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Front Range Community College Center for Integrated Manufacturing Receives Enterprise Zone Contribution Project Designation

Longmont, CO: The Colorado Economic Development Commission on Thursday approved North Metro Enterprise Zone Contribution Project designation for the Front Range Community College Center for Integrated Manufacturing (CIM). Enterprise Zone Contribution Projects encourage community participation and public private partnerships resulting in job creation/retention and business expansion to revitalize Enterprise Zone areas. Colorado taxpayers making financial contributions to these projects earn tax credits by contributing to these targeted efforts.

The Front Range Community College (FRCC) Foundation applied for this designation to support its "Manufacturing our Future" campaign, which seeks to raise \$2 million in funding from individuals and key community and industry allies. These funds will be used to purchase and install the training equipment necessary for programs to educate and train skilled workers in industrial maintenance, automation, optics, and engineering technology. Classes will be offered at FRCC's new CIM facility, which is expected to open in August 2019. The college is investing \$6.2 million over 10 years to renovate and lease a 27,000-square-foot building in Longmont's designated North Metro Enterprise Zone area to house the CIM. Many local manufacturing businesses are located nearby, and are in need of a qualified workforce.

"The Center for Integrated Manufacturing Enterprise Zone Contribution Project designation represents a unique opportunity to support a community college center envisioned by employers that will assist in the future workforce development of the Northern Colorado manufacturing industry," stated FRCC Boulder County Campus Vice President Elena Sandoval-Lucero on receiving news of their approval for the designation.

As the North Metro Enterprise Zone administrator, the role of the Longmont Economic Development Partnership (EDP) is to implement the North Metro EZ economic development plan, determining which projects are aligned with the economic development plan, getting the necessary support of the community, supporting the project organization through the application process, and bringing projects to the Colorado Economic Development Commission for consideration.



Regarding Longmont EDP's support for the FRCC CIM project's successful application, Longmont EDP president and CEO Jessica Erickson stated, "One of the goals of the North Metro EZ is to align education and training with industry needs to support workforce development and the attraction of new and expanding primary job creating businesses. The FRCC CIM Project clearly contributes to this goal, already having significant community and industry support to ensure their success."

Erickson continued, "This is the exactly the type of project this designation is intended to support, and I couldn't be prouder to have been part of their successful application for designation."

FRCC CIM Contribution Project designation is effective immediately. Individuals interested in learning more about the funding campaign can go to www.frontrange.edu/cim or contact FRCC Foundation executive director Ryan McCoy directly at ryan.mccoy@frontrange.edu.

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About The Longmont Economic Development Partnership: The Longmont Economic Development Partnership is a public/private 501c(6) non-profit economic development organization serving the greater Longmont area. As Longmont's primary agent for economic development, the Partnership leads a comprehensive and collaborative economic development strategy to promote and strengthen the Longmont community's economic health. The Longmont Economic Development Partnership offers a variety of services and resources to support the relocation, retention, and expansion of business in Longmont and serves as the gateway to Longmont for all businesses.

About Front Range Community College: FRCC offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs from locations in Boulder County, Larimer County, Westminster, Brighton, and online. FRCC is a member of the Colorado Community College System.

About the Center for Integrated Manufacturing: FRCC has committed \$6.2 million to create a Center for Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) in Longmont, which will expand training options for Colorado's manufacturing industry. Longmont is centrally located within FRCC's service area. The CIM will serve businesses and students from Westminster to Wellington. FRCC's plan is to start - or expand - the following programs at the CIM: Automation & Engineering Technology (New); Electronics Engineering Technology (New); Optics Technology (Opened January 2018); and Precision Machining (Existing Program).