



YOUR LINK TO BUSINESS

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**Business Development Initiatives Advance In Third Quarter**

Summertime is usually perceived as a time of vacation and easy living, but the Chamber Board and Staff recognize that members expect a return on their investment throughout the entire year. Significant progress was made from July to September on the organization's business plan to represent business and promote economic growth including:

- Weighing in on federal issues that will hit the pocketbooks of local businesses including advocating for the lifting of a forty-year-old ban on the export of crude oil, opposing the proposed new overtime rules for employees making less than \$50,000 regardless of job duties, urging that Colorado oppose the new ambient ozone levels set for the state by the EPA which ignores previous gains the state has achieved, and applauding the Governor's stated support of the proposed Jordon Cove liquefied natural gas export terminal on the West Coast.
- Standing up for businesses in meetings with the Grand Valley Drainage District over annual and impact fees being imposed on businesses in the Valley. Testimony acknowledged the problem, but pointed the potential harm to businesses and the need for caution and thoughtful deliberation. A resolution was passed without any of the Chamber recommendations on September 9th and other actions are being explored.
- Recruiting 15 middle and high school students for the third year of Young Entrepreneurs Academy, which transforms students into CEOs of their own companies. In

addition, sponsorships and instructors/ volunteers were solicited from the business community.

- Crafting, with other Economic Development Partners, a work plan for a more robust and coordinated effort to attract new business, retain and expand existing businesses, and nurture start up businesses.
- Investing in the development of the local business leadership infrastructure by implementing the 2015-2016 Leadership Class with 19 students from across the valley participating in the ten-month program which began in September.
- Convened numerous networking venues and opportunities for members including Business After Hours (3 events), Networking@Noon (2 events), weekly leads groups (3 groups), Put GJ on the Map Google seminar (1 event), and the annual golf tournament.

Members will be encouraged to complete the annual membership survey by early October to enable the Board to determine the effectiveness of these efforts in meeting their needs and set the stage for the 2016 business plan.



2015/2016 Mesa County Leadership Class

Follow the Grand Junction Chamber on and on [gjchamber.org](http://gjchamber.org)

## Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

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- Chairman of the Board

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## Chairman's Column



### Membership Has Its Privileges

When can a banker say, "And, it's not going to cost you any more than you are paying now"? Not often enough in my book but this is one time I get to say to you, the members of the Grand Junction Area Chamber. At the September Board meeting, we took up the annual task of adjusting membership investment levels to "at least the level of inflation," a policy we have had in place for twenty plus years. Based on the feedback of staff as to the current inflation rate and knowledge that the economy is fragile, locally, the Board made the decision to maintain the current investment levels for all classifications in 2016. That means that your investment in the Chamber will be unchanged next year.

There are other things that won't change in 2016 including:

- Our commitment to provide tangible return on member investments
- Our dedication to improving the local economy
- Our voicing of business concerns and support for actions by government
- Our offering of high quality networking and education for members
- Our recognition that all of us are here to serve the real owners of the Chamber, our members

The old adage that there is strength in numbers applies to a membership organization such as ours as well. You can help us increase our members and our programming in a very special way in October as we make our final push to add as many members as possible to our ranks before year end and the publishing of our annual business directory. Simply give us a lead and if that business joins in October, you are

eligible to receive a \$50 gift card to one of our member restaurants once we receive at least one half of their annual investment. It's a win/win/win for all of us, so please consider being part of this effort.

*Jeff Franklin, Chairman*

## New Board Members Elected

At the September Board meeting, your directors ratified the following slate of candidates for service on the Board of Directors beginning in January of 2016.

They are:

**Tyler Bittner** • WPX Energy

**Stuart Hall** • Olsson Associates

**Donna Hardy** • Dalby, Wendland & Co.

**Heather Lambeth** • New Image Realty

**Darin Mack** • The Trophy Case

Please welcome them to the board and thank them for their willingness to serve the Chamber for the next four years.

## Air Service Expansion Effort Keeps Flying

In spite of the disappointing news that the community did not receive an air service grant from the U.S.



Department of Transportation, efforts are continuing to secure daily direct service from Grand Junction Regional Airport to a west coast hub, most likely LAX. A community task force pulled together by the Chamber and the Grand Junction Economic Partnership will stay in place and work on making a business case for this expansion in service. They will also look at alternatives to the proposed revenue guarantee and outside sources of matching funds.

Anyone interested in helping with this project is welcome to join the task force. Contact Diane ([diane@gjchamber.org](mailto:diane@gjchamber.org) or 970-263-2915) for more information or to be added to the meeting notice list.



## Who Sets Policy Affecting Your Future Workforce?

Two of the five seats on the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Board are up for election this fall with six individuals vying for them. See the Chamber's Voter's Guide for more information about these individuals, but also make plans to attend the **Chamber's Candidate Forum on Thursday, October 8th, 4:00 PM in the Chamber's Lower Level Conference Room.** The School Board sets the direction of K-12 education for the entire area and that direction will have an impact on your ability to find qualified labor for your businesses in the future.

The forum will offer you an opportunity to meet the candidates, find out where they stand on education issues related to business and ask your own questions of the candidates.

RSVPs are not necessary but would be appreciated for planning purposes and can be made by contacting Sherri Davis at [sherri@gjchamber.org](mailto:sherri@gjchamber.org) or 970-263-2917.

## Gain New Customers at Showcase

Why should your business participate in the Chamber's Business Showcase sponsored by Alpine Bank this year on **October 27th, 4:00 to 7:30 PM at Two Rivers Convention Center?** Here are the top five reasons:

- It is open to your fellow Chamber members, business associates AND the public so you can key in on two audiences
- It is only three and a half hours, so manpower requirements are minimal in light of the potential to reach 1,000 people
- Timing is everything and like it or not this event takes place at the start of the largest buying season of the year when money is spent more often and in greater quantities
- You can pull out all the stops (and the spandex) by utilizing the Chamber's Superheroes theme in your booth décor and elements
- Business After Hours is combined with the Showcase to encourage attendance

There are many other reasons as well so don't delay as one half of the exhibitor space is already filled. Contact Candace ([Candace@gjchamber.org](mailto:Candace@gjchamber.org) or 970.263.2919) for details and registration.

## Congratulations To Expanding Businesses!

At the third quarter membership luncheon the following businesses were recognized for adding jobs and capital investment to make our local economy stronger:

Company	Contact	Employees Added	Capital Investment
Antonelli's Advanced Automotive	Daniel Antonelli	2	\$315,000
Cherry Creek Mortgage	Kelly Romatzke	4	
ColorAuto Carwash and Detail Shop	Paul Heckman		\$3,000
Grand Valley BMX	Kristi Adams		\$600,000
Legacy Photography	Casey & Robert Dittmer	5	\$20,000
Prostar Geocorp.	Page Tucker	8	
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>\$938,000</b>



If you are a business that has expanded recently and that has not been recognized by the Chamber in the past twelve months, please contact us at 970-242-3214 or complete the business expansion form that can be found online at [www.gjchamber.org](http://www.gjchamber.org) to insure you are recognized for economy building at our December luncheon.

## Quarterly Membership Luncheon "2016 By The Numbers"

Rich Wobbekind, Dean of the Leeds Business School, University of Colorado will present his very popular annual Economic Outlook during our last quarterly luncheon of the year.



Wobbekind will be providing an economic outlook for the nation, the state and Mesa County for the sixth year in a row at this event. This will mark the 51st anniversary of the Colorado Economic Outlook that he authors so you won't want to miss it.

Expanding businesses will be recognized as well. If you are a company that has added jobs or made a capital expenditure, please complete and return the business expansion form found on the Chamber website [www.gjchamber.org](http://www.gjchamber.org)

**December 14, 2015  
12:00 Noon  
Mesa County Workforce  
Center**

**Advance Registration:  
\$18/GJACC Members**

### Register:

Online: [www.gjchamber.org](http://www.gjchamber.org)  
PH: 970.242.3214  
e-Mail: [info@gjchamber.org](mailto:info@gjchamber.org)

### Event Sponsors:



## Strength in Numbers Puts Bucks in Your Pocket

The Chamber is always working to increase membership for a variety of reasons including the fact that more members in our organization offers current members more opportunities to network and build their business.

In October, the Chamber is offering an additional, tangible benefit to existing members that help strengthen the Chamber. Anyone who refers a business that becomes a member and makes at least a semi-annual investment payment will receive a \$50 gift card to the Chamber member restaurant of their choice.

This is also an excellent time for non-member businesses to join the Chamber as there will be a robust media package available only during this month that will augment the many benefits already available to Chamber members.

To provide a lead or learn more about how you can help, contact Trisha ([trisha@gjchamber.org](mailto:trisha@gjchamber.org) or 970-263-2912).

## Verify PLEASE!

Each fall, the Chamber conducts a major effort to update the information of its members. This is the information that is printed in our online and hard copy directories **so customers can find you.** Early this month many of you will receive an e-mail directing you to your listing on our website. Once there, we ask you to either approve the information we have on file or make any necessary changes and submit them to the Chamber.

Those of you without e-mail addresses will receive the information in hard copy and can submit changes via fax or standard mail.

Your timely response to our request for this information will be appreciated. If you need assistance updating your information, please contact Shari Brokenicky at [shari@gjchamber.org](mailto:shari@gjchamber.org) or 970-263-2914.

## 2016 YEA! Students Selected

The 2016 Young Entrepreneurs Academy participants have been chosen. These students start their transformation from students to CEOs of their own companies on October 13th with the first class. This program would not be possible without the support of sponsors: Alpine Bank, Bank of Colorado, CAPCO, City of Grand Junction, Community Banks of Colorado, Home Loan Insurance, Mesa County Business Education Foundation, Mesa County Valley School District 51, Mesa County Workforce Center, OBJ Group, StarTek, US Bank and Western Colorado Community College.

Volunteers are also key to its success and we want to acknowledge in particular our instructors, Skip Hudson, Heather Lambeth and Christian Herrera. If you would like to volunteer, contact Terri at the Chamber ([terri@gjchamber.org](mailto:terri@gjchamber.org) or 970-263-2916).

Students selected are:

**Nathaniel Doty** - Central HS  
**Robert Doxtader** - Central HS  
**Kaitlyn Fairbanks** - East MS  
**Simon Feddersen** - Redlands MS  
**Allexus Halladay** - Bookcliff MS  
**Brayden Kelley** - Redlands MS  
**Atiera Kennick** - Central HS  
**Zach Neil** - Redlands MS  
**Ashleigh Orton** - East MS  
**Natasha Sanchez** - East MS  
**Annika Sisac** - Redlands MS  
**Trenton Stone** - Fruita Monument HS  
**Jose Tarin** - Central HS  
**Joe Williams** - Redlands MS  
**Malachi Yeager** - Central HS



# Mark Your Calendar ~ Details & Registration online at [gjchamber.org](http://gjchamber.org)

**OCT 7 | 7:00 AM**  
**YPN Before Hours**  
**My Favorite Muffin**  
 RSVP via YPNMC.org

**OCT 8 | 4:00 PM**  
**School Board**  
**Candidate Forum**  
**GJACC Lower Level**  
**Conference Room**  
 Advance Registration Requested. No cost to attend.

**OCT 14 | 12:00 Noon**  
**Energy Briefing**  
**Mesa County**  
**Workforce Business**  
**Center**  
 Advance Registration: \$15 for GJACC members.

**OCT 20 | 5:00 PM**  
**YPN After Hours**  
**Cruisers**  
 RSVP via YPNMC.org

**OCT 21 | 12:00 Noon**  
**Networking @ Noon**  
**HoneyBaked Ham**  
 Advance Registration Required: \$18 for GJACC members.

**OCT 21 | 2 - 4 PM**  
**Mesa County Libraries**  
**Business Connect**  
**GJACC Conference**  
**Room**  
 Advance Registration Requested. No cost for GJACC members.

**OCT 27 | 4 - 7:30 PM**  
**Business Showcase**  
**Two Rivers**  
**Convention Center**  
*Sponsored by: Alpine Bank*  
 Booth Spaces Starting at \$385 for GJACC Members

**NOV 4 | 7:00 AM**  
**YPN Before Hours**  
**Enstrom's**  
 RSVP via YPNMC.org

**NOV 11 | 12:00 Noon**  
**Energy Briefing**  
**Mesa County**  
**Workforce Center**  
 Advance Registration: \$15 for GJACC members.

**NOV 17 | 5:30 PM**  
**Business After Hours**  
**Bellco Credit Union**  
 Advance Registration: \$10 for GJACC members.

**NOV 18 | 12:00 Noon**  
**Networking @ Noon**  
**Rockslide**  
 Advance Registration Required: \$18 for GJACC members.

**NOV 18 | 2 - 4 PM**  
**Mesa County Libraries**  
**Business Connect**  
**GJACC Conference**  
**Room**  
 Advance Registration Requested. No cost for GJACC members

**DEC 9 | 7:00 AM**  
**YPN Before Hours**  
**Laughing Dog Coffee**  
**House**  
 RSVP via YPNMC.org

**DEC 14 | 12:00 Noon**  
**Quarterly Membership**  
**Luncheon: 2016 By**  
**The Numbers**  
**Mesa County**  
**Workforce Center**  
 Advance Registration Required: \$18 for GJACC members.

**DEC 16 | 12:00 Noon**  
**Networking@Noon**  
**Famous Dave's**  
 Advance Registration Required: \$18 for GJACC members.

**DEC 16 | 2 - 4 PM**  
**Mesa County Libraries**  
**Business Connect**  
**GJACC Conference**  
**Room**  
 Advance Registration Requested. No cost for GJACC members

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**JAN 29, 2016**  
**Chamber Annual**  
**Banquet**  
 Two Rivers Convention Center  
 Mark your calendar now to be sure you don't miss this fun-filled evening.

## GJACC Events Registration Form: October, November & December 2015

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> YPN Before Hours - 10/7   | <input type="checkbox"/> YPN Before Hours - 11/4      | <input type="checkbox"/> Networking@Noon - 12/16  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate Forum - 10/8    | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Briefing - 11/11      | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Connect - 12/16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Briefing - 10/14   | <input type="checkbox"/> Business After Hours - 11/17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Banquet - 1/29    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YPN After Hours - 10/20   | <input type="checkbox"/> Networking at Noon - 11/18   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Networking@Noon - 10/21   | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Connect - 11/18     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Connect - 10/21  | <input type="checkbox"/> YPN Before Hours - 12/9      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Showcase - 10/27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly Luncheon - 12/14   |   |

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending (Names): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:  Bill my Chamber Account  Check Enclosed

Charge my MC/VISA/Discover/AMEX # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*All events require pre-registration and pre-payment. Registration fees are non-refundable two business days prior to the event. If special assistance is needed, you must notify the Chamber four days prior to the event. Photos will be taken at Chamber events and used for marketing purposes.\***

## "Cool Tech" Explored at October Energy Briefing



Anyone familiar with the energy sector knows that this is one industry where innovation abounds and new processes are developed regularly. The next Energy Briefing will offer highlights into some of the locally developed technology that is being utilized. Join us for "Cool Tech; The Sky's the Limit" as we talk about drones, underground mapping and more.

**October 14, 2015**

**12:00 Noon**

**Mesa County Workforce  
Center**

**Cost: \$15/GJACC Members**

### Register:

Online: [www.gjchamber.org](http://www.gjchamber.org)

PH: 970.242.3214

e-Mail: [info@gjchamber.org](mailto:info@gjchamber.org)

And, reservations are now open for the November 11th Energy Briefing which will focus on how gas gets from here to there...a panel of midstream companies discuss their various systems for natural gas transportation and storage.

### Event Sponsor:



## Annual Banquet Planning Begins

Yes, we know the leaves are just beginning to turn and we have an entire holiday season to enjoy, but planning is already underway for the **2016 Chamber Annual Banquet slated for January 29th!** We invite our members to get involved in several ways:

- Join the Auction Committee and help us make the Chamber's Auction (which benefits the YEA! program and Mesa County Leadership) truly unique and successful.
- Begin thinking about who would be deserving of our Citizen and Business Awards. You don't have to wait until December to nominate someone. Contact the office and we will get you the simple one page form.
- As you complete your business marketing plan for the next six months, consider sponsoring a portion of the evening or donating an item for the auction.

To get involved, contact Diane ([diane@gjchamber.org](mailto:diane@gjchamber.org), 970-263-2915) or Candace ([Candace@gjchamber.org](mailto:Candace@gjchamber.org), 970-263-2919).



## Upcoming YPN Events



### YPN Before Hours

**October 7**

**7:00 AM**

**Location: My Favorite Muffin**

### YPN After Hours

**October 20 | 5:00 PM**

**Location: Cruisers**

### YPN Before Hours

**November 4 | 7:00 AM**

**Location: Enstrom Candies**

### YPN Before Hours

**December 9 | 7:00 AM**

**Location: Laughing Dog Coffee House**

For additional events or to find out more about the Young Professionals Network, visit the YPN website at [www.ypnmc.org](http://www.ypnmc.org) or their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ypnmc](http://www.facebook.com/ypnmc).

## Sherri Davis-Hafer Joins Chamber Staff

Sherri Davis-Hafer has joined the Chamber staff as a full-time employee.

Members may have already met Sherri when she was a temporary member of the staff last spring assisting with administrative duties. In her new capacity, she will be assuming much of the governmental and legislative workload previously done by Betsy Bair, along with continuing her administrative support of internal operations.

She is a veteran and has paralegal training, along with previous management level work experience in the Valley. Members are encouraged to contact her for assistance, along with our other staff members at the Chamber.





Grand Junction Area  
**CHAMBER**  
OF COMMERCE

## MESA COUNTY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT 51 BOARD

# VOTER GUIDE 2015

*This guide is designed to provide voters with a brief introduction to the candidates for the 2015 Mesa County Valley School District 51, School Board election. The County Coordinated Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 and will be conducted by mail ballot.*

*Each candidate responded to following questions. Candidate responses are listed in this Voter Guide.*

1. What role does business have in K-12 education?
2. Are you in favor of the current school year calendar?
3. Are you supportive of the performance based learning (PBL) system and D51's implementation of the model?
4. How well are D51 high school students prepared for the workforce upon graduation? What should the district be doing differently?
5. Why do you think the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce should endorse you over your opponents?

### DISTRICT B



#### **CINDY ENOS-MARTINEZ**

1. I would like to see business people assist in helping to educate our students serving in the capacity of a mentor/tutor. The idea of having various types of businesses going into the classroom and/or holding workshops will be very beneficial. Businesses should be at the table with District 51 discussing how to best prepare students entering the workforce.

**My motto: It takes a village to raise a child and a community to educate one.**

2. No, not at this time. I do not believe there was enough participation in the survey and I need to see the data showing how this calendar improves student achievement.
3. I am very supportive of implementing various forms of learning, that being said, I have questions on performance based learning. The models that District 51 has looked at have a much smaller student population than the current 22,000+ in Mesa County

and I am not sure this type of learning will work for D51. I question if the District has sufficient amount of staff to deal effectively with high performers, the average students and the high risk students. I also question how will the district ensure that the high performing students progressing through the curriculum are emotionally prepared to move forward.

4. The District has worked on preparing students for the workforce, but much more preparation is needed. The District needs to offer more technical trade programs to students. The programs at the Career Center need to be offered to all students. This can be accomplished by a round-table discussion with business leaders in the community.

5. This is what I bring to the table as a native and seasoned member of this great community; Vested interest in **all** students, Experience, Trust, Approachable, Good Listener and basic Common Sense



#### **GEORGE RAU**

1. Business and the Chamber should take a stronger role in setting higher expectations for our school district. As many of us know from experience and our district's mediocre test scores show, most of our children are not graduating as educated as they should be, or often without the character traits needed to be successful.

Additionally, D-51 should focus more on those students who are not academically inclined, but want good careers that don't require a college degree. We should develop for these students a good apprenticeship program which would need the support of our local businesses. This has been critical for the economic success of many European countries.

2. Yes, I support our current calendar with a shorter summer break and multiple short breaks during the school year.

3. I support Performance Based Learning, but it's too soon to evaluate whether it's being implemented well. It will take 3 – 5 years to really get it spread through our schools and to make it work locally.

4. Our students are not prepared for our work force and this limits the economic vitality of our community and our ability to attract new businesses to Grand Junction. Executives considering a move to Grand Junction compare our education system with that of other prospective locations both for their own children and that of future employees. With approximately 35% of students needing remedial classes in order to attend CMU, and a large percentage not being proficient in math and English, our schools need to set much higher standards.

5. I'm the only board candidate from District B who has been a teacher, coach and principal, although in the private school world. In private education, your school closes if the students aren't given a great education since parents are paying tuition for their children to attend. I also have built a successful financial planning firm managing \$25 Million in client assets since I moved to Grand Junction, 14 years ago. I have been a member of the Chamber, and understand the frustration of many of its members with the mediocrity of our local school program. Additionally, being Swiss by birth, I know the European school system which is recognized as superior to our American system.



### **PAUL PITTON**

1. To provide resources and support to District 51 students that connect them with the real world that awaits them. I have had many business related guest speakers from around the valley speak to my math classes about their profession and its

relationship to the content we are teaching in the classroom. Internships and Job Shadows are a very powerful tool for school-to-career opportunities.

2. The current school year calendar is controversial around the community and has mixed responses from community members. I would like to see data that reflects on: interference with family vacation, student summer jobs, improved growth scores and retention of content material. Then I could make a definitive statement on whether I support it or not. At this time there is not enough valid data to support it one way or another.

3. Yes, as a retired Math, PE and Media Productions instructor I find that we (teachers) adapt to changes in our world and society as needed in the education field. The government has had a major influence on what we are now teaching our kids. The application of real world problems that require critical thinking and problem solving skills, technology. Integration of content areas is common in the work force and is now present in education. Performance based education has been around in one form or another for many years. It allows us to account for student growth and teacher performance.

4. I think that District 51 is doing a great job keeping up with the demands and requirements that they are being challenged with. I feel it would be better to distinguish between kids that are college ready at the end of high school and the ones that are planning on going into the workforce or military right out of high school. We used to have a "School to Career" program to channel kids into job shadows and internships. This program was cut during the first years of the recession. I would like to see it come back to our schools.

5. I have four sons and their wives who are currently in the workforce and doing great! I am thankful for the connection that the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce has with their respective places of employment. The support you provided to them while they were in school and now in the workforce is not getting the recognition and support that it deserves. With your support, I hope to change that and work with you to bring the connection of the Chamber and the school district back together again.



## DISTRICT A



### **ARVAN "JEFF" LEANY**

1. Business should be offering internships working with the school district by bringing in students for a quarter to semester, letting the student and business see if this what the fit is for the student as we did early on in our country, hands on.
2. Yes, we are in the business of educating our young people, the old calendar was set up for agriculture, which few of our young people engage in. The poor kids can suffer up to two years of grade loss due to the old calendar due to memory slide over a long summer, see Chalkbeat article dated August 7, 2015 "The not so secret ELL summer slide that no one has quantified".
3. It is the best system out there that we have found, it puts the student in charge of their own education and will reduce social promotion, as well as, truly educate all of our students, it is truly a huge winner to set us up as the best school district in the state.
4. We can do better and that is the reason that PBL is the key to better equipping our students to be in a position to go out make something of themselves when they leave SD51. Education at the HS level will give students a multitude of options; a vocation, going to college or pursuing a harder professional college, of which students will have a concise direction as they go through school with the PBL model.
5. All of the changes in PBL and performance based pay as well as building a new high school and opportunity center, working to get the federal and state governments out of assessments being a local control board have been advanced in the last 4 years of my tenure, I would hope that the Chamber would see the value of having me on the board and wish to keep me there as the only business leader on the board. We are walking the walk in our district, not just talking!



### **KELLY REED**

1. Businesses, along with schools, government and the community, have a key role to play in helping students overcome skills gaps. Traditionally businesses have produced text books, videos, etc. but had little direct role in the process.

In a rapidly changing world, education and business must find ways to collaborate to improve student outcomes through training programs that equip students with skills relevant to industry. Businesses have an unique ability to overcome workforce constraints in ways that bring economic benefits back to their companies and the workforce in general.

Business must become partners with education, not telling education how, but supporting with resources, expertise and innovation. Business can help education to find new ways to educate, motivate and incorporate the potential of today's youth into a vibrant future economy.

Education and business must find ways to be on the same side in creating and maintaining a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce that will continue to generate a solid economic base for the future.

2. No, I am not in favor of the current school year calendar. It creates more hardships and obstacles than it provides benefits.
  - It cuts short the summer break hindering family vacations / time.
  - Limits opportunities for teachers and administrators to further their education as the summer break does not coincide with university schedules.
  - Begins the school year during the hottest time of the year costing the district extra to keep the buildings cool.
  - Costs local businesses, that are dependent on summer revenues, to lose revenue (ie: Lincoln Park pool)
  - Fall break and Spring break forces parents to find daycare for their students.
  - Intercession activities have been poorly attended and cost the district additional funds for little gain.

3. I support the philosophy of Performance Based Learning, but am deeply concerned about implementing, funding and maintaining a system with fidelity across the broad spectrum of District 51. A great many elements need to be addressed before a program of this type is instituted.

Feedback needs to come from teachers, administrators, support staff, parents and the community before it is initiated. Few teachers or administrators have been asked for their feedback.

4. I believe a majority of D51 high school students are prepared for post-secondary opportunities to further

their education which, in turn, will further prepare them for the workforce.

So many jobs now demand college, trade-school or military training to qualify an individual for the workforce. Few high school graduates are prepared when they complete their Senior year.

Students need to be better prepared and informed about the demands of the job market and steps are necessary to accomplish the goals they wish to attain.

Simply put, most D51 students are partially prepared and in today's world that is not enough.

5. My experience, 28 years in public education, a business and military background and service in various public arenas gives me a unique and broad perspective of what today's students need and should have afforded them.

Being in the workplace I see first-hand what is working and what is not. I have a pulse on teachers, support staff, administrators and parents and their concerns and needs.

I have served as a teacher, coach, athletic director, principal (at elementary, middle school and high school), director of an on-line school, assistant superintendent and twice as a superintendent of schools.

I have been active in state organizations, having served as President of the Colorado Association of Secondary School Principals for the past two years, a member of the Colorado Association of School Executives Coordinating Council for the past four years, a member of the Routt County Economic Development Council, the City of Alamosa Planning Board and Zoning Board. I have also served as Vice-President of Membership for the Western Colorado Council of Boys Scouts of America.

I also bring experience as a former business owner and military veteran of seven years.



## **DOUG LEVINSON**

1. The role businesses should play in K-12 education should be one of support. Obviously their financial patronage through property taxes and direct donations is essential and greatly appreciated. However, I would like to foster more opportunities for

the business community to get involved. Some ideas might be business guest speakers, career exploration presentations, and internships. I believe there is a lot of untapped value in this type of local business-mentorship program.

2. No! I have talked to many people in our community – parents, teachers, students, business leaders, and many more, and I have yet to find anyone who does support the current calendar. My understanding is it was implemented to reduce the amount of catch-up learning time students need at the beginning of the school year by shortening the period of time students are away from school. The second reason was to create intersession blocks (one week in October & April) to help students who are lagging behind academically. I am not convinced it has done either.

3. I support the concept of PBL, which is being piloted at selected schools this year. In subsequent years, all schools will be on board. During the 23 years I served as a principal in D51, leadership has rolled out countless numbers of programs, all with good intentions. Experience has taught me, however, that unless we support our teachers, the implementers, the plans fail and we move to something else with the same results. The key for success is to support, value, and listen to our teachers and parents, the ones who have the most influence upon our students.

4. Direct feedback and involvement from local businesses could help us determine if our graduating students are prepared for the workforce. This would be a win-win-win situation. First, our schools would benefit from the ongoing business review process by understanding what they can do better to prepare students for their future careers. Secondly, as our career preparation improves, our students will be better equipped to enter and be successful in the workplace. Finally, our local businesses will enjoy a more qualified and competitive workforce.

5. In one word, experience. I have been involved in the educational system for over fifty years—as a student, teacher, administrator, and parent. All business people understand the value of bottom-up experience and that is what I want to bring to the D51 School Board. Many business people continue to answer the call to mentor young entrepreneurs after they retire. In much the same way, I want to give back, stay involved, and work to improve our local educational system.

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An electronic version of this GJACC Voting Guide can be viewed by visiting [www.gjchamber.org](http://www.gjchamber.org).



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Grand Junction, CO 81504  
John Cannedy  
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Fruita, CO 81521  
Dr. Larry Tice  
(970) 858-2580  
*Physicians & Surgeons*

### Colorado E Bikes

561 25 Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81505  
Diane Manuppella  
(970) 242-3126  
[www.coloradoebikes.com](http://www.coloradoebikes.com)  
*Recreational Vehicle: Sales/Parts/Service*

### Discovery Kids Learning Center II

715 N 7th Street  
Grand Junction, CO 81501  
Kirk Huddleston  
(970) 245-0797  
[www.grandjunctionkids.com](http://www.grandjunctionkids.com)  
*Child Care*

### Heartland Payments

Johanna Dunn  
(970) 261-2858  
*Financial Advisors or Services*

### Heiser Restorations

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Grand Junction, CO 81505  
Maggie Heiser  
(970) 817-8665  
[www.heiserrestorations.com](http://www.heiserrestorations.com)  
*Restoration: Antiques & Vintage*

### Natural Order Supply, LLC

2493 W Hwy 6 & 50  
Units 5 & 6  
Grand Junction, CO 81505  
Kate H. Ramsay  
(970) 242-3648  
[www.NaturalOrderSupply.com](http://www.NaturalOrderSupply.com)  
*Garden Centers & Nurseries*

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**Tuesday, October 27, 2015**

**4:00 - 7:30 PM**

**Two Rivers Convention Center**



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- Rocky Mountain Health Plans
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- Gateway Canyons Resort
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- Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park
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- Gold's Gym
- Gypsum Creek Golf Course
- High Noon Solar
- Hotel Denver - Glenwood Springs
- Iron Bridge Golf Club
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- Lodge Casino
- Moab Golf Course
- Nick N Willy's Pizza
- Outback Steakhouse
- Peachtree True Value Hardware
- Powderhorn Mountain Resort
- Red Cliffs Lodge
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# Annual Publication Of Postal Service Statement of Ownership

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b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	69	69
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# Business Barometer

## August 2015

A gauge of Grand Junction's economic indicators published by the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce.

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970.242.3214

Sales Tax Revenue Collections			
August	2015	2014	% Change
City of Grand Junction	\$3,654,206	\$3,214,820	3.4%
Total YTD	\$28,111,971	\$27,449,787	2.4%

Building Permits				
August	2015	Total Value	2014	Total Value
New Single Family Residence	27	\$7,634,434	34	\$8,814,630
New Commercial	0	\$0	4	\$2,581,973
Other	152	\$8,557,891	145	\$8,976,651
Totals	179	\$16,192,325	183	\$20,373,254
YTD Totals	1,320	\$153,029,087	1,409	\$119,938,435

MLS Statistics - Quarterly		
2nd Quarter	2015	2014
Total Sold	1046	908
Dollar Volume	\$218,670,184	\$199,012,925
Total Sold YTD	1712	1478
Dollar Volume YTD	\$352,098,080	\$309,355,845

Source: Grand Junction Area Realtor Association

Hotel/Motel Occupancy		
August	2015	2014
Occupancy Rate	73.2%	74.2%
Average Daily Room Rate	\$85.56	\$81.39

Mesa County Foreclosures		
Year	Number Filed	Number Gone to Sale
2012	1,272	847
2013	781	564
2014	539	403

Source: Mesa County Public Trustee

G J Regional Airport		
August	2015	2014
Enplaned Passengers	20,428	18,643
Deplaned Airfreight	588,919	662,344
Enplaned YTD Passengers	144,236	146,587
Deplaned YTD Airfreight	4,599,476	5,050,883

Labor Market Statistics		
August	2015	2014
Civilian Labor Force	73,025	76,276
Total Employment	69,105	72,084
Total Unemployment	3,920	4,192
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	7.8%

## 2015 Chairman's Circle Members

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ANB Bank

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Plans

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- Professional Connections and Networking Opportunities Build Business
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