COLORADO SECURES BID FOR THE THIRTEENTH AMERICAS COMPETITIVENESS EXCHANGE

Golden, CO – August 26, 2019 – The U.S. Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration (ITA) and Economic Development Administration (EDA), in coordination with the U.S. Department of State and the Organization of American States (OAS), officially selected Colorado to host the 13th Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Serving as the key organizer, Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation (Jeffco EDC), submitted the application in partnership with City and County of Denver and El Paso County. ACE 13 will take place May 17-22, 2020.

ACE is the premier economic development, innovation, and entrepreneurial network of the Americas and is one of the leading events of the OAS. The ACE program is the core initiative of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC), for which the OAS serves as Technical Secretariat.

ACE brings together up to 50 senior-level government, business, policy, and economic decision-makers from across the Americas and beyond to experience first-hand the diverse range of projects, strategic investments, public-private partnerships, and best practices from a particular region’s economic, innovation, and entrepreneurship ecosystem. These global top leaders are selected to participate in the week-long program, tour innovation hubs, advanced technology centers, leading firms, and educational and research institutions, explore local, regional, urban, and rural economic development models, share experiences and knowledge, and build networks among the local and visiting stakeholders to enhance economic competitiveness in the Americas.

ACE 13 will showcase Colorado’s unique entrepreneurial and innovation assets. The delegation will tour leading innovation clusters in Jefferson County, Denver County, and El Paso County built around industries such as aerospace, bioscience, energy, outdoor recreation and technology, highlighting incubators and accelerators.

“We’re thrilled to host the 13th ACE delegation in Colorado, where the participants will have the unique opportunity to foster relationships and develop partnerships with Colorado’s leaders in advanced manufacturing, aerospace, energy, and outdoor recreation,” said Libby Szabo, Jefferson County Commissioner. “With over 300 days of sunshine a year, entrepreneurial activity around every corner, and the nation’s number one economy, Colorado is sure to be a premier host for ACE 13.”

“We are proud to host the 13th ACE Tour and provide valuable opportunities for greater partnerships with the Department of Commerce, Office of American States, and global leaders,” said Mark Waller, El Paso County Commissioner. “Colorado consistently ranks as one of the best states in the nation to live and work; we have established a business-friendly ecosystem that promotes innovation, entrepreneurship, and strong public-private partnerships that continue to advocate for a pro-business environment, increased job creation, quality education systems, and the attraction and retention of a well-trained, highly skilled workforce. We are ready and excited for this opportunity to showcase our great state.”

“Our region has a strong culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, and we’re proud to join with neighboring areas to host our colleagues from across the Americas,” said Eric Hiraga, executive director of Denver Economic Development & Opportunity. “We look forward to uncovering synergies that will lead to more collaboration around ways we work together to grow our businesses, nurture the future talent pipeline and infuse our culture and values into all that we do.”

For more information about the ACE program please visit: http://riacevents.org/ace/. For more information on ACE 13, please email info@jeffcoedc.org.

###