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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Southern Colorado Business Partnership Supports Workforce Grant**

**August 1, 2011 | Colorado Springs, Colorado:** SCBP Executive Director Randy Scott was instrumental in securing a recent grant from the Colorado Workforce Development Center, and has been selected to coordinate the effort as the primary facilitator for the three groups that will partner on the project. The partners include SCBP, the Southern Colorado Higher Education Consortium (CSHEC) and Workforce Centers through the region, represented by the Pikes Peak Workforce Center (PPWFC).

Entitled "Engaging Youth", the proposal addressed issues of work readiness among younger employees, who – while well-trained and educated – seem to struggle with "soft skills" in the workplace. The need and ability to socially transition into a full-time work environment will be the focus of a series of boot camps designed to provide insight into employer expectations, as well as help in understanding and developing collegial relations among co-workers, teams and colleagues.

*"By addressing elusive soft skills among talented high school and college students, we have the opportunity to help create a more productive relationship between young job seekers and their early employers."* said SCBP Executive Director Randy Scott, *"Shared resources and synergies among these three grant partners also promise to yield a good return on the state's investment."*

Beyond initial boot camp training sessions in five markets, the grant will provide funding for recruitment of business mentors, internships, curriculum development, instruction, outreach, monitoring and implementation. Over the two-year grant cycle, a total of 20 boot camps are expected to target a population of up to 720 youth between 17-24, with coursework hosted by Lamar Community College, Otero Community College, Trinidad State Junior College, CSU-Pueblo and UCCS.

The Southern Colorado Business Partnership (SCBP) is a 501(c)(6) non-profit which now brings together over a dozen area organizations - which join 4000+ businesses, representing over 140,000 employees - to work collectively in the pursuit of regional betterment, with a shared voice, mission and focus.

#### **SOUTHERN COLORADO BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**

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Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce  
Eastern Plains Chamber of Commerce  
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Southern Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce  
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Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation  
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