



Media Advisory

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Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation Announces 2013 City-to-City Leadership Exchange Destination

DENVER –The Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation announces that Pittsburgh has been selected as the destination for the 2013 Leadership Exchange program. In October 2013, 150 of the region’s business and civic leaders will convene in Pittsburgh to explore its best practices in cross-sector collaboration, fueling an innovation economy and leveraging strong regional economic development strategies.

“Though many of us still think of Pittsburgh as a steel town, it has undergone an impressive transformation through vision and strong collaborative leadership. Today’s Pittsburgh has proven more resilient than most cities in the recession and is competing nationally with a 21st century innovation economy,” says Tameka Montgomery, executive director of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation.

As with all of the Leadership Exchange programs, the delegation will be challenged to bring the best ideas back to our community for application, adaptation and experimentation. The study themes of the 2013 Leadership Exchange to Pittsburgh will build on last year’s program in Austin, Texas. Action steps for the Austin delegation include collaboration and implementation support for a statewide marketing and branding effort. Strategies will also include increasing the awareness of how the region’s thriving creative scene plays in that brand.

After a major population exodus in the 1980s, Pittsburgh today employs more workers than during the height of the steel boom. The city is attracting families and a young, talented

workforce with a relatively low unemployment rate, a job growth higher than the national average and a stable housing market. In fact, Pittsburgh has been ranked the nation's most livable city by *The Economist* in 2011.

The innovation economy in Pittsburgh is driven, in part, by creative collaborations between higher education and the business community. Pittsburgh is home to more than 35 institutions of higher education including the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon.

Higher education, in partnership with the private sector, is successfully growing the region's tech, health, life sciences and advanced manufacturing industries through collaborative incubators and world-class R&D centers. Strong regional cooperation and public private partnerships have drawn companies such as Google, Apple, Disney and Intel to the region.

Pittsburgh is also considered a U.S. energy center and a potential global competitor, primarily due to the nearby Marcellus Shale natural gas formation. The region currently boasts 240,000 jobs related to oil and natural gas extraction activities.

About the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation

An affiliate organization of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation provides content, context and access to inspire leaders to engage in issues critical to the region's success. The Leadership Foundation encourages community and civic trusteeship through a continuum of leadership programs including Leadership Denver, Access Denver, the Leadership Exchange, Impact Denver, Colorado Experience, Legacy Denver, the Leadership Alumni Network, Colorado in Context and the Colorado Leadership Alliance. For more information, go to www.denverleadership.org.

About the City-to-City Leadership Exchange

*The Leadership Exchange, now in its 24th year, is an annual city-to-city exchange that brings Denver's prominent business and civic leaders together to discuss the innovations and best practices of another city facing relevant business and policy issues while strengthening the collaboration and collective vision in our own community. The composition of the delegation is designed to promote creative and thoughtful dialogue. The delegation will be comprised of leaders diverse in sector, industry, company, gender, ethnicity, as well as leaders with expertise in the themes of study. **Participation in the Leadership Exchange is by invitation only.***