October 2, 2013

*“Too bad that all the people who know how to run the country are busy driving taxicabs and cutting hair.” – George Burns*

***Days Until the 2014 Legislative Session Begins:  97***

**First-Ever Colorado State Legislative Recalls Shake Up State Politics**

Colorado Senate President John Morse (D-Colorado Springs), Senate District 11, and Senator Angela Giron (D-Pueblo), Senate District 3, on Tuesday, September 10 became the first legislators in Colorado history to have faced recalls and to have been removed from office.

Senator Morse lost by a difference of 343 votes, with 51 percent favoring recall and 49 percent opposed.  Senator Giron lost 56 percent to 44 percent.

Elected to take over their seats were Republicans Bernie Herpin, who will replace Senator Morse, and George Rivera, who will replace Senator Giron.  Herpin and Rivera will be sworn into office on Thursday, October 3.

Prior to Morse and Giron being recalled, the Democrats had a 20 - 15 majority in the State Senate.  With the two Republicans winning on September 10, the Democrats now have a one-seat majority, 18 – 17.

Political analysts, pundits, reporters and observers have been dissecting the recalls to figure out what the changed political landscape means for the 2014 legislative session and the election hopes of Governor John Hickenlooper.

For the business community, the legislative environment this coming January may be more hospitable than it was during the 2013 session, which most people agree was the most divisive and most anti-business in many years.

Moderate Senators like Senator Pat Steadman (D-Denver), Mary Hodge (D-Brighton, Linda Newell (D-Littleton), Cheri Jahn (D-Wheat Ridge) and Lois Tochtrop (D-Thornton) will likely play pivotal roles in restraining bills deemed as anti-business.

For Republicans to win control of the Senate in 2014, they will need to keep Herpin and Rivera’s seats and win an additional seat.  This is now very possible given the highly motivated Republican voters who turned out on September 10 for both recall elections combined with the fact that there are 5 seats that could go either way in the next election.

*About Bernie Herpin*

Bernie Herpin will represent Senate District 11 in El Paso County.  Herpin is a former Colorado Springs City Council member and a 33-year resident of District 11.  He served in the United States Navy for 20 years, retiring in 1985 as a Captain.  Senator-elect Herpin has worked as a defense contractor supporting the Air Force and volunteered with the Colorado Springs Police Department for 27 years.  He and his wife Linda make their home in Colorado Springs.

*About George Rivera*

George Rivera will represent Senate District 3 in Pueblo County.  Senator-elect Rivera is a lifelong resident of Pueblo.  He attended Pueblo Community College and obtained an Associate’s Degree in General Studies.  In 1971 Senator-elect Rivera joined the Pueblo Police Department where, during his 34-year career he progressed through the ranks from Patrolman, to Corporal, to Sergeant, then Captain and finally retiring in 2005 as Deputy Chief.  He and his wife Kathryn make their home in Pueblo.

**Representative Claire Levy to Resign Effective October 31**

Speaker Pro Tempore Claire Levy announced on Wednesday, September 11, that she is resigning from the Colorado House of Representatives to become Executive Director of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, a Denver-based research and advocacy organization that promotes economic security, access to health care and sound fiscal policy.

Rep. Levy (D-Boulder) was originally elected to House District 13 in 2006.  Due to term limits, the 2014 legislative session would have been her last.  Her resignation takes effect Oct. 31.

“I truly love the Colorado General Assembly, and I will miss my colleagues on both sides of the aisle,” Rep. Levy said.  “But as my time as a legislator grew short, I began to think about ways I could continue to make Colorado a better place for all of its citizens.  The Colorado Center on Law and Policy is a perfect fit, and I am honored that the CCLP board invited me to join them.”

During her legislative tenure, Rep. Levy served as Chairwoman of the House Judiciary Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, was Vice-Chair of the powerful Joint Budget Committee, and served as Speaker Mark Ferrandino’s Speaker Pro Tempore.  She focused on a wide range of issues, with special emphasis on criminal justice reform, civil liberties, energy and budget policy.

Rep. Levy will take the helm of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy after her resignation takes effect on Oct. 31.  A vacancy committee will be established following Rep. Levy’s departure to fill the seat in House District 13, which includes part of Boulder County and all of Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand and Jackson counties.

**Mike Kopp Enters Republican Primary Race for Governor**

Former Senate Minority Leader Mike Kopp on Tuesday filed paperwork to run for the GOP nomination for Governor.  He is expected to kick off his campaign next week.

Kopp, from Jefferson County, is the fourth Republican to look at beating Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper, who is running for re-election in 2014.

Kopp currently works as the Manager of Corporate Affairs for Intermountain Rural Electric Association.  He resigned his Senate post in 2011 after his wife and mother of their four children died following a long battle with cancer.  He has since remarried.

Also running for the chance to unseat Hickenlooper are former Congressman Tom Tancredo, state Senator Greg Brophy and Secretary of State Scott Gessler.

**JBC Receives Quarterly Revenue Forecast, Elects New Vice-Chair**

On Friday, September 20, the Legislature’s Joint Budget Committee (JBC) received its latest quarterly revenue forecast.  The Committee heard presentations from the Legislature’s Legislative Council staff and the Governor’s Office of State Planning and Budgeting.

In addition to receiving its quarterly revenue forecast, members of the Joint Budget Committee elected Representative Crisanta Duran (D-Denver) to serve as Vice-Chair of the Committee.  The Vice-Chair position came open earlier this month following Rep. Claire Levy’s (D-Boulder) announcement that she would be resigning from the legislature effective October 31.  Speaker of the House, Mark Ferrandino (D-Denver) has appointed Rep. Jenise May (D-Aurora) to replace Levy on the JBC.

Below are highlights of Legislative Council’s September 2013, revenue forecast.

·      The economy is expected to continue expanding at a modest pace through the end of 2013, as financial uncertainty and federal fiscal policies restrain growth.  However, the pace of expansion should slowly gain momentum in 2014 and 2015, as continued healing in the nation’s business, consumer, real estate, and financial sectors increasingly results in a self-sustaining cycle of growth.  Colorado’s economy is expected to continue to outpace growth nationwide.

·      The General Fund revenue forecast increased by $209.5 million in FY 2013-14 and $244.7 million in FY 2014-15 because of higher expectations for individual income taxes.

·      The General Fund ended FY 2012-13 with $1.1 billion more than was budgeted to be spent or retained in the reserve.  This amount will be transferred to the State Education Fund in FY 2013-14.

·      The State Education Fund will receive an additional $435.1 million from the General Fund in FY 2014-15, or three quarters of the FY 2013-14 surplus, as required by Senate Bill 13-260.  Net of this transfer, the General Fund will end FY 2013-14 with $145.0 million more than the required reserve.

·      The General Assembly will have just under $1.6 billion, or 18.5 percent, more to spend in FY 2014-15 than the amount budgeted for FY 2013-14.  This figure includes the $145.0 million surplus from FY 2013-14 and would be lower if it were adjusted to account for expenditure pressures resulting from inflation and caseload growth.

·      Revenue subject to TABOR is expected to be $154 million, $52 million, and $43 million below the Referendum C cap in FYs 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16, respectively.

The next quarterly revenue forecast will be presented to the JBC in December.

**President Signs Colorado Disaster Declaration**

President Barack Obama on Sunday, September 15, declared a major disaster exists in Colorado and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides.

While the President’s initial action made federal funding available to affected individuals in Boulder County, federal funding has since been made available to 17 counties in Northern and Northeastern Colorado.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Federal funding also is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work.  Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

FEMA said residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can apply for assistance on by registering online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov/) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA(3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired.  The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. MST seven days a week until further notice.

**Gov. Hickenlooper Makes more Money Available for Flood Recovery, CDOT Announces Opening Dates for Highways**

Gov. John Hickenlooper on Thursday, September 26, signed an Executive Order that makes $65.5 million more available for flood response and recovery.  This brings the total state funds available to $91.5 million.  The Governor, on Friday, September 20, signed an Executive Order making $20 million available for floor response and recovery.

“There is great urgency to get flood recovery efforts underway as quickly as possible,” Hickenlooper said.  “This money will help local communities rebuild now instead of waiting for other recovery dollars to arrive.”

In addition to making money available for flood response and recovery, the Governor’s Executive Order authorizes state agencies to suspend the provisions of any state regulatory statute that would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency.

The Governor Hickenlooper and the Colorado Department of Transportation have also announced estimated opening dates for many highways.  The ultimate goal is to complete temporary or permanent repairs to restore mobility on these state highway routes by Dec. 1, 2013.

The total cost of permanent repairs on Colorado’s highways is now estimated at $475 million.

All estimated openings are weather dependent and could change based on the conditions of the highway once crews begin the extensive repairs.  In addition, some of the corridors will reopen in a temporary state meaning a gravel road or a one-lane configuration.

To view an updated list of highway closures related to the flood or for a list of frequently asked questions, visit <http://www.coloradodot.info/travel/floodinfoupdates>.  Highway updates are also available at [cotrip.org](http://cotrip.org/) or by calling the CDOT Flood Information line at 720-263-1589 or 511 from anywhere in the state.

**U.S. House, Senate Pass Competing Bills to Raise Emergency Relief Program Cap for Disasters**

The U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate on Monday passed different versions of a bill that lifts the $100 million cap on emergence transportation funds for Colorado.  The funding is necessary to fix Colorado’s flood-damaged roads.

The cap has previously been removed for other states hit by natural disasters.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and state transportation officials estimate the flooding caused between $300 and $500 million in damage to roads.

The House and Senate will have to work out the differences between the two versions before the legislation can be sent to the President.

**Gov. Hickenlooper Names Chief Recovery Officer, Announces Creation of Infrastructure Recovery Force at CDOT**

Gov. John Hickenlooper late last month named a Chief Recovery Officer to work closely with the Colorado Office of Emergency Management, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local partners to help lead the state’s response to devastating flooding in 17 counties along the Front Range and on the Eastern Plains.

The Governor also announced the creation of a new group at the Colorado Department of Transportation to focus on rebuilding damaged parts of Colorado’s highway system.

Jerre Stead, Executive Chairman of Englewood-based IHS Inc., will be the state’s new Chief Recovery Officer.  ISH is a global information company with world-class experts in energy, economics, geopolitical risk, sustainability, and supply chain management.  Stead, IHS Senior Vice President Kerri Nelson and other IHS colleagues will donate their time helping Colorado with this recovery effort.

Stead will help lead recovery efforts for Colorado including securing and supervision of staff and working with the FEMA and the Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM) for the Governor’s Office.

The new group at CDOT to focus on rebuilding damaged parts of Colorado’s highway system has been named the Infrastructure Recovery Force (IR Force).  The group will clear, repair and reconstruct as many components of the damaged state highway system as possible by Dec. 1, before the onset of winter.  The IR Force will also provide coordination and assistance to local governments in re-establishing critical links to local roads, bridges, water, sewer, power and communications.

The preliminary damage assessment of the state highway system is not yet complete.  The damage is severe and extensive.  More than 200 lane miles of state highway are damaged or impacted by the floods and 50 bridges are destroyed and damaged.  The Federal Highway Administration has made $35 million in “Quick Release” emergency fund relief available, and the CDOT Transportation Commission has allocated $100 million to begin initial repairs.

The IR Force will accomplish recovery work through the rotational assignment of statewide CDOT maintenance, engineering and support employees.  In addition, CDOT personnel will be supplemented by private construction forces and National Guard.

**Connect2DOT Program Connects Small Businesses with Current CDOT Construction & Engineering Opportunities**

***Many new opportunities available due to recent floods***

The Colorado Small Business Development Center Network (SBDC) and the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) joint Connect2DOT program is offering guidance and help for small businesses interested in accessing emergency maintenance contract opportunities with CDOT due to the recent flood waters.

Flooding along the Colorado Front Range caused massive damage to the state highway, bridge, and roadway system.  Small business contractors have an opportunity to help restore communities and facilitate safe travel for the public in areas hard hit by flood waters.  CDOT has implemented an emergency maintenance procedure to expedite support from the contracting community so resources and equipment can be mobilized quickly.

Contractors interested in assisting with the cleanup, restoration, or rebuilding efforts can visit [connect2dot.org](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001mbH3FbAwwqcRrJL4nJ2ViEH_xv3nyBFDwV3xPeYxaC2mkHarePjW-lUdvHOSX9Er2Lp0UKMDVSLCIT_r3j_OQA8GYyoBIF_S-52Kvuw1KZ8=) or call (720) 624-6728 to meet with a consultant for advice and directions on how to access CDOT contract opportunities.

**New Legislative Liaison’s Named**

Professor Neal Kemkar has been named the new Legislative Liaison for the Colorado Energy Office.  Kemkar most recently served as the Deputy Associate Director for Energy and Climate Change for the White House Council on Environmental Quality.  The Council on Environmental Quality was established within the Executive Office of the President through the National Environmental Policy Act to help coordinate federal environmental policy and to advise the President on environmental issues.  Prof. Kemkar previously served as an advisor to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Prior to joining the Administration, Prof. Kemkar practiced energy, environmental, and natural resources law in New York and Washington and served as a law clerk to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

He is a graduate of Brown University and Georgetown University Law Center, where he served as Executive Editor of the Georgetown International Environmental Law Review.

John Cevette has been named the new Legislative Liaison for the Colorado Department of Regulatory Affairs.  Cevette formerly served as the Chief of Staff for former Senate President Brandon Shaffer as well as served as legislative counsel for a United States Senator.

Cevette received his law degree from Georgetown University School of Law and is a member of United States District Court bar, the United States Tax Court Bar, and the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Prof. Kemkar and Cevette will report to Tracee Bentley, Governor John Hickenlooper’s Legislative Director.

**Health Exchanges Begin Enrollment October 1**

***Message from Patty Fontneau, Executive Director of Connect for Health Colorado***

Starting October 1, you can go online and learn about your options.  You’ll have a wide range of choices at competitive prices.  You can compare health plan features and prices side-by-side, identify your potential cost savings based on income, and sign up for health plans.  Small business owners will be able to set up group plans for their employees.  Brokers, agents, Health Coverage Guides and the Customer Service Center are all available to help guide you through the process at no charge.

Many Coloradans will be eligible, based on income, for new cost savings – primarily through a new kind of tax credit from the federal government – to reduce the cost of private health insurance.  Many Coloradans will also be newly eligible for Medicaid in 2014 because of a new state law that expands eligibility based on income.

You can buy health insurance through our Marketplace and then claim the tax credit, if eligible, when you file taxes in 2015.  The IRS will determine the amount of the tax credit and apply it to a refund or lower tax liability.

If you want to apply for an advance premium tax credit (applied immediately to lower the monthly premium), you’ll need to work with our Customer Service Center to apply.  Advance tax credits are only available to customers who have been denied Medicaid, so the first step is to fill out an application for Medicaid.  The application can be done online, over the phone, on paper, or supported by our trained representatives. Once you are denied Medicaid, we’ll ask you some additional questions about your tax household and anticipated income to determine eligibility for tax credits.  In November, we anticipate that customers who want to move through the process without the help of our support network will be able to do so by themselves.

We’ll offer many resources – including a mobile application - to help you explore your options.  You can call our Customer Service Center, go to an Assistance Site in your community, or get advice from a certified agent or broker.  We’ll support you through each step in the process to make sure you’ve completed enrollment by December 15 to have your coverage start January 1, 2014.  And Coloradans who miss that window will have up to the end of March 2014 to shop and enroll.  We’re excited to offer this service to help you protect your health and your finances. Learn more at [www.ConnectforHealthCO.com](http://www.ConnectforHealthCO.com/) or at 1-855-PLANS-4-YOU (855-752-6749).

**Connect for Health Colorado Opens Health Insurance Marketplace for Individuals, Families and Small Businesses**

Colorado’s new health insurance marketplace for individuals, families and small businesses opened Tuesday with the launch of the new shopping web site, offering hundreds of health plans from more than a dozen carriers, and a wide Customer Support Network to personally assist shoppers.

Individuals, families and small businesses can start looking at their health insurance options and shopping for coverage that will take effect as early as January 1, 2014.  Open enrollment continues until March 31, 2014.

The first day of operations for Colorado’s new health insurance marketplace saw tremendous consumer interest and quick responses to operational issues to improve responsiveness and personalized customer support.

**As of 8 pm on October 1**:

·      **Unique website visitors**: 79,000

·      **Total web page hits:** 12 million

·      **Calls and chats with Customer Service Center Representatives**: 3,700

·      **Accounts created**: 5,500

·      **Average call wait time**: 3 minutes 49 seconds

The Customer Service Center in Colorado Springs experienced high call volumes throughout the day and wait times fluctuated.  Operations are being adjusted to improve responsiveness.  A temporary issue with account creation was resolved.

***CACI*:  Possible Lawsuit by Teachers Unions Against 2010 Education Reform Law Could Affect Amendment 66 Vote**

Since last weekend, a major development concerning Amendment 66, the P-12 education tax increase, has emerged.  The controversy swirls around the Colorado Education Association (CEA), the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) and the State Board of Education.

At the heart of the issue is the decision by the Board of Education to extend the deadline for lawsuits concerning the implementation of SB-191, the major education reform bill that was passed in bipartisan fashion by the legislature in 2010 and supported by CACI and other major business organizations.  The deadline was the end of August, but the Board, in a closed-door special meeting on August 26th, extended it for five months, or until the end of January.

At the core of SB-191 was the linkage between teacher tenure and student performance, which the two unions strongly opposed.  Under SB-191, a teacher who performs poorly for two consecutive years will lose tenure and then have 12 months to either find a new position, to which the principal and other teachers must agree, or be fired.

The State Board wanted to give Colorado at least one semester under the fully implemented SB-191, and thus agreed to extend the deadline for the filing of lawsuits.  The Board apparently believed that lawsuits to block the implementation of SB-191 especially the unveiling of the new teacher-evaluation system would have harmed its implementation this fall.

Here’s the crux of the emerging political firestorm:  The CEA is a major supporter of Amendment 66, having contributed at least $450,000 to [Colorado Commits to Kids](http://coloradocommits.com/), the proponent campaign organization.  Amendment 66 would allocate $350 million to accelerate education reforms, including the teacher-tenure provision of SB-191.

Yet the CEA and the DCTA reportedly intend to file suit next year to block SB-191’s major provision, teacher-tenure reform, with the apparent hope that voters will remain unaware of this planned action during the campaign to pass Amendment 66.

“In other words, they [the CEA and the DCTA] are free to promote the amendment with their ample resources and then, should it pass, strike at its goals,” wrote Vincent Caroll, editorial page editor of The Denver Post.

Amendment 66 would raise almost $1.5 billion in the current and next fiscal year for, among other things, expanded pre-schools, full-day kindergarten, at-risk students and those who are learning English.  Advocates for Amendment 66 say the money will go to leverage change and address inequities.

***Denver Post*:  Colorado Regulators Give the Green Light to e-Hailing Startup Uber**

State regulators last month gave a virtual green light to Uber Technologies.

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission will not adopt proposed transportation rules that would have likely pushed the e-hailing startup out of the state.

The rules, proposed by an administrative law judge, were intended to clarify the differences between taxi and limousine service.  Uber contracts with limo companies for its on-demand service that allows users to hail a ride via smartphone.

The rules were drafted in response to concerns raised by taxi companies, which argued that Uber has an unfair advantage because it offers a taxi-like service without facing the same oversight.  Taxi rates are regulated, while limo fares are not.

One rule revision would have barred limo companies from using a meter or other device to calculate fares based on time and mileage.  Fares for rides hailed via the Uber app are based on those factors and carry a minimum charge of $15, and Uber-contracted limo drivers are issued iPhones to help calculate those rates.

"Luxury limousines are, by definition, more expensive than taxis," PUC Chairman Joshua Epel said during a commissioners meeting Tuesday.  "I think existing enforcement mechanisms are adaquate."

The three-member commission is expected to issue its written order by mid-October, at which point appeals can be submitted.

The commissioners also plan to do away with a proposal that would further restrict where limo drivers can park.  They seemed content with an existing rule that sets that limit at 100 feet away from a hotel, motel or taxi stand.  The rule is intended to prevent limo drivers from picking up fares on the fly since their service must be pre-arranged.

Commissioner Pam Patton said she was concerned about Uber's surge pricing, which raises fares by several multiples when demand for rides increases, such as on New Year's Eve.

Patton said limo companies should be required to provide a cost estimate, which Uber's app offers. Epel agreed.  Commissioner Jim Tarpey didn't think an estimate was needed as long as the customer knew the basis for the fare.

"There has to be some degree of certainty for the passenger," Epel said.

The commissioners' decision regarding the Uber-related rules was expected after Gov. John Hickenlooper expressed concerns about the revisions.  Hickenlooper said in August that the proposed rules overreached and were not in the public interest.

***Denver Business Journal*:  Business Leaders Urge Congress to Pass Immigration Reform**

Leaders of several area chambers of commerce last week called on Congress to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill quickly, warning that industries ranging from technology to farming could face shortages of competent workers if they don't.

A number of local business leaders have spoken in favor of the bill that passed the U.S. Senate earlier this year that ramps up a visa program for workers as well as creates a path to citizenship for people who already are in the country.  But Monday’s event — which came two days after a group of 40 business, church and municipal organizations sent a letter with the same message to the state’s congressional delegation — was the first public gathering at which business leaders stood front and center in the debate.

Representatives from the Colorado Competitive Council, Colorado Concern, South Metro Denver Chamber and Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce said members of both the House and the Senate need to get past partisan politics and work together on this issue — or face the prospect of economic problems stemming from their inaction.

A Brighton farmer said his inability to find workers has left him unable to pick up crops quickly enough and led to a loss of income, while the Chairman of Colorado Concern noted that current immigration law forces foreign students who graduate from American colleges to leave the country rather than staying here and filling shortages of jobs needing math and science graduates.

“We have a shadow workforce that’s not paying taxes.  With immigration reform, we won’t have that,” added Pat Hamill, the Chairman and CEO of Oakwood Homes who Chairs Colorado Concern.  “I’d like to call on Congress to do something for a change rather than nothing at all.”

Hopes have dimmed in recent months that the House will vote on the comprehensive bill that passed the Senate, as a number of Republicans have said they don’t want to create a path to citizenship before more measures are in place to secure the border.  But for business leaders, the expansion of visa programs in the bill top their list of concerns.

Dave Petrocco, the third-generation owner of Petrocco Farms Inc. of Brighton, said the current H2A visa program is broken, cumbersome and expensive and often takes eight to 10 weeks to bring in immigrant workers when help is needed right away.  During the recent storms, he did not have enough of a workforce to get the crops up, meaning many were lost on the vine.

John Brackney, President and CEO of the South Metro Denver Chamber, said the coalition of organizations will have to meet individually with Congress members to get the debate going again.  They'll ask members of Congress to put aside the party line and think about what’s best for businesses in their district.

“The more we talk about it, the more we understand the issue and the more adament we are, the better the chances are that something will get done,” Brackney said.  “And we believe Congress will come around to that.”

**Colorado launches Advanced Industries Accelerator Programs**

***Applications for Proof of Concept and Early-Stage Grants due Oct. 1, 2013***

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade last month announced the first grant cycles for the Advanced Industries Accelerator Programs.  Applications were due October 1.

The Advanced Industries Accelerator Programs were created in 2013 to promote growth and sustainability in these industries by helping drive innovation, accelerate commercialization, encourage public-private partnerships, increase access to early stage capital and create a strong ecosystem that increases the state's global competitiveness.

Advanced industries are prime drivers of the U.S. and Colorado economy, comprised of engineering and R&D intensive companies that deliver products and services in industries ranging from aerospace to medical devices.  Colorado's advanced industries include:  Aerospace, Advanced Manufacturing, Bioscience, Electronics, Energy and Natural Resources, Infrastructure Engineering, and Technology and Information.

As part of the statewide strategy to support these critical industries in their various phases of growth, OEDIT offers four types of grants and global business support programs.

Grants are available for Proof of Concept, Early-Stage Capital & Retention, Infrastructure Funding and AI Exports.  A network of consultants and an export training program are also available as part of the AI Global Business Support Programs to support these industries in their efforts to tap worldwide markets.

The AI Accelerator Grant Programs include:

·      **Proof of Concept** grant applications were due on Oct. 1, 2013, and are for applied research performed at Colorado research institutions.  Grants up to $150,000 will be awarded (with exceptions), with matching funds at 3-to-1.

·      **Early Stage Capital and Retention** grant applications were also due on Oct. 1, 2013, and are meant to help Colorado keep and grow our companies.  Grants up to $250,000 will be awarded (with exceptions), with matching funds of 1-to-2.

·      **Infrastructure Funding** grants will help build a foundation for Colorado companies to thrive.  Grants up to $500,000 will be awarded (with exceptions), with matching funds of 1-to-2.  This grant cycle will be announced later this year.

·      **AI Export** grant provides stipends to businesses that are new to exporting or expanding into new export markets.  Grant size is limited to $15,000, with matching funds of 1-to-1.

The AI Global Business Support Programs include:

·      **Global Network of Consultants** is a network of international consultants that will connect the advanced industries to global opportunities.  Colorado companies have access to international consultants in major markets that provide valuable in-country market research specific to the advanced industries.  Colorado companies in the advanced industries will be able to use the consultant network starting December 1, 2013.

·      **Export Training Program** consists of OEDIT and the World Trade Center-Denver providing export training and acceleration program for businesses to learn the fundamentals of exporting and international marketing specific to the advanced industries.  Classes will be scheduled for the spring semester, beginning January 2014.

For more information about the AI Accelerator Programs, including upcoming information sessions, guidelines and grant cycles, please visit [www.advancecolorado.com/aiprograms](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001vCfYvDQmBDNlSUoTHkZGHp_p544db6_puy9_ixa_6BVCYJ_qQc6hNT9v37032jMUJMhfpbZ-WAHNGYsAkQMzrXVmQ29p2wL3mEwycsP2arQlza4XYybYHcGS7INDqBjD).

**Recipients of 2013-2014 Colorado Creates Grants Announced**

Colorado Creative Industries last month announced recipients for the 2013-2014 Colorado Creates grant program.  A total of 150 grants were awarded in 26 counties across the state totaling $1,125,000.  The agency's grants benefit both small and large communities, and over 50% of grant funds are awarded in towns and cities located outside the Denver metro area.

Colorado Creates is Colorado Creative Industries' largest grant program, providing critical financial support that helps nonprofit cultural organizations and government agencies produce and present arts and cultural activities, bringing jobs to their communities and enhancing their quality of life.  Grants are awarded annually on a competitive basis and provide a seal of excellence that helps organizations leverage local and national funds.

 "These grants support the artists and creative entrepreneurs who are critical to Colorado's economy," said Margaret Hunt, director of Colorado Creative Industries.  "There are over 186,000 jobs in our state's creative sector, making it the fifth largest employment cluster.  By investing in this sector's vitality, the state builds its reputation as a premier creative hub and reaps significant economic returns."  The grant awards are for activities that take place between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014.  A complete list of this year's grant recipients by county is below, and is available online at [www.coloradocreativeindustries.org](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001gGmTmn_fSP9TASmEyWjUzP61N8IQ6wo9kEbM1SyXw-y4VAjCcFgSFVxlrr1qcKVpPmqzBOElGrztqc7CPkG6Oe98lTkqYqGQiTltOlktzrZzE4DD-CIvyU97q2eMkxsMB7rQL71ydpw=).

**Colorado Creates Grants to Help Small Town Cinemas Stay in Business**

In an effort to help rural movie theaters stay in business, Colorado last month announced the Rural Theater Digital Conversion Grant.  The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), Colorado Small Business Development Center Network (SBDC), The Denver Film Society, Downtown Colorado, Inc., the Gates Foundation and Boettcher Foundation have teamed up to create grants ranging from $10,000 to $30,000 for theaters in converting to the new digital equipment being required by the film industry.

"Local small town cinemas are a key amenity for local workforce retention and play a crucial role in enhancing culture and providing a strong sense of place," said Donald Zuckerman, Colorado Film Commissioner.  "In addition to showing newly released films, these venues often function as a meeting place and social center and are sometimes the only community facility within their county.  Films, special events, educational screenings and fundraising events at the theaters foster activities for various community groups and enhance local learning opportunities.  Moreover, the theaters are an affordable leisure option for families and the elderly, and serve as a safe, secure venue for young people."

Film distributors no longer distribute traditional celluloid prints, and have now converted to digital format.  This new distribution method requires a digital cinema projector, which cost an average of $60,000-$70,000 each.  Many rural theaters cannot afford these projectors and will likely close, threatening the arts, culture and fabric of the community.

The Colorado Economic Development Commission (EDC) approved $200,000 from the Strategic Fund Initiative to assist rural theaters in making the switch, and the Denver Film Society, with financial backing from the Boettcher Foundation and the Gates Family Foundation, is also submitting funds to help.

Both nonprofit and for-profit theaters can apply for funds.  The available funding amount is variable and dependent on total demand and the specific theater, including theater location.  Requirements to receive grants include:

·      Minimum cash input of $10,000

·      Minimum 2-to-1 match for EDC Grant funds

·      Applicant must also apply for local Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Business Loan Fund

·      Minimum three hours SBDC consulting

·      Theater will need to demonstrate to the SBDC and the Colorado OEDIT that it will be economically viable after the digital conversion

·      Theater must receive a technical review to ensure new equipment will function properly

·      Theater must be in a rural area that equals the area outside the boundaries of a city or town of more than 20,000 in population and the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such city or town

·      Priority will be given to theaters in communities geographically distanced from communities with already converted theaters

Theaters can apply online by visiting <http://www.coloradosbdc.org/resources/theater>.

**Colorado Governor’s Office of Information Technology (OIT) Wins 2013 Technology Project of the Year at the Colorado Technology Association APEX Awards**

The Colorado Technology Association (CTA) last month awarded the Governor’s Office of Information Technology (OIT) the 2013 Apex “Technology Project of the Year” Award.  The prestigious APEX Technology Awards recognize outstanding accomplishments and leadership by Colorado’s advanced technology companies and professionals.  The award for the Colorado Information Marketplace (CIM) at was announced live at a sold out event of more than 850 attendees at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Denver.

OIT and CIM’s project lead, Dianna Anderson, were recognized for implementing a successful, innovative project with measurable results that filled a need for the State of Colorado.  CIM allows for the integration of information between government agencies.  It promotes multiple uses of data sets and removes point to point sharing which reduces cost and redundancy.  It fosters innovation and engagement in the public sector and promotes viral development of applications using meaningful data which can be helpful for Coloradans.

Since 2000, the CTA Apex Awards has honored the top technology company success stories and technical advancements produced in Colorado.

“We had a great volume of nominees this year but OIT was on top of the pack,” said Erik Mitisek, CTA’s CEO.  “The purpose of the APEX Awards is to recognize and celebrate the success of amazing projects, and OIT’s potential can be endless.”

**Consumer Energy Education Foundation Announces New President**

The Consumer Energy Education Foundation (CEEF) last month announced its selection of Jaime Gardner to serve as President and Executive Director.  CEEF is an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 2010 to engage in charitable and educational activities to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.  It also provides workforce development, energy information and educational resources to the general public.

CEEF Board Chairman Rich Haut of the Houston Area Research Center praised Gardner’s appointment.  “Ms. Gardner brings tremendous energy, enthusiasm and proven results to the Foundation at a time when energy innovation is calling for a skilled and technically proficient workforce.  The entire CEEF Board is looking forward to working closely with Jaime to bring added STEM-focused opportunities to our nation’s academic institutions and helping the energy industry meet the challenges of tomorrow.”

Other CEEF Board members include:  Dave Harbour, Commissioner-Emeritus of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; David Holt, President, Consumer Energy Alliance; Marshall Schott, Executive Director of Special Projects for Lone Star College; and Tom Williams, President of Environmentally Friendly Drilling.

“I am honored and excited to take on this new challenge,” said Gardner.  “I look forward to working with teachers and students again, and to building new relationships throughout America.  CEEF’s goal is to make sure we have educated our next generation for the jobs of the future.”

Gardner’s background is extensive.  As part of her consulting practice, she developed stand-alone outreach events for high school students in 2009 and 2010, designed as both a college and career fair with guest speakers and panels of experts to talk about careers in all sectors of the energy industry.  Gardner’s prior roles include assignments within the U.S. Department of the Interior, first in the Office of the Secretary as a Special Assistant for Alaska Affairs, and later supporting communications efforts for the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Washington, DC.  Before leaving federal service in 2008, Jaime worked in the BLM’s Colorado State Office as a Public Information Officer, managing media relations and outreach on a variety of issues including energy development.  A fourth generation Colorado native, Gardner grew up in Denver, graduating from Thornton High School and the International Baccalaureate Program in 1997.  Jaime holds a B.A. in International Studies from the University of Denver.  She and her husband, Cory, live in Yuma, Colorado, with their two children, Alyson Grace and John Thatcher.

**Gov. Hickenlooper Appoints New District Court Judges**

Gov. John Hickenlooper has appointed Bruce Langer to serve as the district court judge in the 20th Judicial District in Boulder County.  Langer will fill a vacancy that occurred as a result of the retirement of the Hon. M. Gwyneth Whalen.

Langer currently works at the Boulder County District Attorney’s Office, where he oversees general felony prosecutions and the felony intake unit.  Also, he oversaw the district attorney office’s sex crimes and domestic violence team, served as a trial deputy, supervised the juvenile prosecution unit and supervised the felony prosecution unit. Previously, Langer was an associate at Franco Domenico and Associates.

Langer earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado and a J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law.

The appointment is effective immediately.

Gov. John Hickenlooper has appointed Shannon Douglas Lyons to serve as the district court judge in the 19th Judicial District in Weld County.  Lyons will fill a vacancy that occurred as a result of the retirement of the Hon. Daniel Maus.

Lyons is currently Senior Litigation Counsel at Otis, Coan & Peters, LLC, where he practices in commercial civil litigation with a focus on business, real estate, fiduciary relationships, banking, oil and gas, probate and administrative law.  He specializes in trial litigation and serves as the trial specialist for Otis, Coan & Peters, LLC.  Previously, he worked for Colorado Rural Legal Services, served as a Deputy Colorado State Public Defender and was a founding member and managing partner of Collins, Liu, & Lyons, LLP.

Lyons earned a bachelor’s degree from Grinnell College and a J.D. from Capital University Law School.

The appointment is effective Oct. 11, 2013.

**Gov. Hickenlooper Announces Boards and Commissions Appointments**

The Commissions on Judicial Performance 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.  The member appointed to the **5th Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission** for a term expiring Nov. 30, 2015:

·      Miro Kovacevic of Breckenridge, to serve as an attorney and occasioned by the resignation of Kristine Word of Silverthorne.

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 **9th Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission** for a term expiring Dec. 31, 2018:

·      Ronald Erickson of Aspen, to serve as a non-attorney and Republican from Pitkin County, and occasioned by the resignation of Anna Smith of Meeker.

The member appointed to the **12th Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission** for a term expiring Dec. 31, 2018:

·      William Ryan Dunn of Del Norte, to serve as an attorney and a Democrat from Rio Grande County, and occasioned by the resignation of Barbara Zollars of Monte Vista.

The member appointed to the **16th Judicial District Judicial Nominating Commission** for a term expiring Dec. 31, 2018:

·      Randall Losey of Las Animas, to serve as a non-attorney and a Democrat from Bent County, and occasioned by the resignation of Daniel Cunningham of Las Animas.

The **Board of Real Estate Appraisers** sets fees for those seeking a real estate appraisers license, administers tests and disciplines licensees for misconduct.  Appointments must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate.  The members appointed for terms expiring July 1, 2015:

·      Peter E. Muccio of Denver, to serve as a member of the pubic.

·      Scot M. Rose of Lafayette, to serve as a representative of appraisal management companies.

The **Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Board** awards grants from the Colorado Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund.  Appointments must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate.  The members appointed for terms expiring June 30, 2016:

·      Jeffrey Paul Cuthbert of Littleton.

·      Catharine H. Johnston-Brooks of Broomfield.

·      Helen E. Morgan of Denver.

The **Education Leadership Council** was created to improve Colorado’s standing in the country as a leader in providing 21st century learning opportunities from birth through graduate school.  The Council provides a forum for discussing the progress of the implementation and synchronization of education reform initiatives that have been enacted and policy initiatives that should be created, implemented or promoted.  The members appointed for terms to expire June 30, 2014:

·      Bruce Davey Benson of Denver, to serve as a postsecondary administrator or instructor representing the four-year sector, reappointed.

·      Tom Massey of Poncha Springs, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Michael Craig Gass of Littleton, to serve as a representative of private businesses or industries in Colorado, reappointed.

·      David Ethan Greenberg of Cherry Hills Village, to serve as a board member of/or administrator at a public charter school, reappointed.

·      Michael C. Johnston of Denver, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Carole R. Murray of Castle Rock, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Michelle Line Pearson of Broomfield, to serve as a classroom teacher, reappointed.

·      Tom Joe Turrell of Byers, to serve as a school superintendent or principal, reappointed.

·      Kristin Rae Donley of Erie, to serve as a classroom teacher, reappointed.

·      Evie Hudak of Westminster, to serve as a designee of the Colorado Senate Education Committee.

·      Millie Anne Hamner of Dillon, to serve as a designee of the Colorado House of Representatives House Education Committee.

The members appointed for terms expiring June 30, 2015:

·      Judi Diaz Bonacquisti of Denver, to serve as a postsecondary administrator representing the four-year sector, reappointed.

·      Mark A. DeVoti of Pagosa Springs, to serve as a school superintendent or principal, reappointed.

·      Richard L. Garcia of Boulder, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Ernest Domingo House of Aurora, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Helayne B. Jones of Boulder, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Stephen M. Jordan of Lafayette, to serve as a postsecondary administrator representing the four-year sector, reappointed.

·      Dale McCall of Longmont, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Anthony Darren Salazar of Denver, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Chris J. Watney of Denver, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Jandel Theresa Allen-Davis of Highlands Ranch, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Glen Harold Gallegos of Grand Junction, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

The members appointed for terms expiring June 30, 2016:

·      Joseph A. Garcia of Pueblo, to serve as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education and as Chair, reappointed.

·      Robert Kurby Hammond of Erie, to serve as Commissioner of Colorado Department of Education, reappointed.

·      Jane Goff of Arvada, to serve as designee of the State Board of Education, reappointed.

·      Reggie Bicha of Denver, to serve as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services, reappointed.

·      Nathaniel “Nate” Easley, Jr. of Denver, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Nancy J. McCallin of Parker, to serve as a postsecondary administrator representing the two-year sector, reappointed.

·      Barbara Barnes Grogan of Denver, to serve as a representative of private businesses or industries in Colorado, reappointed.

·      Sue Elizabeth Renner of Denver, to serve as a representative of an organization that supports or has expertise in infant health and development, reappointed.

·      Bruce H. Caughey of Centennial, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Kenneth A. DeLay of Longmont, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Ellen Golombek of Denver, to serve as a public member, reappointed.

·      Michael Vernon Martin of Denver, to serve as a postsecondary administrator or instructor representing the four-year sector.

·      Margaret Kress Carlson of Breckenridge, to serve as a member of a local school board of education.

·      Richard C. “Dick” Kaufman of Centennial, to serve as Chairman of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

·      Cynthia Mary Stevenson of Boulder, to serve as a public member.

The **Private Occupational School Board** advises on standards for educational services in private occupational schools and grants accreditation to schools that meet the standards.  Appointments must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate.  The member appointed for a term expiring July 1, 2014:

·      Rochelle G. Krovitz of Greenwood Village, to serve as a representative of the general public and occasioned by the resignation of Winnifred S. Rovig of Glenwood Springs.

The **State Board of Nursing** examines and licenses registered and practical nurses.  It approves nursing programs and standards, and investigates complaints filed against nurses.  The member appointed for a term expiring July 1, 2014:

·      Jacque Nichols Riordan of Denver, to serve as a member of the public and occasioned by the resignation of Nancy Marie Riordan Kunzie of Denver.

The **State Housing Board** works to establish uniform construction and maintenance standards for hotels, motels, multiple dwellings and factory-built housing.  The board also develops for submittal to the general assembly and units of local government recommendations for uniform housing standards and building codes.  Appointments must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate.  The member appointed for a term expiring Jan. 31, 2015:

·      Raymond Timothy Hudner of Grand Junction, to serve as a Republican and resident of the 3rd Congressional District, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of James A. Coil of Grand Junction, who served as a Democrat and resident of the 3rd Congressional District.

The **Waste Tire Advisory Committee** provides technical advice to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regarding specific waste tire issues such as disposal, storage and transportation and related funding.  The committee also reviews waste tire regulatory changes proposed by the department and stakeholders.  Appointments must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate.  The member appointed for a term expiring Sept. 9, 2015:

·      Lee Allen Overton of Meeker, to serve as a waste tire hauler, and occasioned by the resignation of Christopher B. Houtchens of Colorado Springs.

The members appointed for terms expiring Sept. 9, 2016:

·      Richard K. Welle of Centennial, to serve as a waste tire processor, reappointed.

·      Joel F. Bolduc of Colorado Springs, to serve as a waste tire end user, reappointed.

·      James A. Reid of Colorado Springs, to serve as a representative of a local fire authority from a jurisdiction that has a waste tire facility.

The **Colorado Health Services Advisory Council** oversees the loan repayment program that uses state and federal funds and contributions from local communities and private sources to help repay the outstanding education loans that many physicians and other health professionals hold.  In exchange for repayment of these loans, the physicians and other health professionals will commit to provide health care services in local communities with underserved health care needs throughout the state.  The members appointed for terms expiring Nov. 20, 2016:

·      Melissa Bosworth of Denver, to serve as a representative of a nonprofit statewide membership organization that provides programs and services to enhance rural health care in Colorado, reappointed.

·      Andrea Lynn Nederveld of Grand Junction, to serve as a person with expertise in providing health care in rural and other medically underserved areas of the state, reappointed.

·      Jean Ann Larsen of La Junta, to serve as a representative of behavioral health organizations that operate in Colorado, reappointed.

·      Polly E. Anderson of Denver, to serve as a representative of a membership organization representing federally qualified health centers in Colorado.

·      Teresa C. Hurst of Denver, to serve as a representative of a membership organization representing community behavioral health center providers.

The **Colorado New Energy Improvement District Board** enables and encourages the owners of eligible real property to invest in new energy improvements, including energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy improvements by authorizing the district to establish, develop, finance, implement, and administer a new energy improvement program that includes both energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy improvements to assist any such owners who choose to join the district in completing new energy improvements to their property.  The members appointed for terms expiring Jan. 4, 2016:

·      Jenifer Waller of Englewood, to serve as an executive with 10 or more years executive-level experience with one or more financial institutions having total assets of less than $1 billion.

·      Eric Blank of Boulder, to serve as a representative of the renewable energy industry.

·      Emily A. Startz of Denver, to serve as a member with executive-level experience in the utility industry.

The members appointed for terms expiring Jan.4, 2017:

·      Kenneth L. Myers of Denver, to serve as an executive with ten or more years executive-level experience with one or more financial institutions having total assets of less than $1 billion.

·      Drew R. Torbin of Denver, to serve as a member with executive-level experience in commercial or real estate development industry.

·      Christopher G. Schulken of Parker, to serve as a representative of the energy efficiency industry.

The **Council on Creative Industries** works to stimulate and encourage the development of the arts and humanities throughout the state.  The council also looks at public interest in the arts and ways to increase public participation.  The members appointed for terms expiring July 1, 2016:

·      Robert B. Clasen of Denver, reappointed.

·      Anthony Donald Paul of Castle Rock.

·      Maria Elizabeth Cole of Boulder.

The **Fire and Police Pension Association** is a local governmental unit that administers a statewide pension plan for full-time paid police officers and firefighters.  The appointments must be confirmed by the Colorado Senate.  The member appointed for a term expiring Sept. 1, 2015:

·      Todd A. Bower of Denver, a full-time paid firefighter, reappointed.

The member appointed for a term expiring Sept. 1, 2019:

·      Nick Nuanes of Denver, a retired police officer.

The **Stroke Advisory Board** evaluates potential strategies for stroke prevention and treatment and develops a statewide needs assessment identifying relevant resources to improve quality of care for stroke patients.  By Jan. 31, 2014, and by each Jan. 1 thereafter, the board shall submit a report specifying its findings and recommendations to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the corresponding committees in the State House and State Senate.  The members appointed for terms expiring Aug. 1, 2017:

·      David William Malcolm Ross of Colorado Springs, to represent a statewide association of physicians.

·      Nancy Griffith of Centennial, to represent a statewide hospital association.

·      Cynthia Ann Kreutz of Englewood, to represent a stroke rehabilitation facility.

·      Richard H. Smith of Denver, to serve as a Colorado resident representing a national stroke association.

·      Coral Cosway of Littleton, to serve as a Colorado resident representing a nation association whose goal is to eliminate cardiovascular disease and strokes.

·      Karin Schumacher of Denver, to serve as a physical or occupational therapist actively involved in stroke care.

·      Mary Ann Irene Orr of Greenwood Village, to serve as a member of the public who has suffered a stroke or is the caregiver of a person who has suffered a stroke.

**Destination Health is Opportunity for East Metro Community to Tap into Healthcare Experts**

“It couldn’t be more timely, “ says Aurora Chamber President Kevin Hougen describing the Chamber’s half-day healthcare seminar on Nov. 1.

Hougen said the seminar will include trends in healthcare, including up-to-date information about the Affordable Care Act. Also included will be breakout sessions on wellness, and a wide variety of other topical healthcare issues.

Cost of the event is $45 per person for Aurora Chamber members, $55 per person for non members and $35 for students. The Ticket price includes all sessions and both breakfast and lunch. It will be held at the Red Lion Hotel Denver SE, 3200 S. Parker Road in Aurora.

For more information or to registrer go to the Aurora Chamber web site: [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org) and click on the Destination Health icon .

Sponsors for the event, the first of its kind in the Eastern metro area, include University of Colorado Health, Children’s Hospital of Colorado, Kaiser Permanente, the Medical Center of Aurora and Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital. Also participating are Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children, Parker Adventist Hospital, Concorde Career College, Pinnacol Assurance, Regis University, the Colorado Workforce Development Council, College America,and the Red Lion Hotel. Media sponsor is the Aurora Sentinel.

**Chamber Board Chooses Neutrality in Amendment 66 Election**

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors chose to steer a neutral course on Amendment 66. The Board voted on Sept. 25 after amendment had been thoroughly vetted by the Government Affairs, Education and Energy Committee earlier in the month. Chamber President Kevin Hougen pointed out that the Aurora Chamber had always been considered the Education Chamber, but also was the Small Business Chamber. “There are too many unknowns in this amendment and the fiscal impact on small businesses could be very troublesome,” he said.

“Consequently, upon the advice of the Board, we will not be actively supporting the Amendment but will also not be actively opposing.”

**Chamber Defense Council, Board, Public Issues Group Offered Complimentary Tickets to CELL’s Seminar**

The Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab (CELL) which has partnered with the Aurora Chamber Defense Council on a number of occasions, has offered complimentary tickets to a major event on Oct. 17. The U.S. Leadership in Shaping Global Security event featuring Colorado Senator Mark Udall and former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, will be held in the Ellie Caulkins Opera House at the Denver Performing Arts Complex beginning at 7 p.m. Udall and Panetta are expected to address policy towards Syria, the Middle East, Counterterrorism, Cyber Security and other emerging threats.

For tickets, RSVP by visiting http://www.thecell.org/events/ and following the instructions below:

Click “BUY TICKETS BUTTON” – TicketWeb page will pop up, Under Purchase Tickets enter PROMO CODE: **C3LLCOMP** and press “Apply Promo Code”, select quantity of tickets, “Delivery Type” desired, accept terms and conditions, then Click “Check Out.” Them the Ticketweb account registration window will pop up. Click “Skip and Continue” fill out required fields in the “Create New Account” section, Check QTY ordered & Click “Submit Order” your order. You can also call the CELL at 303-844-4000.