

Ranked # 3  
"Best Cities  
for a Housing  
Recovery"  
2009  
Forbes.com

Ranked # 1  
"Best Place to  
Live"  
2009  
Outside.Online

Ranked # 4  
"Fittest City"  
2010  
Gallup

Ranked # 12  
"Best Places For  
Business and  
Careers"  
2010  
Forbes.com

National Winner  
"Cultural  
Diversity"  
2010  
National Black  
Caucus of Local  
Elected Officials

Ranked # 14  
"Cleanest Air"  
2009  
American Lung  
Association

Ranked # 10  
"Best Place to  
be A Woman"  
2009  
Women's Health  
Magazine

Ranked # 3  
"Best City to  
Live in the U.S."  
2008  
MSNBC.com

Ranked # 6  
"UCCS - Best  
Regional Public  
Universities"  
2010  
U.S. News and  
World Report

Ranked # 9  
"Best Place to  
Raise a Family"  
2008  
BestLife  
Magazine

Ranked # 5  
"Best Cities to  
Live, Work and  
Play"  
2008  
Kiplinger's  
Personal  
Finance

Ranked # 10  
"Smartest  
Metro Areas"  
2008  
Bizjournals

Ranked # 6  
"UCCS College  
of Engineering-  
National  
Undergraduate  
Programs"  
2009  
U.S. News and  
World Report

## An open letter to the citizens of Colorado Springs:

April 18, 2010

We are a community to be envied.

In response to opinions expressed in the Wall Street Journal ("Strapped City Cuts and Cuts and Cuts," April 13, 2010), we believe:

We are a city of accountability. We embrace our heritage of fiscal responsibility – including a can-do attitude during these hard times, making do with what we have, and working toward durable solutions. The Colorado Springs region has blazed a trail of innovative, agile responses to fiscal challenges while achieving the mandate for balanced City and County budgets. We are addressing head-on the financial challenges the current recession has presented to not only us but the entire nation. We are a community that recognizes our shared responsibility as citizens to solve problems. In small ways and large, we have come together with our sleeves rolled up to keep our community strong.

We are a city ready for the future. "We are the leading edge of the Lifestyle Belt—and the Gateway to new expansion into the West," says Dr. Tom Duening, El Pomar Chair for Business and Entrepreneurship in the College of Business at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs and newly arrived in town from Arizona. "Colorado Springs is a place for people who want to create their own community and life. People can find their own pathway here. The honesty, transparency, and creativity of the business community of Colorado Springs far exceed that of the larger cities I've lived in for the past 25 years."

Our assets and resources are unmatched in communities our size. The Brookings Institute, a high level national research non-profit, concurs with Dr. Duening's observations in a study – Megapolitan Development in the Intermountain West – which asserts that Colorado's Front Range is uniquely empowered with all the essential ingredients for major economic growth, and calls out Colorado Springs as a leading factor.

We are a city of scholarship. This community's core higher educational resources are not repeated anywhere in America. The US Air Force Academy, Colorado College, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, and Pikes Peak Community College, complemented by a cast of high caliber educational institutions for adult learners, provide a complete suite of educational opportunity for the region's labor force.

We are a city of welcome and innovation. As we write this letter, the 26th National Space Symposium is taking place at the Broadmoor Hotel (a resort certified as five-star for fifty years). The 9,000 participants make this symposium the largest in the space industry. The Symposium, besides being a wonderful economic boost, is a logical pairing of our cultivation of technologically advanced industries and the historically acclaimed hospitality of our region's tourism industry.

We are a city safeguarding the nation. The continued and growing presence of our military installations and commands, defense and national security enterprises has insulated our economy while providing a home for our national heroes, something in which we take great pride. Our almost 2,000 non-profit organizations work to help and serve those in need in our community, across the nation and around the world.

We are a city of encouragement. Colorado Springs is a community of excellence for amateur sports and proud home to the United States Olympic Committee and Training Center. We have been rated the fittest city in America and, as such, set the gold standard for personal health and well-being. Our vibrant and thriving arts community is a legacy from our founders, an integral part of living the America the Beautiful Dream.

We are a city working together. We are working tomorrow's problems today, and doing so with an unprecedented level of regional collaboration. Three examples illustrate this point. Business leaders understand the need to work together, and the need for a strong regional voice for business. The Southern Colorado Business Partnership has been formed to give businesses in three counties a voice at the state level. Twelve organizations from Castle Rock to Pueblo are working shared challenges to the benefit of our region. Operation 60ThirtyFive, our region's economic strategic plan, is bringing out the best in our community in smart, efficient application of resources to achieve our highest and best economic potential. Dream City 2020 is a citizen-led effort to craft a vision for our city's future, and work to turn the Dream to reality.

We are a city to be envied. We are proud that we own our own destiny. And, most importantly, we are working diligently to make Colorado Springs a world class community.

Proudly submitted on behalf of our community partners and the community we serve:

The Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce

The City of Colorado Springs

The Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation

El Paso County

Experience Colorado Springs at Pikes Peak (Convention and Visitors Bureau)

Ranked # 3  
"Top 60 U.S.  
Hotspots for  
Young, Talented  
Workers"  
2009  
Next Cities™

Ranked # 25  
"Mid-Sized  
U.S. City Art  
Destination"  
2009  
American Style

Ranked # 3  
"Most Sports  
Obsessed Town  
in America"  
2008  
Men's Health  
Magazine

Ranked # 9  
"America's  
Best Midsize  
Metropolitan  
Areas"  
2010  
MSNBC

Ranked # 7  
"Best City  
to Raise an  
Outdoor Kid"  
2009  
Boy's Life

Ranked # 9  
"America's Best  
Bang For The  
Buck Cities"  
2009  
Forbes.com

Ranked # 4  
"Cities Ranked  
and Rated"  
2007  
Frommer's  
Travel Guide

Ranked # 8  
"Best City to  
Find a Fresh  
Start"  
2009  
BusinessWeek.  
com

Ranked # 6  
"Most Wired  
City"  
2010  
Forbes.com

Ranked #18  
"Friendliest Bike  
City In America"  
2010  
Bicycling  
Magazine

Ranked # 2  
"Fittest City In  
America"  
2009  
Men's Fitness  
Magazine