

# Resource Open House for Eastern Colorado

JUNE 23, 2020 | ONLINE 10:00 - 11:30AM



## OVERVIEW

Eastern Colorado businesses, local governments, and nonprofits represent a unique part of Colorado. The Plains Economy may demonstrate resiliency with less tourism, but may also need different types of support than the rest of the state. Join Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI) with an impressive line-up of our partners working to support our Eastern Colorado communities.

- Sallie Clark, USDA Rural Development
- Cory Finney, Greater Colorado Venture Capital
- Erin Caldwell, NRC/POLCO
- Stanley Lindstadt, StartUp Colorado
- Mike O'Donnell, Colorado Lending Source
- Jaki Polich, USDA Rural Development
- Greg Thomason, OEDIT

## AGENDA

### WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS

Participants and speakers sign on and share their introductions and one thing they are looking to learn more about during the session.

### UNDERSTANDING IMPACTS IN EASTERN COLORADO

A short review of some of the differences that make Eastern Colorado unique and how Covid 19 may impact Eastern Colorado.

### RESOURCES + PARTNER OVERVIEW

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

### REPORT BACK + FUTURE TOPIC SUGGESTIONS

**SPEAKER BIOS**

**Sallie Clark, United States Department of Agriculture in Colorado**

On November 13, 2017, Sallie Clark was appointed by President Donald J. Trump to serve as the State Director for USDA Rural Development in Colorado. Previously, Clark was elected to serve as an El Paso County Commissioner and represented District 3 from November 2004 to January 2018 where she served as Board Chair and Vice Chair. Through her long standing relationships developed with Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) and the National Association of Counties (NACo), she has represented rural America. In 2015, she was elected as President of NACo, and was the first Coloradan to have been elected as NACo president. During this capacity, she also served on NACo's Rural Action Caucus.



**Cory Finney, Greater Colorado Venture Capital**

Cory is a sixth generation Coloradoan. He first started his entrepreneurial journey while in college, as the cofounder and CEO of SnowGate, which he took from napkin to acquisition in three years. He then served as a consultant and interim CFO/COO for multiple startups before joining the Boomtown Boulder accelerator, where he spent three years as the Entrepreneur in Residence. While at Boomtown, Cory led finance and fundraising curriculum for 44 different companies. Cory can often be found criss-crossing Colorado in his truck, often stopping to check out our state's trails along the way.



**Erin Caldwell, National Research Center/Polco**



Erin earned a master's degree in public health with an emphasis in research methods and statistics. She has over 20 years' experience as a senior researcher and project manager and has designed and conducted scores of surveys, needs assessments, policy studies and program evaluations for public and non-profit sector clients.

**Stanley Lindstadt, Start Up Colorado**

Stan attended Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colorado. He then graduated summa cum laude from the University of Texas. Following college, he entered the corporate world, working for three fortune 50 companies in a row. After ten years with Apple Computer, he moved the family back to northeast Colorado. Here, his entrepreneurial spirit took over and he started three separate successful businesses. With first-hand knowledge of the hurdles that challenge the startup entrepreneur, he is excited to bring his own experience in small business and corporate leadership to Startup Colorado.



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**Mike O'Donnell, Colorado Lending Source**

Mike holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Melbourne and an MBA from the Australian Graduate School of Management at the University of New South Wales in Sydney Australia. He began his career in the United States in 1990 as the executive director of the University of Kansas Small Business Development Center before taking the helm of the certified development company located in Lawrence, Kansas, in 1997. In 2000, the opportunity arose to relocate to Colorado and join the nonprofit, mission-based educational lender, Colorado Lending Source, and begin expanding outreach and capital access to new and existing small business owners across the length and breadth of Colorado.



**Greg Thomason, Office of Economic and International Trade**

An advocate for rural economic development, Greg Thomason has established collaborative partnerships across key government, industry and higher education offices in the process of building sustainable economic development opportunities. He currently serves as the rural opportunity representative for Eastern Colorado, with the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. Prior to joining OEDIT, Greg was the executive director at Morgan County Economic Development Corporation where he advocated for workforce housing, new business development and cultural inclusion. A strong proponent of a person's innate ability to nurture creative ideas, Greg embraces the opportunity to encourage and reward Colorado's entrepreneurs.



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