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Changing a light bulb, changing the future of youth in the workforce

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! receives the National Theodore E. Small Workforce Partnership Award for innovative Youth Energy Conservation Initiative

Greenwood Village, Colo. --- The Arapahoe/Douglas Workforce Board was recognized as a Distinguished Honoree of the Theodore E. Small Workforce Partnership Award by the National Association of Workforce Boards at its annual Forum on March 8, in Washington, D.C.

The award recognizes top quality workforce investment boards around the nation that advance innovative partnerships with their business communities.

In early 2008, because of increasing environmental and energy concerns, Arapahoe/Douglas Works! formed a partnership with the Colorado Governor's Energy Office, the Arapahoe County Weatherization program, other local, state and federal agencies, and the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers Alliance to Save Energy.

This partnership, the Youth Energy Conservation Corps, seeks to develop youth by providing paid and volunteer hands-on experiences in the emergent Energy industry, and comprehensive education on career pathways within the new Energy industry.

The Corps offers nine ongoing 500-hour positions for 18 to 21 year olds performing Tier 1 audits which consist of changing lighting, appliance inspections and educating the homeowner in energy conservation. Participants enjoy comprehensive training in career pathways in Energy, and other subjects relevant to productive employment.

"This award demonstrates the ongoing creativity and innovation of our workforce center," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. "It's partnerships like these that give our youth a head start in securing a bright and successful future."

Over the course of the year, the Youth Energy Conservation Corps will serve 37 young people with hands-on training and education in Energy career pathways. With each crew making three service calls per day, four days per week, nearly 470 Arapahoe and Adams County homes will be touched each year with Tier 1 energy audits generating annual energy savings of \$913,680.

Arapahoe/Douglas Youth in the Works! has been recognized as a best practice in Colorado, and has been replicated in workforce regions throughout the state. Through partnerships such as these the County continues to develop and implement cutting-edge solutions to workforce challenges of its community – solutions that respond creatively to the needs of businesses and individuals.

NAWB is the leading workforce association that represents the nation's nearly 650 business-led Workforce Investment Boards and also serves other associated organizations in the workforce industry with one common goal: *Helping America Work*.

To learn more about Arapahoe/Douglas Youth in the Works! call 303-636-1253 or visit www.adworks.org

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