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Job seekers see higher earnings after using Arapahoe/Douglas Works!

People using the Workforce Center in their job search earned an average \$15,800 more per year

CENTENNIAL, CO --- Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, a proud partner of the American Job Center network, continues to get people hired and working in steady jobs, according to the Center's eighth annual economic impact report.

The publicly-funded workforce center helped 23,717 people find employment during its Program Year July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016. Of those, 22,458 individuals were still working six months later, and they earned an average of \$52,667 per year, higher retainment and salaries than the previous Program Year.

In contrast, State labor statistics show that citizens who did not use a workforce center in their job search earned an average of \$36,858 per year – a difference of \$15,809.

"Arapahoe/Douglas Works! helps job-seekers find a job with a career path and livable wage," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Jackson, who also serves on the Workforce Development Board. "Workforce center assistance better prepares and markets individuals through no-cost tools, job counseling, events and training opportunities. A/D Works! also adds to the economic sustainability of our region by responding to the critical talent needs of our local businesses and key Industries."

No-cost services at A/D Works! include employment workshops, career counseling, networking and hiring events, career and personality assessments, intensive job-search support, special programs for youth, young adults and adult and job seekers 50 and older, certifications, GED preparation and training.

According to A/D Works!, the 22,458 newly-employed customers earned a combined \$355 million more per year than noncustomers – funds that are reinvested in the local economy in the form of increased spending on goods and services.

For every \$1 spent by the workforce center on its programs and operations, \$30.84 was returned to the economy through these increased earnings, paying the taxpayers back in just over four months.

The Arapahoe/Douglas Workforce Board's Opportunity Works Taskforce is working with Arapahoe/Douglas Works! to improve wage outcomes, particularly for those customers with barriers to successful employment. Wage outcomes are measured by income quintile. The three Talent Enhancement Programs, TANF/Colorado Works, Employment First and Parents to Work, all raised their wage outcomes from the first to the second earnings quintile, all above \$13.00 per hour.

“We are thrilled to show our community and nation that workforce investment works,” said Joe Barela, Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Division Manager. “Not only do our customers earn a higher average wage and a better opportunity for a career in high growth industries, but our region’s business and industry have access to a more skilled and competitive workforce to meet their needs.”

Since 2008, the workforce center has published annual studies of its economic impact and return on public investment at the request of its Workforce Development Board, a group of public and private sector leaders who guide workforce development in Arapahoe and Douglas counties.

A/D Works! published these outcomes in the report *Economic Impact of Workforce Center Operations – July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016*.

To learn more about using A/D Works! to assist in upskilling your career pathway to gain a better job; or if you are an employer who is beginning to experience a greater degree of difficulty filling skilled positions during this full employment market, visit A/D Works! website www.adworks.org.

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