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GOV. HICKENLOOPER DECLARES AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ACCESS AWARENESS DAY AT CCDC AWARDS LUNCHEON

CCDC Raises \$58,000 for Programming

DENVER (Nov. 17, 2016) – The Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC), the premiere organization in Colorado for advocating for disability rights, announced today that it raised \$58,000 at its annual ADA Awards Luncheon held on October 21. Proceeds from this signature event go to support CCDC's programs year-round.

At the event, a proclamation from Gov. John Hickenlooper was presented, naming October 21, 2016, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Access Awards Day in the state of Colorado.

Awardees at the event included Aaron Harber, Jeremy Meyer, Elisabeth Arenales, and Jennine Jeffries, as well as Mile High Connects.

The luncheon also featured Felicia Griffin, the executive director of FRESC, who addressed the crowd of over 200 about advocacy, equity, and leadership. The current chair of the Aurora Human Relations Commission, Griffin is a passionate speaker known statewide for her accomplishments in community organizing in Colorado.

HONOREES:

- Aaron Harber hosts "The Aaron Harber Show™" HarberTV.com, bit.ly/ShowDemo), and "The Aaron Harber Show: Colorado Business News™" – seen on KCDO-TV (K3 Colorado, channel 3), COMCAST Entertainment Television (CET), KPXC-TV (ION Television, ION Media Networks), other cable and satellite channels, and the web. Aaron gained national recognition when he was sued frivolously for \$20 million by Rush Limbaugh, et al, for using the word "Rush" in the title of his national radio talk show. With broad-based support across the entire political spectrum, Aaron won the First Amendment case in Federal Court when Limbaugh was forced to dismiss his own case. Aaron is a champion for the civil rights of people with disabilities.
- Jeremy Meyer is now the assistant director of communications with the Colorado Department of Education. Previously he was a writer on the *Denver Post* editorial board. Jeremy tirelessly shines a light on problems facing people with disabilities and on the need for transparency in our state's public systems.

- Elisabeth Arenales works for the Colorado Center on Law & Policy. She assists in advocacy that results in helping people with disabilities to have quality health care. She was a founder and served for six years as board chair of the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, served as a consumer representative on the Colorado Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Reform, and is currently a member of the Colorado Commission on Affordable Health Care. On each commission or board, she always demands a consumer voice. She has been recognized by a number of organizations including, in 2006, as a community health leader by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In 2014, she received the Iglehart Award for leadership in health policy from The Colorado Health Foundation and the Tip of the Spear Award from the Colorado Medical Society.
- Jennine Jeffries is a volunteer board member of 9 to 5 Colorado. In 2014, she graduated Magna Cum Laude from Metropolitan State University of Denver with a bachelor's of science in Human Services - Nonprofit Studies, and a minor in Women's Studies. She was a valuable contributor to *No Right to Rest: Criminalizing Homelessness in Colorado*, published by Denver Homeless Out Loud in April 2015.
- Mile High Connects, housed at the Denver Foundation, is a broad and innovative public-private partnership that has been a leader in confronting discrimination and including people with disabilities to access to transit planning.

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About CCDC: The Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC) advocates for social justice for people with all types of disabilities. The CCDC is the premiere organization in Colorado for advocating for disability rights. We work with individuals, service providers, and governmental agencies to ensure that people with disabilities have equal rights and equal access. We ensure physical structures are compliant and that policies and procedures decrease barriers. We seek compliance with the ADA and help others to accomplish the same.