



Contact: Cari Merrill, Communications Coordinator
Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce
(970) 482-3751 ext. 108
cmerrill@fcchamber.org
twitter.com/FCCOChamber

Chamber earns prestigious national 5-Star Accreditation

Fort Collins Area Chamber the only one in the state and in top 1 percent of chambers nationally

Fort Collins, Colo. – The Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce received a 5-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, the highest accreditation rating that can be achieved and making it the highest accredited chamber of commerce in Colorado.

This honor puts the Chamber among the top 1 percent of chambers nationwide.

“Accreditation validates a chamber as having programs that benefit their local economy and for positively influencing action in their community,” said Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, U.S. Chamber Executive Director of Political Affairs and Federation Relations. “We applaud these organizations for advancing the principles of free enterprise.”

Accreditation means the Fort Collins Area Chamber is recognized nationally as offering quality programs, practicing sound organization procedures and reliably contributing to positive change in the community. Local chambers are rated Accredited, 3-Stars, 4-Stars or 5-Stars.

The Fort Collins Area Chamber was first accredited in 1970 and, prior to this 5-Star rating, was last accredited in 2005.

“In a way, accreditation is validation. It is external validation that compared to our peers and a set of exacting national standards, the Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce is performing at a very high level for our members and the community,” said Fort Collins Area Chamber President and CEO David L. May. “It has been the expectation of our board of directors that we participate in this program, which is voluntary and involves a significant amount of work.

“But it’s worth it because it forces us to methodically examine what we’re doing and focus on making improvements. To move to the highest level of accreditation is very gratifying.”

- more -

The accreditation application, which took several months to complete, required the Chamber to submit materials regarding all of its departments and procedures in the areas of governance, finance, human resources, government affairs, program development, communication, technology and facilities. The Chamber received perfect scores in the governance, communications and facilities sections of the application.

The Accreditation examining committee noted several areas of excellence for the Fort Collins Area Chamber, noting the Chamber's excellent job of recognizing its volunteers for their efforts on behalf of the Chamber, the Chamber's active government affairs program and its investigation and implementation of technology initiatives that will greatly enhance the chamber's mission.

"The Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce has done an excellent job in many areas and has implemented a wide variety of valuable and successful programs for its membership," notes the Review Board.

About the U. S. Chamber of Commerce Accreditation Process

Since 1964, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has invited state and local chambers of commerce to participate in its Accreditation Program. The program was designed to stimulate a continuous self-analysis of an organization's growth and development with an opportunity to reassess its objectives, organization resources, program of work, procedures and achievements. The accreditation program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the only one of its kind to monitor the dynamic chamber of commerce industry.

About the Fort Collins Area Chamber

The Fort Collins Area Chamber of Commerce is a business and community advocacy organization made up of more than 1,100 member businesses. The Chamber acts as a front door to the community and a resource for people looking to relocate, in addition to acting as an advocate for business and overall quality of life in Northern Colorado. For more information about the Chamber visit www.FortCollinsChamber.com, call (970) 482-3746 or follow us on Twitter (FCCOChamber).

###