

Please contact Michele Briggs at (719) 385-5450 or michele.briggs@coloradosprings.gov with questions.

Submit Date: Mar 21, 2023

Application for City of Colorado Springs Boards & Commissions

Profile

Cecilia

First Name

Harry

Last Name

████████████████████
Email Address

████████████████████
Street Address

State or Zip

Colorado Springs

City

CO

State

80909

Postal Code

████████████████████
Primary Phone

Thomas P. Miller & Associates

Employer

Director of Economic
Development

Job Title

Use the following link to determine if you live inside City limits and to find your City Council District:

<https://coloradosprings.gov/city-clerk/page/city-council-districts>

Are you a resident of the City of Colorado Springs?

Yes No

In what City Council District do you reside? *

District 5

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Urban Renewal Authority: Submitted

Interests & Experiences

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

Dear Mayor Suthers, I am a very strong candidate to fill the vacancy on the Urban Renewal Authority given the scope of the Authority and my experience with various redevelopment projects in Colorado Springs and other communities I have served during my 12-year career in economic development. It was an honor partnering with your team during my time as Chief Economic Development Officer while employed at the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC, and I would be very proud to partner with you and your team again in this new capacity. I am looking for ways to stay involved in the growth plans of the community, and my background would bring great value to the Authority. Responsible use of redevelopment tools like tax increment financing is critical to support growth and redevelopment efforts as we encourage the trust and support of the citizens. I have worked with multiple projects that require tax increment financing, including the recent expansion project for Entegris. I understand the tool and the process, and I also understand your vision for using tools like tax increment financing to enable projects that add to the vibrancy and economic opportunity of our community. I have good working relationships with individuals involved in the process, including Jarah Walker and several current Commissioners of the Urban Renewal Authority. The vacancy should be filled by someone who can get acquainted with the details of the process quickly, and I am a ready well-versed in tax increment financing, requiring minimal onboarding. I appreciate your consideration and wish you the best as you seek the right candidate for this vacancy. Sincerely, Cecilia Harry Certified Economic Developer 2022 Mayor's Young Leaders Awards Finalist

[harry_cec_a_resume_CtyofCOS.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

CECILIA HARRY, CECD



Energetic, engaging, and results-oriented economic development professional with serious commitment to improving Colorado Springs's economic future through strategic leveraging of assets and resources, traditional and innovative economic development and workforce development efforts, and demonstrating leadership through consensus building and service. Nationally recognized as a futuristic leader among peers in both chamber and economic development industries.

EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mar. 2023 – Present

Thomas P. Miller & Associates, Indianapolis, IN (remote)

Provide leadership, team management, business development, and subject-matter expertise for the economic development service line. Serve as senior advisor and project lead on various consulting projects, including Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) and housing strategies for communities and regions across the country.

CHIEF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

2019 – Jan. 2023

Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC, Colorado Springs, CO

Community Profile: MSA population: 764,000; urban, suburban, and rural opportunities and challenges. Led the region's economic development efforts through a relationship-centric, data-driven, collaborative approach to enhancing the competitiveness of the business climate for existing and new companies. Assembled and coordinated internal and external teams for effective program and project execution and exceptional customer service.

- Oversaw lead generation efforts for attraction activity and manage attraction and expansion project activity, with heavy emphasis on prospecting, relationship management, and project management.
 - 26 landed attraction and expansion projects with impact of 4,074 new jobs, \$1.36+ billion in capital investment, including startups and growing international brands.
- Launched the *Hello Colorado Springs* summer intern program with housing and social and professional engagement components to increase likelihood of interns accepting offers for employment. 2022 pilot program engaged 6 companies and 36 interns.
- Directed refresh of the organization's multi-year strategic plan for economic development, engaging 300+ individuals, producing a superior product, and saving the organization \$40K+ in consulting fees.
- Served on numerous boards and committees, including the Pikes Peak Workforce Development Board and the Community Advisory Council to the Dean at the College of Business at University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

PRESIDENT & CEO

2017 – 2019

Envision Greater Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac, WI

Community Profile: County population: 102,000; rural and suburban opportunities and challenges. Managed post-merger efforts to position organization as strategic, collaborative, and fiscally responsible. Masterfully balanced economic development expertise with member relations (650+ members), board and volunteer development, and long-term strategic planning to prepare the community for transformative economic growth and success.

- Prioritized role as face of the organization with commitment to building and repairing relationships and organizational overhaul: 90 stakeholder visits in first 90 days, marketing and communications strategy, governance and resource alignment, operational/financial restructuring, and long-term strategic planning.
- Identified and repaired a structural deficit and returned the organization to financial stability within a year.
- Launched membership restructure that resulted in \$50K+ in new revenue (10% increase) in Year 1.
- 15 landed economic development projects with impact of 350 jobs, \$71.4 million in capital investment.
- Built, managed, and inspired team of 14 staff with transparent leadership and strategic vision in a positive environment that emphasized excellence, inclusion, and bringing out the best in each other.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2013 – 2017

Greater Fremont Development Council, Fremont, NE

Community Profile: County population: 36,000; Omaha CSA; rural and suburban opportunities and challenges. Seamlessly partnered with the Greater Omaha Economic Development Partnership to leverage resources and secure investment in Greater Fremont through attraction projects and support of program of work.

- Coordinated and executed 5-year capital investment campaign to fund multi-year strategic plan that resulted in over \$1 million in support from the private sector, increasing annual budget by 86%.
- Led strong, ambitious targeted attraction and business retention/expansion programming, ensuring all projects received customized attention and service of the highest quality.
 - Successful leadership of largest attraction project ever in the community: Costco Wholesale and Lincoln Premium Poultry's chicken processing facility. 800+ jobs, 100+ farmers, \$400 million capital investment, \$1.2 billion annual economic impact to Eastern Central Nebraska.
 - Provided technical expertise for the expansion of a Fremont-based firm, resulting in \$10.6 million in capital investment, 25 new jobs, and 349 retained jobs.
- Partnered with board leadership to overhaul bylaws and board configuration to increase engagement of private- and public-sector investors.
- Led successful public policy advocacy efforts to ensure the community had the infrastructure and tools necessary to increase community competitiveness for current and future projects.
 - Secured prioritization of the Fremont Southeast Beltway Project by the Nebraska Dept. of Roads.
 - Led successful campaign to renew economic development local option sales tax in 2014.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

2011 – 2013

Leavenworth County Development Corporation, Leavenworth, KS

Community Profile: Population: 77,000; Kansas City MSA; rural, suburban, defense opportunities and challenges. Consistently exceeded expectations for achieving program of work objectives. Led and expanded BRE efforts, small business and entrepreneurial support, workforce development initiatives, and marketing.

- Expanded BRE program outreach by 92% and doubled the count of businesses receiving technical assistance in 2 years. Supported the creation and retention of over 300 jobs with 7 projects related to accessing grants and addressing talent attraction and retention concerns.
- Designed and coordinated internet marketing strategy: 2 websites, social media, blogging, and e-mail marketing to site selectors to ensure communication of a strong, consistent brand.

FAMILY CASE MANAGER

2006 – 2009

State of Indiana, Dept. of Child Services, St. Joseph County, IN

PROJECT MANAGER

2004 – 2006

University of Notre Dame, Dept. of Psychology, Notre Dame, IN

EDUCATION

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK, SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

GPA: 3.96 out of 4.0, Academic Scholarship Recipient

BACHELOR OF ARTS, PSYCHOLOGY

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Cum Laude, Psi Chi Honor Society

AFFILIATIONS

Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, Member **2017 – Present**
Foundation Board Member, 2021 – Present
Vice Chair of the Board, July 2022 – Present
Board Member, 2019 – 2020

International Economic Development Council, Member **2010 – Present**
Certified Economic Developer Designation, 2015 – Present
Board Member, 2013 – 2020
Vice Chair, External and Member Relations Committee, 2015
Chair, Young Professional & Student Engagement Taskforce, 2014

- 10-time conference presenter, facilitator, and moderator with topics including: talent attraction, competitive defense communities, winning contentious projects, and leadership development.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Colorado Springs Leadership Institute
Participant, 2023

City of Colorado Springs: Mayor’s Young Leader Awards
Finalist, Community & Economic Impact, 2022

40 Under 40

- *Chamber of Commerce Professionals*: Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, 2020
- *Economic Development Professionals*: Development Counsellors International, 2017

Featured Case Study: RestoreYourEconomy.org

International Economic Development Council, 2020

- *Accelerating Recovery and Building Resiliency Through Collaboration in Pikes Peak Region of Colorado* | [Link](#)

Featured Professional: Leading in a Time of Crisis Video Series

International Economic Development Council, 2020

- *Convening Partners for Recovery* | [Video](#)
- *Bringing Out the Best in a Team* | [Video](#)

Featured Professional: 52 Weeks of Economic Developers Video Series

International Economic Development Council, 2016 | [Video Profile](#)

Economic Development Leadership & Innovation Award

GIS Planning, Inc. & fDi Intelligence, 2015

Top 50 Economic Developers

Consultant Connect, 2015