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[Old and New Opportunities Hatching](#)

**New Culture Center and Learning and Resource Campus
Take Flight in Established Brighton, CO, Neighborhoods**

BRIGHTON, CO –A new 2,000-employee Adams County campus is underway in Brighton, the county seat of largely undeveloped Adams County, which is the size of the State of Rhode Island. Developing Adams County encircles much of Denver International Airport, DIA, the 10th busiest airport on earth --where only half of 12 approved runways as yet have been constructed.

Adams County was cited recently by Forbes as the #3 place in the U.S. to weather the current economic storm.

City of Brighton leaders speak a great deal about small town values and how they apply to big city initiatives such as those that are underway in Brighton.

Mayor Jan Pawlowski says that one of her goals as a long-time political leader has been to make this the type of city that its young people would like to call home. Her children both left to find their fortunes elsewhere, as did many Brightonians. “Both of my children have moved back and are living in Brighton with their families,” the mayor explains with a smile.

Making this fast-growing city a place people will want to call home is a matter of balance, according to the mayor and other city leaders. They recently started construction of an ambitious culture center complex that includes a new regional library and the renovation of a historic armory building. They also recently cut the ribbon of the 80-percent occupied Brighton Learning and Resource Campus, which a short time ago was an aging regional medical center.

Now, it houses first-class office space, as well as educational and training facilities managed by Front Range Community College and Colorado State University.

City Manager Manuel Esquibel sees well-planned new growth as providing an economic reservoir to benefit all of the neighborhoods of the city, which has an enviable historic downtown and many established neighborhoods. Esquibel also oversees the work of the Brighton Urban Renewal Authority, BURA, which with growing city revenues has been able to help fund a wide range of improvements in existing neighborhoods.

Included also among those initiatives:

- infrastructure and streetscape improvements;
- the development of Brighton Pavilions, a leading daytime and nighttime attraction with movie theaters;
- the addition of senior housing within walking distance of services,
- along with incentives for façade and building improvements.

The city became a leader in new-energy recently when Vestas, the world leader in wind turbine system manufacturing, selected Brighton for its new blade and nacelle (hub) manufacturing operations that will employ 1,350 people.

“Brighton is on the map for corporate relocation executives,” says Brighton Economic Development Corp. President and CEO Ray Gonzales of the importance of the Vestas announcement. Gonzales recently left a position with the administration of New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson to return to his hometown with wife Lisandra, also a native of Brighton. “We were hoping Brighton would develop this way,” he says.

“It’s all about balance,” explains Brighton Mayor Jan Pawlowski who along with city council and staff keeps a close eye on new developments that have recently been concentrated around the bustling I-76 corridor where Brighton connects to the metro Denver beltway. “You have to use the new development to help every neighborhood and somehow find a way to move the whole community forward together,” she explains.

To learn more about Brighton Economic Development Corporation, visit www.brightonedc.org or phone 303.655.2155.

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