



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of Gov. John Hickenlooper

Office of Economic Development
& International Trade

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SBDC Announces 2017 Leading Edge Business Plan Business Plan Competition Winners

Consultant of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Sponsor of the Year Also Recognized

DENVER -(Feb. 17, 2017)- The [Colorado Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\)](#), a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), announced today the winners of the annual Leading Edge Business Plan Competition awards. The SBDC awarded the top business plans from across the state in the start-up, existing and creative business plan categories.

Leading Edge Business Plan Competition Winners:

- **Creative Business Plan of the Year**, sponsored by Colorado Creative Industries: **Jane Stoeck, Artemis Designs**, (Greenwood Village) who designs custom couture pet apparel outfits
- **Startup Business Plan of the Year**, sponsored by Colorado Lending Source: **Jeffrey Nieberding, Nieberding Cryotherapy**, (Boulder) who provides ultra-cold treatment to relieve pain and improve recovery time for athletes
- **Existing Business Plan of the Year** sponsored by ACCION: **Chelsea Becker, Spritz Hair Studio**, (Littleton) a salon suite concept salon providing 34 independent workspaces for beauty professionals

The Colorado Leading Edge program offers strategic planning courses through the SBDC network for start-up and existing businesses throughout the state. The courses offer comprehensive training to small business owners, providing them with a better understanding of the aspects necessary to successfully manage their business. The course consists of 10-12 training workshops and requires each participant to attend one-on-one business consulting sessions, as well as completing a business plan.

In 2016, through the assistance of the SBDC, graduates from the Leading Edge program created and/or retained 14 jobs, started eight businesses, obtained over \$75,000 in loans.

In addition to the graduates and business plan awardees, the Colorado SBDC Network recognized the Consultant of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Sponsor of the Year

- **Consultant of the Year:** Cory Arcarese, Pikes Peak SBDC
- **Volunteer of the Year:** Alex Dempster, CBDF Advisory Board Member
- **Sponsor of the Year:** Wells Fargo, Grand Junction

Sponsors of the Leading Edge awards ceremony held Thursday, Feb. 16 at the Governor's Mansion included the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, Infinite Monkey Theorem, Tivoli Brewing, Red Leg Brewing and Wild Women Wine. Cash awards for the top business plans were provided by Colorado Creative Industries, ACCION and Colorado Lending Source.

For more information about the Leading Edge program or the Colorado SBDC Network, [click here](#) or call 303-892-3816.

About the [Colorado Small Business Development Center \(SBDC\) Network](#)

The Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network is dedicated to helping existing and new businesses grow and prosper in Colorado by providing free and confidential consulting and no-or low-cost training programs. The SBDC strives to be the premier, trusted choice of Colorado businesses for consulting, training and resources. The SBDC Network combines the resources of federal, state and local organizations with those of the educational system and private sector to meet the specialized and complex needs of the small business community.

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