

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce awards outstanding businesses and leaders at 2017 Ascension Awards

DENVER - October 5 - The Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce presented its prestigious Ascension Awards Thursday evening to individuals and corporations that have ascended to the highest level of excellence in their companies, and in working with African American businesses.

"The Chamber is proud to honor these outstanding entrepreneurs, companies and organizations for their business excellence and contributions to community," said Malcolm Evans, chairman of the CBCC. "They represent the creativity, the determination, and the resilience of the minority business community and are examples of the enormous potential of businesses and employees in Colorado."

Co-presented by CenturyLink and Vival, the gala at the Ritz-Carlton Denver featured keynote speaker Tameka Montgomery who addressed the sold-out crowd on "Sustainability and Generational Success." Montgomery, a President Obama appointee, led the Office of Entrepreneurial Development at the U.S. Small Business Administration. Prior to her appointment, Montgomery was the executive director of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, as well as the executive director of the nationally recognized Denver Metro Small Business Development Center for more than seven years.

Congratulations to the CBCC 2017 Ascension Award recipients:

Small Business of the Year - JKS Industries



Jeffrey Knight

Jeffrey Knight founded JKS Industries, Inc. in June 2011 on the premise of being a top-notch, turnkey service provider of high-level quality environmental remediation and demolition services for private, commercial and government entities. As a veteran of the United States Navy, Knight committed himself to not just building a company but building a team that clients can depend on through every phase of the project. In true Navy tradition, the JKS team carries out every detail with pride, purpose, and professionalism.

**Non-Profit of the
Year - Families
Forward
Resource
Center**



Families Forward Resource Center has provided supportive services and programs to northeast Denver and north Aurora for more than 20 years. Its programs include Family Advocacy, Community Health, Adult Education and Youth Development. With the belief that strong families are the key to strong communities, its mission is to enrich entire families through partnership and services that create a safe, healthy, and connected community.

Corporate Executive of the Year - Zamy Silva, RTD

Zamy Silva leads the Regional Transportation District's Civil Rights Division, which includes four programs: the Small Business Office (SBO), the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), the ADA Manager's Office and the Workforce Initiative Now (WIN) Program. Over the past 12 years, Silva has helped promote diversity, inclusion, equal access and equal opportunity. She takes great pride in facilitating workplace culture that values trust, responsiveness, transparency and dependability.



Zamy Silva

Corporation of the Year - Burgess Services



Denise Burgess

Denise Burgess is the President and CEO of Burgess Services, LLC, a Denver-based construction management firm founded by her father, the late Clyde Burgess. Burgess transitioned her father's business into a nationwide corporation, specializing in construction management, commissioning, and quality assurance/quality control. Burgess Services was awarded the largest contract ever bestowed to a Black-owned business - a \$39.6 million mechanical contract at Denver International Airport (DEN). Denise became the first African American Board Chair of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce in September.

About the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce

The Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce (CBCC) began in 1985 with a vision of serving the needs of Black-owned businesses, providing economic opportunity and support. The CBCC mission is to support the initiatives of Black business owners and create an enterprise that focuses on success and viability. Through extraordinary customer service, reasonable member rates and value-add resources, the CBCC assists business members in opening doors and building relationships with Colorado's major corporate entities. Visit www.coloradoblackchamber.org/ for more information.