

2011 Proves to Be Banner Year for Arvada Chamber's Community Engagement Efforts

ARVADA, Colo., January 30, 2012 – This past year was a big one for the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. Several successful programs and networking groups, including the Business Education Alliance (BEA) and the Arvada Young Professionals (AYP), have come to fruition, strengthening the Arvada community through meaningful partnerships, education and commerce.

Founded this past year, the Arvada Chamber's BEA program matches Arvada-area businesses and educators with high school-level students to prepare them for the workforce via direct connections and hands-on experiences. The BEA will implement these initiatives by coordinating speakers in the classroom, hosting the Bridge to Employment Lunch series, job shadowing, providing internship opportunities and maintaining a mentorship program. All projects aim to bridge the gap between what students learn in the classroom and what happens in the real world. As a result, high-school students will be prepared to succeed in their academic and professional lives after graduation.

"Through our Chamber's Business Education Alliance program, business leaders and educators come together to make sure students are workforce ready," said Dot Wright, Chamber president.

Another Chamber program, AYP, grew rapidly weeks after its organizational structure was formed—an indication of the high level interest and need in the Arvada community for such a professional group. AYP seeks to provide young professionals living or working in the Arvada community the opportunity to expand their personal networks and build lasting connections within Arvada's professional and social arenas.

The Arvada Chamber's success and community involvement has garnered a lot of media attention, including a radio interview with Arvada Chamber President Dot Wright by Radio Colorado Network's AM 10.60's Celebrate Colorado's series. The interview profiled the Chamber's leadership efforts, programs, organizations and profiled many local business partnerships. To listen to the podcast, visit <http://www.radioconetwork.com/rss/celecorss2.xml> and click on "Celebrate Colorado" above the Arvada Chamber of Commerce text.

For more information on the Business Education Alliance visit <http://www.arvadachamber.org/bea.asp>. For more information on the Arvada Young Professionals visit <http://www.arvadachamber.org/AYP.asp>.

About the Arvada Chamber of Commerce

Founded in 1925, the Arvada Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization committed to growing and supporting the Arvada business community. Through educational programs, networking opportunities, business resources, strategic partnerships and legislative advocacy, the Chamber empowers businesses to succeed. The

Chamber provides leadership and support to members through its leaders' collective expertise in the areas of business ownership, sales and marketing, finance and public outreach. To become a member or learn more, call [303-424-0313](tel:303-424-0313) or visit www.arvadachamber.com.

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