



For Immediate Release
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10th Annual Colorado Companies to Watch Gala Award Nominations Now Open
Celebrate a decade of recognizing hundreds of impactful local businesses

Denver, CO – Colorado Companies to Watch (CCTW) is proud to announce that nominations are now open for the 10th annual CCTW Gala Awards. Join us in honoring the accomplishments and contributions of 50 local, 2nd-stage businesses dominating the market from Colorado.

In 10 years, CCTW has honored 450 Colorado-based companies for their innovation and performance. Past recipients include The Grateful Bread Company (2015), Dry Dock Brewing (2014), Boulder Electric Vehicle, Inc. (2013), Coolerado (2010), Justin's Nut Butter (2009), Otterbox (2009).

“Each year, the number and caliber of statewide nominees for the Colorado Companies to Watch Gala Awards increases,” said Rick Ninneman, CCTW Chairman of the Board. “For our 10th Anniversary Gala, we will again seek out and recognize business leaders who develop valuable products and services, create quality jobs, enrich our local communities, and create new industries.”

In 2017 alone, CCTW received 750 excellent nominations from across the state. That pool was whittled down to 100 finalists, and 50 of those were selected as winners.

This year, nominations will be open until January 31, 2018. Companies can bypass the nomination process and apply directly until February 20. The awards will be presented at the Gala Awards Dinner in June 2018.

CCTW offers each winner year-long benefits – not just a single night of celebration. Each winner receives a year’s worth of media attention and exposure, facilitated local celebrations with key members in their communities, as well as exclusive access to a professional leadership retreat. Honorees also join an elite group of alumni who meet and network throughout the year in addition to several other valuable opportunities.

Business owners, associates, employees, or fans can nominate eligible businesses and companies may also apply directly. The award nomination and application forms are available online at ColoradoCompaniestoWatch.org.

To be considered for selection as one of the 2018 Colorado Companies to Watch, the enterprise must meet the following for the year ending 2017:

- Be privately held (not publicly traded and not a subsidiary or division of another company)
- Be a commercial enterprise, not a nonprofit
- Be past the startup stage
- Be facing issues of growth, not survival
- Employ 6 to 99 full-time equivalent W-2 employees, including the owner
- Have between \$750,000 and \$50 million in annual revenue or working capital in place from investors or grants
- Be headquartered in the state of Colorado
- Have not won this award in the past
- Demonstrate the intent and capacity to grow based on evidence such as:
 - Employee or sales growth
 - Exceptional entrepreneurial leadership
 - Sustainable competitive advantage
 - Other notable factors that showcase the company's success

About Colorado Companies to Watch

Colorado Companies to Watch is an awards program honoring 2nd-stage companies headquartered in the state of Colorado. The 450 companies that have been honored since the program's inception demonstrate high performance in the marketplace or exhibit innovative products or processes. The program is designed to seek businesses from a wide range of industries throughout the state, not just the major metropolitan areas. The 50 companies selected each year make an astounding impact on Colorado's economy by collectively providing thousands of jobs and contributing millions of dollars in revenue. The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) launched the program in 2009 in conjunction with the Edward Lowe Foundation and valuable community partners from across Colorado. Visit ColoradoCompaniestoWatch.org, [facebook.com/ColoradoCompaniestoWatch](https://www.facebook.com/ColoradoCompaniestoWatch) and Twitter [@coloradoCTW](https://twitter.com/coloradoCTW).

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