



EDIE Awards Criteria

Economic Development Achievement Award:

This award recognizes a practicing economic development professional who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, measurable success, and a lasting commitment to advancing the profession within the state of Colorado.

Eligibility Requirements:

- To qualify for nomination, either the individual or the organization they represent must be an EDCC member in good standing. Current members of the EDCC Board of Directors are not eligible.
- Must be an active, practicing economic development professional in Colorado for a minimum of five (5) consecutive years.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Demonstrates a strong commitment to personal professional advancement through the pursuit of advanced industry credentials or course enrichment (e.g., CEcD, EDFP, EDI Graduate, or Colorado Economic Development Academy/CEDA).
- Proves tangible economic development success within their organization or community, driven by metrics such as primary job growth, capital investment, business redevelopment, or increased tourism.
- Furthers the economic development profession in Colorado beyond the scope of their day-to-day job duties through regional collaborations, active EDCC involvement, mentorship of peers, legislative advocacy, or workshop and conference development.
- Promotes the critical value of the profession by educating elected officials and community leaders, securing local or state press coverage for economic initiatives, or serving as a strategic economic development voice on non-EDO community boards.

Community of the Year (Small, Medium & Large):

(Community is defined as the legal governing body of the community including towns, cities & counties; refer to the [Colorado Demographic Profiler](#) located on the State Demographer's website)

>> Small community size = up to 19,999

>> Medium community size = between 20,000 – 59,999

>> Large community size = greater than 60,000

- Demonstrated support for economic development such as financial, board participation, or lobbying.
- Planning and investment in long-term development of the community such as infrastructure, permanent financing of economic development, or targeted strategies to secure primary jobs.
- Special project or development during nomination year.
- If the consideration narrows down to two competing communities; the EDCC member in

good standing will take merit.

Legislator of the Year:

This award honors a Colorado lawmaker who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, courage, and vision in championing public policies that strengthen the state's economic vitality. The recipient is a dedicated advocate for a business-friendly climate, infrastructure investment, and talent development.

- Legislator served in office during nomination year.
- Advocated for EDCC, its role, and its policy goals.
- Demonstrated support for economic development initiatives or primary industry support during last legislative session.
- Demonstrated leadership in strengthening Colorado's economy through public policy achievement.
- Sponsoring or being a leading voice on bills or ballot initiatives aimed at strengthening Colorado's economy, identified in EDCC's legislative policy statement: healthy business climate, effective well-maintained infrastructure, and workforce.
- Bridging the political gap to compromise in the name of Colorado's economy.
- Building consensus across the political spectrum to successfully pass bills or ballot initiatives that strengthen Colorado's economic outlook.

Rookie of the Year:

This award is designed to encourage new professionals who have demonstrated exceptional ability and performance in the field of economic development.

- To qualify for the nomination, either the individual or their organization they represent, is an EDCC member in good standing.
- Less than 3 years in the profession but at least 1 year in Colorado.
- Recommended by their supervisor for exceptional work on a project, issue or problem.
- Demonstration of ability or leadership is usually limited to a veteran economic development practitioner.
- Some evidence of professional development or support for professional development in Colorado.

Volunteer of the Year:

EDCC may, each year choose to present a "Volunteer of the Year" award to an outstanding, "non-practicing economic development professional" volunteer in Colorado who has demonstrated a multi-year commitment to the vitality, growth and sustainability of the Colorado economy.

The criteria for the award are as follows:

- The honoree is a citizen of Colorado or is from out-of-state but has engaged in significant economic development activities within the state from more than two years.
- Is not employed in the profession of economic development as defined or determined by the EDCC board of directors and/or the Awards Committee.
- Has a demonstrated history of involvement in economic development projects in Colorado that are of historical significance to the state or a region of the state.

- Preferred candidates will demonstrate leadership and involvement in more than one economic development project, unless a single project is of such magnitude that the candidate merits consideration for the one project alone.
- Candidates may be selected from a pool of nominees who, at one time in their careers, were economic development professionals. However, consideration for the award should not be based on achievements during their economic development careers.

Company of the Year:

This award recognizes a Colorado-based company that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to its local community and the state's economic vitality. To ensure strong alignment with the state's economic ecosystem, nominees must have a direct, active relationship with the professional economic development community.

- To qualify for this award, the company must be directly nominated or formally endorsed by an EDCC member in good standing.
- Demonstrates a proven track record of strategic collaboration with local, regional, or state Economic Development Organizations (EDOs) on initiatives that drive business retention, expansion, or workforce solutions.
- Provides active corporate support for broader economic development goals through leadership, board participation, financial investment, public advocacy, or legislative lobbying efforts.
- Shows a strong, active commitment to addressing local community issues, volunteering, or partnering with civic organizations to improve the overall regional quality of life.
- Completed or initiated a significant physical expansion, facility modernization, or capital investment during the nomination year that creates new jobs or retains a critical employment base.

Economic Development Partnership:

This award recognizes an individual, organization, or entity that is not a traditional economic development organization (EDO), but whose sustained partnership and collaboration have been vital to advancing the economic development profession in Colorado.

- Non-practicing economic development organization or individual who has demonstrated multi-year commitment to the Economic Development Council of Colorado.
- The recipient continues to work with EDCC along with our goal to strategically retain, expand and attract primary employers.
- They are committed to the vitality, growth, and sustainability of the Colorado economy.

Workforce Partnership Award:

This award honors outstanding partnerships that exemplify the power of collaboration with Workforce Colorado, the unified Colorado Public Workforce System. It celebrates cross-sector collaborations that make a meaningful impact on Colorado's economy by bridging sectors, removing barriers, and creating lasting workforce and community solutions.

- To qualify for the nomination, at least one key partner in the collaboration, or the nominating entity, should ideally be an EDCC member in good standing (or: "Preference will be given to partnerships involving an EDCC member in good standing").
- Demonstrates measurable outcomes, joint initiatives, or project completions during the nomination year that positively influence local or regional economies.
- Promotes equitable access, diverse representation, and targeted strategies to remove barriers for workers and businesses within the partnership's activities.
- Implements forward-thinking strategies that anticipate emerging workforce needs, promote talent pipeline innovation, and enhance long-term regional economic sustainability.
- Successfully bridges the gap between public workforce systems, economic development organizations, educational institutions, and the private business community to build thriving local economies.

Statesman of the Year:

This prestigious award recognizes an EDCC member who has provided exemplary service to the organization and demonstrated outstanding leadership in strengthening Colorado's economy through public policy achievement. The recipient is a champion for the profession, successfully navigating the legislative landscape to advance a pro-business climate.

- Must be an EDCC member in good standing who consistently advocates for the organization's role, mission, and strategic policy goals across the state.
- Demonstrates a proven track record of growing EDCC's political influence in a strictly non-partisan manner, building consensus across the political spectrum to successfully pass bills or ballot initiatives.
- Actively speaks on behalf of the EDCC at the state legislature, town halls, and other public venues to champion economic development priorities.
- Serves as a leading, strategic voice behind the scenes on critical legislation aligned with EDCC's legislative policy statement—specifically focusing on a healthy business climate, an effective, well-maintained infrastructure, and robust workforce development.
- Significant weight in selecting the recipient will be placed on candidates who have provided formal testimony to the Colorado General Assembly on bills explicitly supported or opposed by the EDCC Public Policy Committee and the EDCC Board of Directors.

Chairman's Award/Special Recognition:

The EDCC Board Chair or Board of Directors as a collective whole may, each year choose to present a "Chairman's Award," to recognize individuals who have supported the EDCC and have demonstrated a multi-year commitment to the vitality, growth and sustainability of the Colorado economy.

Miscellaneous Criteria:

- To encourage and support incoming nominations, nominations must meet most of the criteria stated within the proper category and will be determined at the discretion of the EDIE Award Selection Committee, to be eligible for the award.
- The EDIE Awards Selection Committee is comprised of past ED Achievement and Rookie of the Year awards winners, along with members of EDCC's Board of Directors.
- Community's and Individual's will not be eligible for another award for 5 calendar years starting from the year they received the award. Review the [Past Winner's Circle](#) to determine if your nomination is eligible.