

## News Release

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### **Foothills Gateway honors two for Elected Official of the Year**

**Larimer County, CO** - Foothills Gateway, Inc., a local non-profit organization dedicated to helping citizens with intellectual/developmental disabilities (mental retardation), is proud to announce the recipients of our Elected Officials of the Year Award for 2015, Representative Brian DelGrosso and Gerry Horak. The awards were presented during our annual meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.

Representative Brian DelGrosso received the State Elected Official of the Year award for his continued support and dedication of people with developmental disabilities. Representative DelGrosso has spent many years advocating on behalf of this vulnerable population at the State Capitol. Most recently during the 2014 legislative session, Representative DelGrosso carried a bill that would assist in mitigating some of the unintended consequences in relation to Tax Increment Financing (TIF). This bill would have benefitted entities such as Foothills Gateway which receive local mill levy dollars, however, it was ultimately vetoed by the Governor. Representative DelGrosso chose to help his colleagues in his community instead of aligning with his party, thus earning him our State Elected Official of the Year award for 2015.

Councilman Gerry Horak has had a similar history of supporting individuals with developmental disabilities earning him the Local Elected Official of the Year award. Councilman Horak continues to listen to the concerns of all the citizens in his community. In 2014, Councilman Horak was contacted regarding a challenging bus stop issue near Foothills Gateway. It seemed we would be unable to secure a covered bus stop as this particular location and encountered many hurdles including several government entities. Councilman Horak was able to provide quick assistance and not only ensure a covered bus stop was in place, but a walkway was constructed to provide a safe thoroughfare for individuals as they came to Foothills Gateway. His

continued support and assistance in our bus stop issue are reasons why we have awarded Councilman Horak the Local Elected Official of the Year award for 2015.

Photos of the event are attached.

**About Foothills Gateway:**

Established in 1972, Foothills Gateway coordinates and provides services and supports for over 2,200 Larimer County citizens with intellectual/developmental disabilities (mental retardation) and their families. Funding for programs including housing, supported employment, early childhood intervention, supervision, adult respite, and transportation services, comes from county, state, federal and private funds. For more information, please contact April Rikhoff at Foothills Gateway, 970.226.2345 or 970.266.5379.

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