



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 22, 2019

Contact:

Lauren Kloock

lauren@coloradolendingsource.org, 303.657.0010

**Council of Development Finance Agencies Recognizes Executive Director,  
Mike O'Donnell, with Lifetime Achievement Award**

Tampa, FL—On Thursday, November 7th, the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) recognized Colorado Lending Source Executive Director, Mike O'Donnell, as the recipient of the 2019 CDFA Lifetime Achievement Award. This announcement took place at the CDFA National Development Finance Summit during their annual awards luncheon.

The CDFA Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honor bestowed by CDFA each year and is given to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the development finance industry throughout their professional career. In order to be eligible, candidates must have made innovative and lasting contributions that have had an impact on the way development finance programs are operated, managed, and administered.

Mike was recognized for his many achievements, specifically for his innovative work developing the Colorado Main Street loan program, a character-based financing option that takes an investor-style approach to lending. Upon receiving the award, Mike shares, "It is a really great honor to receive this award. Ever since the global financial crisis I've become really passionate and motivated to try and work with more early stage businesses. In developing and working with the prototype character-based lending program, the focus is to create more new businesses that offer sustainable living wage jobs and work with more underserved, underestimated populations."

Mike holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from the University of Melbourne and an MBA from the Australian Graduate School of Management at the University of New South Wales in Sydney Australia. He began his career in the United States as the executive director of the University of Kansas Small Business Development Center and then at the helm of a certified development company in 1997. In 2000, he began his work in the mission-based world of nonprofit small business lending at Colorado Lending Source. During his tenure, he has expanded outreach and access to capital for new and existing business owners across the state.

###

Colorado Lending Source cares about small business, about creating long-term alliances with our lending partners and borrowers, about being a resource to empower entrepreneurs and about making Colorado the best state in the nation to start and grow a business. We partner with local lenders, government agencies and resource partners to make access to capital more attainable for small businesses. In 2018 Colorado Lending Source approved a total of 221 loans to help create 1,747 jobs and injected \$331,674,205.97 into the economy. As a mission-based lender and small business-financing expert, we are committed to fostering the economic growth of diverse small businesses within their communities.

More information can be found at: [www.coloradolendingsource.org](http://www.coloradolendingsource.org).