 claims.
* More than 3,000 flood survivors have received counseling services and another 24,000 have received crisis support information through eight Community Mental Health Centers that received a Crisis Counseling Program Grant to provide group and individual crisis counseling to people impacted by the flood.

**Lawmakers Begin Search for Flood Recovery Solutions**

*Flood Disaster Study Committee briefed on rebuilding efforts, expenses*

Last month the Flood Disaster Study Committee began the work of identifying legislative solutions to recent and future flooding in Colorado. The first step in this process was a series of briefings from the State of Colorado Recovery Office and other state agencies detailing the results of recovery efforts during the 55 days following Front Range flooding that began on September 11.

The bipartisan Flood Disaster Study Committee was created by the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council to review existing state policies and resources concerning flood disasters and address future flood response, prevention, and mitigation across the state.

The following are highlights from the recovery presentation:

* 1,200 people are dedicated to the recovery effort from FEMA, CDOT, OEM and National Guard
* The top priorities are housing (short term and long term), opening all state roads and highways by Dec. 1, and organizing an integrated and sustainable Disaster Recovery Process for the State of Colorado
* A total of $575.2 million have been allocated to date for flood recovery
* More than $17 million collected in cash and in-kind donations
* 269,330 volunteer hours worked worth an estimated $6 million

Coloradans are encouraged to visit [www.ColoradoUnited.com](http://bbemaildelivery.com/bbext/?p=link&id=b59e1891-c6f9-00ac-cd28-580a641a798b&cid=EA6ACA155BEF437DE0408F0AAB975E22&url=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5jb2xvcmFkb3VuaXRlZC5jb20v&eml=melissa%40axiomstrategiesinc.com) for information and resources, such as travel maps, as the recovery efforts continue.

**Colorado Set to Become First State to Regulate Detection, Reduction of**

**Methane Emissions Associated with Oil and Gas Drilling**

Proposed rules for air pollution released on Monday, November 18, will make Colorado the first state to directly regulate detection and reduction of methane emissions associated with oil and gas drilling and further Colorado’s efforts as a national leader in environmental-friendly energy production.

The rules, which cover the lifecycle of oil and gas development (from drilling to production to maintenance), reflect a collaborative effort by the Environmental Defense Fund and Noble Energy, Encana and Anadarko oil and gas companies as part of the Air Quality Control Division’s stakeholder process.

The plan, with Gov. John Hickenlooper’s support and active engagement, constitutes the division’s official proposed rules and will now go before the state Air Quality Control Commission, which met Thursday, Nov. 21, and will be asked to set a February 2014 public hearing on the rules.

The comprehensive set of rules was crafted after an extensive process in which the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) sought input from diverse stakeholders across Colorado. The rules will now be subject to further input as the Air Quality Control Commission considers them under CDPHE’s formal rulemaking process.

The rules will benefit Colorado’s public health, environment and economy by increasing the capture and use of clean burning natural gas. Highlights of the rules include:

* A first-in-the-nation requirement for leak detection from tanks, pipelines, and other drilling and production processes, using instruments such as infrared cameras that can detect leaks that otherwise may not be discovered using other more conventional means.
* Instrument-based monthly inspections on large sources of emissions.
* An aggressive timeline for repair of leaks found using either these instrument-based methods or leaks found through sight, smell or sound.
* Leak detection and repair of storage tanks, at well-site production facilities and at compressor stations.
* Requirements for detection and repair of leaks of a wide variety of hydrocarbons, including VOCs and methane, another first in the country.
* Expanding provisions statewide for reducing emissions of pollutants that today apply only in nonattainment areas, so anyone living near a well site would benefit.
* New, more stringent limits on emissions from dehydrator units located near where people live and play.

CDPHE estimates the package will reduce volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions in Colorado by approximately 92,000 tons per year. That’s more VOC emissions than the VOCs emitted by all cars in Colorado in a year, and it would be a 34 percent reduction based on a 2011 inventory by CDPHE that showed oil and gas VOC emissions were approximately 275,000 tons.

The draft rules also include elements that have the unique and additional benefit of significantly reducing methane emissions.

Colorado’s unique state rules would complete the state’s adoption of EPA rules that further reduce air pollution associated with oil and gas operations. Interested individuals and parties can submit comments on the proposed rules to the Air Quality Control Commission at cdphe.aqcc-comments@state.co.us. The proposal and related information may be found online here: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-AQCC/CBON/1251592887943>>.

***Colorado Civil Justice League:* Colorado Lawsuit Abuse Watch- Colorado Slips in Business Climate Rankings**

Colorado has fallen three spots in Site Selection's annual ranking of the states with the best business climate, [Denver Business Journal reports](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001oVIHGBXcqPT0amt5cfpd0ClZM2rZ8xkFnJbiigfqHHjo5Y1170Y9-GGI8YXwixQ77wRppVP1VeUKZdWPzCAUDAlRU70wDk_99q609kjPWOUZoG2QdAqYtVMWbY2jm32ehfQ6-NaKfly1zeEcaj8yvG1jYeLSKBYbzDiGXI8FfH7OnYppeajDMSF1PYkB67Kl1eYOyk6XbLftaYJ4VNO91pL2kNB-1RGJHhkMDHiei_m1U5AR27Xhb58wBruB3Xl552y4REmvacUQLaJOtvnDpKhbI61rd5j1).

After sharing the No. 21 position with Kansas on last year's list, Colorado is now ranked No. 24, between Mississippi and Iowa.

That's right - not only has Colorado fallen behind perennial judicial hellhole Mississippi, it also lags behind Georgia, Louisiana and Alabama. (Earlier this year proponents of the new "Sue Your Boss" law - House Bill 1136 - scorned Colorado as even worse than those allegedly-backward states in the South because our state law didn't give employees sufficient opportunity to sue their employers.)

Even more depressing: Colorado lags behind the poster child of the rust belt, Michigan, an economic basketcase.

As we've said before, job creation doesn't "just happen" and Colorado's standing among the nation's economic leaders can't be taken for granted.

**Colorado Launches Advanced Industries Export Accelerator Program**

As part of its statewide advanced industries strategy, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) will launch the Advanced Industries Export Accelerator Program to connect Colorado companies to global opportunities on Sun., Dec. 1, 2013. The AI Export Accelerator Program is the result of House Bill 13-1193, which promotes growth and sustainability in the state's advanced industries by helping drive innovation and creating a strong ecosystem that increases the state's global competitiveness.

"Within the next five years, 95 percent of the world's consumers and 87 percent of the world's economic growth will take place outside of the United States," said Ken Lund, Executive Director of OEDIT. "This poses an incredible opportunity for Colorado businesses to start exporting their goods and services or to expand their exporting into new international markets. We know that when Colorado expands its exports, businesses increase their productivity and generate jobs."

The AI Export Accelerator Program is a tool for small- and medium-size businesses in the advanced industries that do not have the resources needed to engage in export promotion. The program offers financial resources, training and consulting services to these businesses for a comprehensive trade promotion program.

The new program has three components:

\* **AI Export Grant** offers financial assistance that can help offset companies' international business development initiatives. Grant size is limited to $15,000, with matching funds of 1-to-1.

\* **Global Consultant Network** provides a network of consultants located in key international markets to provide valuable in-country market research specific to industry needs and individual business needs.

\* **Export Training Program** consists of OEDIT and the World Trade Center-Denver providing export training for businesses to learn the fundamentals of exporting and international marketing specific to the advanced industries. Classes will begin in February 2014.

To help launch the program, OEDIT will host the global consultants from Canada, Mexico, Brazil, France and Japan. Several events are planned the week of Dec. 2-5, where the consultants will highlight specific opportunities for Colorado companies in their respective markets:

\* Dec. 3, 8-11 a.m.: Global Opportunities for Colorado Bioscience Companies, co-hosted by the Colorado Bioscience Association.

\* Dec. 3, 1- 4 p.m.: Global Opportunities for Colorado Companies, co-hosted by the Rocky Mountain Innosphere in Fort Collins.

\* Dec. 4, 8-11 a.m.: Global Opportunities for Colorado Information Technology Companies, co-hosted by the Colorado Technology Association.

\* Dec. 5, 1- 4 p.m.: Global Opportunities for Colorado Cleantech Companies, co-hosted by the Colorado Cleantech Industry Association.

\* Dec. 4, 1-5 p.m.: Consultants will schedule one-on-one meetings.

More information about the program and company eligibility requirements can be found at: [http://www.advancecolorado.com/international-business/advanced-industries-export-accelerator-program](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001Ftz5i117nsBS59jpuQ-h9hWtQ2p0-EvRbbLGvFhYDYaC3cZMw6QOPK5Kf8fljc3oCcKtUfrUKYpcpHISrgX4lhiISJHeuFr_Zp1c67Yzmwt34z_m5a3tXJOppg5cS3M67cWBCvpwrw75GPE8XMv0aMrwHQG981nWAGbBnWMJ6V5nWDs3twPt0_wQrtNT9-tJxnPB0EvF9QJ2kj8VrYzD2A==).

**OEDIT Grants Over $3 Million to Colorado Bioscience Organizations**

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) last month announced grantees for the Commercialization Infrastructure grants under the Bioscience Discovery Evaluation Grant Program (BDEGP). A total of $3,135,000 was awarded to support key industry infrastructure that facilitates drug discovery and lifts new bio-tech, life-science businesses off the ground.

"Congratulations to our deserving grantees who provide critical services to the bioscience industry and the state," said Sonya Guram, Program Manager at OEDIT. "The organizations provide key assets that we want to make solid for the long-term."

Grantees:

\* The Colorado Institute for Drug, Device and Diagnostic Development: $1,350,000

\* Colorado Center for Drug Discovery: $750,000

\* The Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Colorado: $410,248

\* The BioFrontiers Institute at the University of Colorado: $624,752

Commercialization Infrastructure grants support joint efforts of industry and academia to create resources that are essential to industry growth. BDEG Commercialization Infrastructure funds have funded four organizations over a number of years. Two new organizations, The Colorado Institute for Drug, Device and Diagnostic Development and The Colorado Center for Drug Discovery, were started to address needs identified by the industry. The BioFrontiers Institute at the University of Colorado and the School of Pharmacy at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus have developed Core Facilities that offer new critical technologies to advance drug discoveries. Grantees identify and manage technologies, and support collaboration to bring necessary expertise together to advance novel Colorado biotechnologies to commercialization.

The Colorado Center for Drug Discovery (C2D2), based at Colorado State University, is a resource to faculty at Colorado research universities, bringing biology and chemistry faculty together to use chemical libraries, computational resources, bioinformatics, cheminformatics, database support, virtual high throughput screening, and Computer Aided Drug Design to pharmacologically validate drug candidates with patent-protected chemical matter and innovative therapeutics for unmet medical needs. C2D2 supports several inter-institutional projects with funding and resources. C2D2 offers compounds to investigators through its screening library and medicinal chemistry services that are critical in the drug discovery process.

The Colorado Institute for Drug, Device and Diagnostic Development (CID4) is managing life science discoveries from Colorado research institutions and Colorado start-ups and early-stage businesses with the goal of creating bioscience jobs in Colorado. Grant funds support operations and the development and management of life-science discoveries. The CID4 has seven early-stage companies under its guidance supporting their operational development and attracting additional investment to meet their needs.

The BioFrontiers Institute is a state-of-the art research and education facility that links the basic sciences, engineering, clinical practice, and industry at the University of Colorado's Boulder campus to support breakthrough developments in areas such as engineering human tissues, RNA enzyme and aptamer-based pharmaceutical, biorefining, and genetics. Grant funds support equipment, resources and personnel costs to develop the core facilities of the institute. With grant support, the institute has developed one of the largest repositories of shRNAs in the world at the Functional Genomics Facility. Colorado companies partner with the institute to improve their products. Ventria, a Fort Collins based pharma-biologics company, has used mass spectrometry services to detect oxidation in recombinant protein samples manufactures for human terapeutics. OPX Biotechnologies based in Boulder utilizes mass spectrometry to detect levels of intracellular metabolytes in biofuel molecule samples. Longmont-based Avery Brewing Co. has partnered with the Next-Generation DNA Sequencing Facility to develop an early-detection test for yeast cross-contamination to reduce waste and inefficiencies in their production process.

The University of Colorado Skagg's School of Pharmacy at Anschutz developed an HTS/HCS (high throughput/content screening) Core Facility for drug discovery. This resource has been utilized by more than 100 researchers and companies advancing the science and helping to secure intellectual property.

The BDEGP was created by the Colorado Legislature to foster development of the bioscience industry in the state by providing gap funding to move novel technologies founded in Colorado research institutions down the commercialization path. The BDEGP encompasses three distinct grant programs: Proof of Concept, Early Stage Company, and Commercialization Infrastructure.

**Gov. Hickenlooper Announces Colorado’s Aerospace and Defense Industry Champion**

Gov. John Hickenlooper joined the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) last month to announce that Maj. Gen. Jay H. Lindell will be Colorado’s Aerospace and Defense Industry Champion. Lindell will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the state’s aerospace strategic plan and developing and implementing strategies surrounding the state’s military bases, including leading efforts surrounding all Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activities.

“Colorado’s aerospace industry is the second strongest in the nation, and Maj. Gen. Lindell will be a great advocate and passionate voice for ensuring that the state’s various industry networks and groups within aerospace and defense are united,” Hickenlooper said. “We know his extensive experience will help align military assets in preparation of consolidation and workforce training, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated person to lead our efforts.”

This new position was created to lead statewide efforts to implement the state’s aerospace strategic plan set forth in the Brookings report “Launch! Taking Colorado’s Space Economy to the Next Level,” as well as BRAC initiatives.

Lindell will focus on promoting the interests of the aerospace and defense industry by assisting aerospace businesses, defense installations and research institutions to establish information networks with both government and the private sector. He will also help ensure a greater flow of information about aerospace and defense business enterprises and opportunities and oversee economic research and information with the ultimate goal of providing the best opportunities for sustainable growth of the aerospace and defense industry.

Lindell is a retired Air Force major general with more than 20 years of experience in aerospace operations, logistics management, international security cooperation and executive leadership education. Most recently, Lindell was President of JHLSolutions, where he specialized in U.S. and international defense aerospace business development.

Prior, Lindell served as Capability Director for the United States Air Force Global Power Programs at the Pentagon, where he directed policy and investment advice for the Secretary of the Air Force for fighter, bomber, weapons, nuclear and support programs. He also presented testimony to Congressional Defense Committees for support of Air Force Global Power Programs and developed program solutions with Congress and the defense industry to sustain Air Force acquisition programs.

Lindell began his position on Nov. 25, 2013.

**Gov. Hickenlooper Appoints District Court Judges**

Gov. John Hickenlooper has appointed Laurie Clark as a juvenile court judge for the 2nd Judicial District (Denver). Clark will fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Chief Judge Karen Ashby, who is joining the Colorado Court of Appeals.

Clark currently serves as a District Court Magistrate in the 17th Judicial District, where she presides over a domestic relations docket, reviews warrants, and covers dockets involving small claims, county/traffic court, child support, juvenile delinquency, truancy and dependency and neglect. Previously, Clark was in private practice at Clark & Associates, PC and Brandes & Clark, PC where she focused on domestic relations and juvenile law.

Clark earned a bachelor’s degree from Metropolitan State University of Denver and a J.D. from the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver.

The appointment is effective immediately.

Gov. John Hickenlooper also appointed Ross Buchanan and Kandace Gerdes as district court judges in the 2nd JudicialDistrict (Denver County). Buchanan and Gerdes will fill vacancies due to the retirements of the Hon. Robert Hyatt and the Hon. Anne Mansfield.

Ross Buchanan is currently at Roberts Levin Rosenberg PC, where he has a general civil trial practice with an emphasis on tort litigation, specifically in the areas of personal injury and insurance. Previously, Buchanan was a solo practitioner, a shareholder at Buchanan, Jurdem & Cederberg, P.C., and an associate at the firms now known as Greene, Broillet & Wheeler and Purvis Gray LLP.

Buchanan earned a bachelor’s degree from Occidental College and a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law.

Kandace Gerdes is currently a Senior Deputy District Attorney in the Economic Crimes Unit for the 2nd Judicial District. Previously, Gerdes was an associate attorney at Joseph H. Thibodeau, P.C.,with a primary area of practice in state and federal civil tax controversy resolution.

Gerdes earned a bachelor’s degree and a J.D. from Creighton University and earned a master’s degree from the University of Denver.

The appointments are effective Dec. 31, 2013.

Gov. John Hickenlooper has appointed Michelle Brinegar as a district court judge in the 8th Judicial District (Jackson and Larimer counties). Brinegar will fill a vacancy due to the retirement of the Hon. Dave Williams.

Brinegar currently serves as a Chief Deputy District Attorney for the 8th Judicial District, where she supervises the Juvenile Division and the Sex Assault/Crimes against Children Units. She also serves on the Colorado Juvenile Justice Task Force as a state district attorney representative.

Brinegar earned a bachelor’s degree from Colorado State University and a J.D. from the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver.

The appointment is effective Dec. 19, 2013.

Gov. John Hickenlooper has appointed W. Troy Hause as a district court judge in the 19th Judicial District (Weld County). Hause will fill a vacancy due to the resignation of the Hon. Dinsmore Tuttle.

Hause currently serves in private practice as a solo practitioner, where he specializes in family law, mediation and Chapter 7 bankruptcy cases. Hause has worked at his own private practice since graduating from law school and has experience in the areas of criminal defense, general civil law, mental health certifications, probate and juvenile law.

Hause earned a bachelor’s degree from Colorado State University and a J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School.

The appointment was effective Nov. 30, 2013.

**Boards and Commissions Appointments Announced**

The **Cherry Creek Basin Authorit**y works to develop and implement plans for water quality controls for the reservoir and surrounding waters in order to achieve and maintain water quality standards. The authority submits a plan within two years to the Water Quality Control Commission to make Cherry Creek Reservoir meet state water quality standards. The members appointed for terms expiring Aug. 1, 2017:

* Alan Milan Vajda of Boulder, to serve as a member with a background in or professional training regarding water quality issues.
* John A. McCarty of Denver, to serve as a representative of sportspersons or recreational organizations with members who use the reservoir.
* Christopher Lewis of Denver, to serve as a representative of sportspersons or recreational organizations with members who use the reservoir.

The **State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education** is the governing body for the state community college system and the coordinating board for local district colleges. It also coordinates the activities of area vocational schools. The appointments must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate. The members appointed for terms effective Dec. 31, 2013 and expiring Dec. 31, 2017:

* Richard E. Martinez Jr. of Centennial, to serve as an unaffiliated from the 6th Congressional District, reappointed.
* Jean K. White of Hayden, to serve as a Republican and a resident of the 3rd Congressional District, reappointed.

The **Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council** fosters a healthy food supply available to all Coloradans while enhancing the state’s agricultural and natural resources, encouraging economic growth, expanding the viability of agriculture, and improving the health of our communities and residents. The council’s role is to make recommendations to the General Assembly and to the appropriate regulatory agencies, not to create policy.  The members appointed for terms expiring Oct. 7, 2016:

* Karen Falbo of Denver, to serve as an Unaffiliated, representing nutrition and health, reappointed.
* Barbara Marty of Strasburg, to serve as a Republican, representing agricultural production, reappointed.

The **State Medical Assistance and Services Advisory Council** assists the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing in the preparation and implementation of a comprehensive medical plan for low-income families. The member appointed for a term expiring Nov. 12, 2014:

* Blair Wyles of Franktown, to serve as a member of the public, and occasioned by the resignation of Timothy L. Cairns of Longmont.

The member appointed for a term expiring Nov. 12, 2016:

* Ruth A. O’Brien Aurora, to serve as a member of the public, and occasioned by the resignation of Cindy Lau of Pueblo.

The member appointed for a term expiring Nov. 12, 2017:

* An T.H. Nguyen of Denver, to serve as a dentist licensed in this state.

Colorado’s 22 judicial districts have judicial district nominating commissions that select nominees for district and county judicial vacancies. Each district nominating commission is chaired by a justice of the Supreme Court, who is a non-voting member of the commission. The member appointed to the **17th Judicial District Nominating Commission** for a term effective immediately and expiring Dec. 31, 2018:

* Margaret Burd of Thornton, to serve as a non-attorney and a Democrat from Adams County, and occasioned by the resignation of Michelle DiMartino of Broomfield.

The **State Commission of Judicial Performance** provides voters with fair, responsible and constructive evaluations of judges and justices seeking retention. The results also provide judges with information to help improve their professional skills as judicial officers. There is one commission in each of the 22 judicial districts and one state commission. Each commission consists of 10 volunteer citizen members: six non-attorneys and four attorneys. Appointments to the commission are made by the Chief Justice, Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. The members appointed for terms effective Dec. 1, 2013 and expiring Nov. 30, 2017:

* Roland Williams of Westcliffe, to serve as a non-attorney.
* David Kaplan of Denver, to serve as an attorney, reappointed.

Colorado’s 22 judicial districts have judicial district performance commissions that provide voters with fair, responsible and constructive evaluations of judges and justices seeking retention. The results also provide judges with information to help improve their professional skills as judicial officers. District Commissions evaluate the performance of county and district court judges in their judicial district during the judge’s current term of office, which is the past two years for new (provisional) judges, the past four years for county court judges, and the past six years for district court judges. The Governor has made appointments to these 22 judicial performance commissions. The members appointed for terms effective Dec. 1, 2013 and expiring on Nov. 30, 2017:

**1st Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Julie Shaw of Black Hawk, to serve as a non-attorney.
* Anne Schafer of Black Hawk, to serve as a non-attorney.

**2nd Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Leslie N. Herod of Denver, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

**3rd Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Lola Spradley of La Veta, to serve as a non-attorney.
* Sharon Vezzani of Walsenburg, to serve as a non-attorney.

**4th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Thomas “T.C.” Dantzler Jr. of Peyton, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.
* Jody Alyn of Colorado Springs, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

**5th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission**:

The member appointed with a term effective immediately and expiring Nov. 30, 2013:

* Thomas Marmins of Silverthorne, to serve as a non-attorney and occasioned by the resignation of Arleen Sandberg of Aurora.

Members appointed for terms effective Dec. 1, 2013 and expiring Nov. 30, 2017:

* Thomas Marmins of Silverthorne, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.
* Emily Tracy of Breckenridge, to serve as a non-attorney.

**6th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Julie Abril of Durango,to serve as a non-attorney.
* Carrie “Cissy” Anderson of Durango, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

**7th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Dawn Delany of Gunnison, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.
* Donald Mort of Ouray, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

**8th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Anne Wilseck of Fort Collins, to serve as a non-attorney.
* Rex Shaw of Walden, to serve as a non-attorney.

 **9th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Patricia Blakey of New Castle, to serve as a non-attorney.
* John Real of Glenwood Springs, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

**10th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Leslie Reindollar of Colorado City, to serve as a non-attorney.
* Margaret Redmond of Pueblo, to serve as a non-attorney.

**11th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Louise Fish of Salida, to serve as a non-attorney.
* John Johnston of Westcliffe, to serve as a non-attorney.

**12th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Avery Augur of Creede, to serve as a non-attorney.
* Robert Pacheco of Manassa, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

**13th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Thomas Parks of Yuma, to serve as a non-attorney.
* Loren Sharp of Fort Morgan, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

**14th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* John Daughenbaugh of Steamboat Springs, to serve as a non-attorney.
* Lynn Abbott of Steamboat Springs, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

**15th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Brenda Stoker of Eads, to serve as a non-attorney.
* Regina Dorenkamp of Holly, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

**17th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Lori Ella of Northglenn, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.
* LuzMaria Banuelos-Shearer of Brighton, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

**18th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Irma Carrera of Lone Tree, to serve as a non-attorney.
* Susan Thornton of Littleton, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

**19th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Judy Boker of Greeley, to serve as a non-attorney.
* Kathleen Milligan of Greeley, to serve as a non-attorney.

**20th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Graham Billingsley of Boulder, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.
* Michelle Murphy of Boulder, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

**21st Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Kimberly Bullen of Grand Junction, to serve as a non-attorney.
* William Wade of Grand Junction, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

**22nd Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission:**

* Travis Morgan of Towaoc, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.
* Leslie Taylor of Cahone, to serve as a non-attorney, reappointed.

The **Cold Case Oversight Task Force** creates a database related to each homicide investigation that is open in a Colorado jurisdiction dating back to 1970 and that are at least three years old. The members appointed for terms expiring Oct. 1, 2016:

* Sterling Marie Harris of Denver, to serve as a representative of a statewide victims advocacy organization.
* Robert Wells of Longmont, to serve as a representative of a statewide victims advocacy organization.

The **Hospital Provider Fee Oversight and Advisory Board** is responsible for working with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and the Medical Services Board to develop the hospital provider fee model, monitor implementation of the bill, help with preparation of annual reports on this program and ensure that the Medicaid and CHP+ eligibility expansions are implemented as intended. The appointment must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate.The member appointed for a term expiring May 15, 2015:

* John Gardner of Yuma, to serve as an employee of a rural hospital in Colorado, and to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Henry Garvin of Alamosa.