

2017 EDC Bios

Gregory Welch (Chair)

Gregory Welch has over 25 years of experience in the financial industry with a focus on commercial lending. In his current role as the Regional President for Southern Colorado - Greg is responsible for developing and managing the team in Southern Colorado for Northstar Bank of Colorado. Greg received a B.S. in Economics from the University of Colorado in 1988, and completed the Graduate School of Banking Program at the University of Colorado 2007. He has served with the EDC since its inception of 2011 and remains active in civic endeavors throughout the region. Other engagements include: the past Board President of Fountain Ft. Carson School District, Past Chair of the SBDC of Colorado Springs advisory board, Past Chair and current Commissioner for the City of Fountain's Economic Development Commission, Board Chair for the Pikes Peak Community College School of Business Advisory Board, and Board Member for The Pikes Peak Boys and Girls Club. Greg is also a Court Appointed Special Advocate for CASA of the Pikes Peak Region, and volunteers with the Colorado Springs Police Department.

Blair Reeves (Vice-Chair)

Blair Reeves has been a resident of Fountain for ten years. Since 2004, she has served in the advocacy role for small business; which included serving as a Chief Operations Officer for the BBB in Southern Colorado. In 2009-2011, she was a contributing author in the El Paso County Economic Quality of Life Indicators publication, small business section. Blair received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. Currently, she is active as a consultant for the Golden Lotus Foundation and joined the EDC in March 2016.

Wandaleen Thomas

In 2012, Wandaleen Thomas worked on base at Ft. Carson, made Fountain Colorado her hometown, and completed her college studies in Criminal Justice. With 20+ years of experience as a master barber/instructor, she applied her skillsets to open a business that would benefit the community and create a platform for entrepreneurship for her family; opening WT's Military Cuts in December 2012. Wandaleen has served with the EDC since November 2013 and avails the opportunity to expand the vision of entrepreneurship to empowerment; helping to enhance the experience of those living and doing business within the Old Town district of Fountain.

Darlene Cruz

Darlene Cruz is a semi-native of Colorado, Fountain in particular, with working origins with the small hometown grocery store, Mayfield's. From there, Darlene began her banking career with Pioneer Bank of Fountain (now known as First State Bank of Colorado). For a period of six years, a former spouse's military service relocated Darlene to North Dakota, and then Germany, where she continued in the banking profession. Upon her return to Fountain, CO, Darlene was re-hired at First State Bank of Colorado where she has resided for the past 23 years. She has served with the Fountain Valley Chamber of Commerce, and since October 2013, Darlene has served with the EDC. Through her many years as a part of the Fountain community, she has observed many years of growth and change; continuing with a desire to be a contributory part on behalf of the business community.

Dan Osinski

Dan Osinski has been a resident of Colorado since 2002 and recently moved to the Fountain area in 2014. Working in a number of different capacities on the sales side of local, mid-market business, and enterprise level sales, he purchased Laser Sound in 2006 and now employs 4 A/V technicians and DJ's. Dan has served with the EDC since March 2015 and brings a wealth of connections, knowledge, and passion to aid on behalf of business growth

within the city of Fountain. His passion is to promote positive change throughout the Pikes Peak region, remaining actively involved by serving in both volunteer and board level capacities. Dan's civic endeavors include: ambassador for the Colorado Springs Regional Business Alliance, President of Prospectors, MME board member, Tri-Lakes Chamber member/volunteer/sound support, Colorado Springs Wine Festival Committee Entertainment Chair, Southern Colorado Apartment Association ambassador, Rotary, and much more.

Tom Downing

Tom Downing has been a full-time Realtor since 2003 and is proud to be part of the #1 Independent Real Estate firm in Colorado Springs, The Platinum Group, REALTORS! Tom graduated from Wayland Baptist University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He also completed his Master's Degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix. Tom served as a fire fighter in the Air Force for twenty years, and has lived in Europe, Asia and Hawaii for 14 years. In 1997, Tom moved to Colorado Springs with his beautiful wife Lacene of thirty years and their two children. He is community servant as he is active with the Lions Club, member of VFW Post 6461, and has served eight years as the President of the School Board for Fountain Fort Carson School District Eight. Tom is currently a Director on the Fountain Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Economic Development committee. Tom also serves as an elder at Pikes Peak Christian Church. He is very Passionate about the City of Fountain and will continue to look for opportunities to serve this fantastic City.

Audra Ruffennach

Audra Ruffennach moved to Colorado in 1998 and built her home in Fountain a few years later in 2003. She worked for local school districts as a teacher, gifted coordinator and assistant principal before joining her husband in running Heritage Painting. Heritage Painting is their painting company and has been open and operating in Fountain for over 10 years. Through her years as a resident and employer in Fountain she has seen great growth and serves on the EDC to help Fountain grow with a thoughtful business plan.

Pastor Daniels (xOfficio)

Bio to be completed.

Nicole Reinhardt (xOfficio)

Nicole along with her family has called Fountain Valley their home for 17 years. Nicole grew up in the San Luis Valley on the family farm. Graduating from Adams State College as it was know at the time of her graduation with plans to attend nursing school. Nicole was a RN for 20 plus years. She was able to take her passion for others and drive to make "systems" better to numerous positions within the healthcare arena. As CEO of a for profit hospital in Aurora, Nicole was an advocate for streamlining healthcare delivery. In 2014 Nicole and her husband Robert decided that they had the enterpernueal bug in them. Nicole went to real estate school and started a property management company in the Fountain Valley. Robert a Full time Staff Sergeant for the Army National guard helps with the numerous maintenance requests that are submitted when he has time. When Nicole and Robert are not working their full time jobs servicing our country or tending to real estate duties, they spend hours supporting their three sons. Aaron 16, Ryan, 15 and Brody 7. The boys are very involved in baseball, football and hockey. Nicole looks forward to continuing her call to community service through the Fountain Chamber as well as her new appointed position as an exo official member for the Economic Development Committee.