

NEWSRELEASE

Grand Junction Economic Partnership • 122 North 6th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81501 • (970) 245-4332 • Fax: (970) 245-4346

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Contacts: Ann Driggers, President & CEO: 970-216-3421
Kelly Marlin, Business Development Manager: 970-778-1118

GJEP Staffer Wins Colorado Economic Development Award

GRAND JUNCTION, CO – The Grand Junction Economic Partnership (“GJEP”) is pleased to announce Kelly Marlin, Business Development Manager is the recipient of the 2011 “Rookie of the Year” award presented by the Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC) at their Spring Conference in Durango, CO today.

The EDCC is a statewide organization representing the profession of economic development with members working together strategically to retain, expand and attract new business to improve the overall economics for the State of Colorado through education, networking and legislative policies.

Each year awards are given to acknowledge individual, corporate and community contributions to the economic development of Colorado. The Rookie of the Year is presented to an economic development professional who has been in the profession at least one year in Colorado, but not more than three years. The nominees are recommended by their supervisor for exceptional work on a specific project or issue. The rookie must demonstrate ability or leadership usually limited to a veteran practitioner and show some evidence of professional development or support for professional development in Colorado.

Marlin was nominated for the award by Ann Driggers, President and CEO who said, “Kelly is a phenomenal asset and talent. She has demonstrated exceptional performance in the two and a half years she has worked in economic development for Mesa County. From working one-on-one with businesses to create jobs, to developing and implementing GJEP’s new marketing and communications plan, Kelly has already had much success.”

In 2010 the GJEP website was recognized by the IEDC in 2010 as the best general purpose economic development website for communities of population 25,000 to 200,000. A quote from William Best, Chair of IEDC: “We recognize the Grand Junction Economic Partnership for providing successful strategies to promote new paradigms in economic development in this period of global recovery. Our awards honor organizations and individuals for their efforts in creating positive change in communities. The Grand Junction Economic Partnership is showing that they are at the forefront of the economic development profession and are using innovative and effective practices that can be replicated in other communities.”

“While this recognition was bestowed upon the organization, there is no doubt that the award was truly won because of Kelly and her exceptional work” said Driggers. “GJEP, Mesa County and the economic development profession are very fortunate to have her and I am truly excited that her peers across the state have recognized this and presented her with the award.”

GJEP is a private non-profit economic development organization whose mission is to create quality jobs in Mesa County through business attraction and expansion.

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