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JAY FAWCETT LAUNCHES NEW POLICY CENTER FOR COLORADO SPRINGS REGION

Non-partisan Western Strategies Center dedicated to finding solutions at local level.

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO – Jay Fawcett, Gulf War veteran, graduate of the Air Force Academy and 2006 candidate for Colorado's 5th Congressional District, today announced the formation of Western Strategies Center, a non-partisan policy center dedicated to finding solutions to some of the most pressing problems facing Colorado Springs and the region.

"Grid lock on the national political front presents communities like Colorado Springs with an opportunity to solve problems locally," said Fawcett. "The need for solutions to problems confronting the Rocky Mountain Region has never been greater and our approach seeks to solve local problems with local bi-partisan thinking."

The nonprofit policy center, a 501(c)3 organization, is based in Colorado Springs and will focus on four critical issue areas facing the region: health care infrastructure, economic balance, regional water policy, and higher education. With its impartial fact-finding method, Western Strategies will accept research and solutions from sources across the political spectrum for evaluation and analysis. A diverse board of directors includes Howard Brooks, Vice President, Pikes Peak United Way; Catherine Coulter Calvin, President, Total Performance Solution Don Chismar, President, Cheyenne Mountain Bank; Rosemary Harris, President Colorado Springs Chapter, NAACP; Erv Rokke, Lt. Gen., USAF, ret; James Stewart, Col. USAF, ret, President, Technology Vectors, Inc.; and Chris Tremaroli, Attorney & CPA, Tremaroli & Tremaroli, PC.

As El Paso County's only policy center focused specifically on local issues and solutions, Western Strategies will provide a unique collaborative approach to problem solving. Its policy papers will seek to give a multi-faceted analysis of issues – including multiple courses of action as well as associated implementation strategies. Western Strategies will also seek local input into the policy development process in a variety of ways, including organizing and hosting issue-oriented seminars and forums. Findings from these events will then be incorporated into policy recommendation documents.

"In many ways, Colorado Springs is a big city that still sees itself as a village," said Fawcett. "By taking a reasoned, researched, and non-partisan approach, we can come up with solutions that will help our community continue to grow and prosper."

About Jay Fawcett

Colorado Springs resident Jay Fawcett is a graduate, former professor, and a former headquarters' squadron commander of the Air Force Academy. He was deployed in the first Gulf War serving in Desert Shield and the initial helicopter assault into Iraq during Desert Storm. Fawcett was awarded a Bronze Star for his actions. At Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, Jay served on the staff of the Deputy Commander for Operations of Air Combat Command. In 1998, after serving his country in combat and during the Cold War, Lt. Col. Fawcett retired from the Air Force and began working as a defense contractor including support of US Northern Command at Peterson Air Force Base. In 2006, Fawcett was the Democratic candidate for Congress in Colorado's 5th Congressional District