For Immediate Release
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Bank of America Merrill Lynch becomes first Diamond Sponsor to Colorado Companies to Watch

The long-term partnership will strengthen support for the CCTW program, now in its 10th year

Denver, CO – Colorado Companies to Watch (CCTW) and Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BAML) are pleased to announce that they have joined together to expand the reach and resources for the CCTW awards program as it kicks off its 10th anniversary this year.

This partnership was spurred by BAML making the first ever Diamond Level sponsorship contribution to the nonprofit CCTW program, which will hereafter be called, “Colorado Companies to Watch brought to you by Bank of America Merrill Lynch.”

“We’re excited to join as the Diamond sponsor of Colorado Companies to Watch,” said Jodi Rolland, Global Commercial Banking Market Executive for BAML. “The program is a natural fit for us because our missions are very similar – we’re both dedicated to advancing business, improving economic prosperity and helping build thriving communities.”

Since 2009, CCTW has honored and supported 450 Colorado-based, 2nd Stage companies for their performance in the marketplace, innovative products, unique processes and philanthropic actions. This year, the CCTW program will welcome another 50 excellent 2nd Stage businesses into the thriving CCTW community, bringing its total winner pool to 500.

“Because of our shared vision, Colorado Companies to Watch and Bank of America Merrill Lynch are going to make great partners,” said Rick Ninneman, CCTW Chairman of the Board. “For a decade, CCTW has recognized 2nd Stage companies as vital economic drivers, fueling the economic fire for the State of Colorado. Bank of America Merrill Lynch also recognizes the intrinsic value that comes from helping these companies overcome challenges and foster growth.”

He said: “It is also very fitting that Colorado Companies to Watch and Bank of America Merrill Lynch have joined together during CCTW’s 10th anniversary. There is a lot to celebrate this year, and we look forward to growing and expanding this partnership.”
The 2018 Colorado Companies to Watch brought to you by Bank of America Merrill Lynch Gala Awards Dinner will be held June 22. Applications for eligible businesses are due by Feb. 25 at midnight.

“Being able to champion Colorado Companies to Watch is especially rewarding because of their focus on 2nd Stage companies,” said Scott Vanderpool, Market Executive for Bank of America Merrill Lynch. “It’s true that 2nd Stage companies are overlooked, and it’s these companies that are quietly advancing business and our local communities – paving a path for sustainable growth. We’re thankful to Colorado Companies to Watch for recognizing the value of 2nd Stage companies and creating such a strong program to support this important, but often overlooked sector.”


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**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 ColoradoCompaniesWatch.org, facebook.com/ColoradoCompaniesWatch and Twitter @ColoradoCTW.

**About Bank of America Merrill Lynch**

Bank of America is one of the world's leading financial institutions, serving individual consumers, small and middle-market businesses and large corporations with a full range of banking, investing, asset management and other financial and risk management products and services. The company provides unmatched convenience in the United States, serving approximately 47 million consumer and small business relationships with approximately 4,500 retail financial centers, approximately 16,000 ATMs, and award-winning digital banking with approximately 34 million active users, including approximately 24 million mobile users. Bank of America is a global leader in wealth management, corporate and investment banking and trading across a broad range of asset classes, serving corporations, governments, institutions and individuals around the world. Bank of America offers industry-leading support to approximately 3 million small business owners through a suite of innovative, easy-to-use online products and services. The company serves clients through operations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and more than 35 countries. Bank of America Corporation stock (NYSE: BAC) is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

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