



Media Advisory

Media Contacts:

Amanda Arthur

303-620-8041

amanda.arthur@denverchamber.org

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Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, 9News and Colorado Leadership Alliance name Eric Duran as 2010 9NEWS Leader of the Year

DENVER – The Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, 9News and the Colorado Leadership Alliance announced this week that Eric Duran is the 2010 9News Leader of the Year.

Eric Duran, vice president of DA Davidson and Company, is known in the business community for assisting municipalities and other governments to creatively finance large projects and budgets.

He has shared his financial expertise in the non-profit community through board service on a number of 501(c)(3) organizations. He has served the City and County of Denver on the Mayor's Latino Advisory Committee, the Neighborhood Small Bond Project Committee and Denver's Library Commission. He has also served as an ad hoc financial advisor to nonprofits to help them improve their handling of budgeting, finance and debt, and he has used his contacts and expertise from the private financial sector to help improve the fiscal performance of nonprofit boards for which he volunteers.

Lastly, he is in the final stages of a long-term volunteer effort he has led to place a library in northwest Denver.

"Generations of Denverites will have access to a new library, thanks to Eric," said James Mejía, who nominated Duran for the award. Mejía is the 2009 winner of the Leader of the Year award.

Duran is chair of the finance committee for the Denver Health and Hospital Authority Board.

"Eric Duran is a great example of an alumnus of Leadership Denver who went on to inform our region with passionate community trusteeship," said Maureen McDonald, DMCLF executive director. "His childhood love of reading has developed into a desire to see that citizens of northwest Denver have access to a beautiful new library."

Duran will receive his award during the upcoming Colorado Leadership Alliance Luncheon to be held on April 6, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center.

The Colorado Leadership Alliance, in conjunction with 9News and the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, honors statewide excellence in business and community leadership at the annual Colorado Leadership Alliance Luncheon.

“We are thrilled to award Eric Duran with the 9News Leader of the Year Award. His professional experience, passion for the community and his vision for Colorado make him a true asset to our community and the right person for this prestigious award,” said Mark Cornetta, president and general manager of 9News.

The Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation hosts this event each year for more than 700 business and community leaders from across the state to recognize the outstanding collegiate leaders of the Colorado Leadership Alliance (CLA), in addition to raising funds for program support of the CLA and its member programs.

Previous winners of the 9News Leader of the Year award:

- 2009 James Mejía, CEO of the Denver Preschool Program
- 2008 Carrie A. Besnette, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Metropolitan State College of Denver
- 2007 Christine Benero, President and CEO, Mile High United Way
- 2006 Willie Shepherd, President, Shepherd Law Group P.C.
- 2005 Monica Robinson
- 2004 Chad McWhinney, President and CEO, McWhinney Enterprises
- 2003 Kathleen Novak, Mayor, City of Northglenn
- 2002 Doug Price, President and CEO, Rocky Mountain PBS
- 2001 Annette Quintana, CEO, Istonish Holding Company
- 2000 Joseph Serna, President, Dawa Enterprises
- 1999 Rob Cohen, CEO, IMA Financial Group

About the Colorado Leadership Alliance

The Colorado Leadership Alliance (CLA) is an affiliate of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation’s (DMCLF) family of leadership programs. CLA provides development and programmatic support for its member programs in place on 11 campuses across Colorado (CSU-Fort Collins, CSU-Pueblo, CU-Boulder, CU-Colorado Springs, CU-Denver, DU, Johnson & Wales University, Metropolitan State College of Denver, Regis University, UNC and the US Air Force Academy.) The DMCLF works to promote the development of civic leadership by the business community and fosters opportunities for increased cooperation among the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

Through strategic partnerships with business and community leaders, the CLA provides its scholars with learning opportunities on their campuses and in their local communities. In addition to demanding academic coursework specifically directed at developing leadership skills, community leaders provide real-world instruction to CLA Scholars through career seminars, internships, weekly lectures and other experiential projects. The CLA provides a unique opportunity for Colorado’s business leadership to connect with talented, motivated CLA students, thus enhancing the state’s workforce.

About the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation

An affiliate organization of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce (DMCC), the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation (DMCLF) provides content, context and access to inspire leaders to engage in issues critical to the region's success. The DMCLF encourages community and civic trusteeship through a continuum of leadership programs including Leadership Denver, Access Denver, the Leadership Exchange, Impact Denver, Legacy Denver, the Leadership Alumni Network and the Colorado Leadership Alliance.

About 9News/Gannett CO., Inc.

Gannett CO., Inc. is a leading international news and information company that publishes 85 daily newspapers in the USA, including USA TODAY, the nation's largest-selling daily newspaper. The company also owns nearly 900 non-daily publications in the USA and USA WEEKEND, a weekly newspaper magazine. Gannett subsidiary Newsquest is the United Kingdom's second largest regional newspaper company. Newsquest publishes nearly 300 titles, including 17 daily newspapers, and a network of prize-winning Web sites. Gannett also operates 23 television stations in the United States and is an Internet leader with sites sponsored by its TV stations and newspapers including USATODAY.com, one of the most popular news sites on the Web.