



ANNUAL REPORT

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ERIE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT



WHERE WE ARE NOW

A LETTER FROM EEDC CHAIR, BARRY LUGINBILL

The Erie Economic Development Council is incredibly proud of the work we completed in 2019. Within this year we increased investors, increased board members, and overall offered great networking and educational opportunities to current Erie businesses while at the same time attracting new businesses to the area.

Our continued vision is to create a sustainable and balanced community by attracting primary employers and supporting the Town of Erie businesses with information, resources, and professional networks and we want to thank everyone that has worked with us on this goal.

I know I speak for the entire EEDC board when I state that we want to help your business prosper and we want to make sure that happens for you within the Town of Erie. We have titled the year 2020, **The Year of Growth**. What that means to us is providing businesses with the resources, networking and education they need to reach the next stage of business. I want to take a moment to thank the EEDC board for their selfless dedication to the Erie business community.

Please feel free to reach out to myself or Executive Director Amy Tallent at any time with questions regarding the EEDC. We thank you for your support and look forward to the successful year ahead!

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FINANCES

The EEDC is primarily funded by the Town of Erie. This funding allows us to pay our administrative team, provide education & events for current Erie businesses, and reach businesses outside of Erie to entice them to consider Erie as they grow. Secondary funding comes from our members, investors, partners, and champions. In 2019, the EEDC began a new membership called "New Erie Businesses" for just \$100 for their first year. The EEDC understood that starting a new business can be an expensive adventure but the organization wanted to give these businesses a great foundation at an affordable price. This option allowed businesses to make relationships quickly with other successful businesses and have access to all of the EEDC's helpful resources. This was a successful option and we are excited to continue offering it in 2020.

RELATIONSHIPS

Erie has an abundance of resources for businesses to grow. This past year the EEDC took time to invest in relationships by participating in the Leads Group which was created by Ben Pratt, the Town of Erie's Economic Development Director. This group works together to make sure there are no gaps in services and that everyone is working in a team effort to provide the best service to the Erie business community. This group includes the EEDC, Erie Chamber, Town of Erie Economic Development Team, Small Business Development Center, and Upstate Colorado. The EEDC expresses its appreciation to the Town of Erie for beginning this initiative.

Outside of this work, the EEDC also attended the NAIOP Golf Tournament, sent representatives to the Northern Colorado Manufacturing Trade Show, and continually reaches out to commercial realtors to build relationships with potential new Erie businesses. The EEDC also has supported the efforts of CoSolve, Erie's newest businesses for coworking community, and collaboration by hosting its first event and assisting with communication of the project to Erie businesses and citizens.

BOARD

Having strong, dedicated business owners serving on the EEDC board is vital to the organization's success. In 2019 and into early 2020, the EEDC board increased from five to eleven business-focused directors excited to help Erie businesses thrive. Outside of the many hours the board volunteers, the EEDC contracts with The Tallent Company for all communication and administrative assistance. Amy Tallent continues to serve as the Executive Director to the EEDC.