

PRESS RELEASE

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STATE LABOR DEPARTMENT CHIEF ECONOMIST ALEXANDRA HALL HONORED WITH NATIONAL AWARD

(DENVER) -- Alexandra Hall, the Chief Economist for the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, has received the most prestigious recognition given by the Labor Market Information Training Institute. Hall was presented with the Charles Benefield Award during the organization's 2012 conference.

The annual award recognizes and honors an individual who has rendered significant service in advancing the art and science of labor market information. Since 1994, Hall has been Director of Colorado's Labor Market Information Office and in that role has championed the importance of using data and analysis to provide a valuable focus for effective decision making.

"Data is everywhere," she says, "but it can often be complicated and confusing. We have to do more than simply track it and provide accurate and up-to-date numbers on request. We have to draw people into caring about the facts we provide. To do that, our challenge is to find the relevant data, decode its mysteries and sort through its complexities so that the underlying story can begin to emerge."

That underlying story, she stresses, is what engages people, involves them and helps them make connections between what they know and what they don't know. Her work in telling that story has resulted in vital industry and occupation projections and innovative products delivered at both the state and national levels.

At the state level, Hall has overseen the creation of numerous tools that bridge the information gap for job seekers, students, case managers, training providers, and workforce professionals, allowing them to make carefully considered decisions. Under her leadership, the Labor Market Information Office has also provided valuable outreach to employers across the state. Whether it's new business development, expanding a company or long-range strategic planning, local employers can tap into a wealth of competitive intelligence.

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At the national level Hall has forged partnerships that have modernized national projections and aided in the development of new software tools. In her role as Projections Managing Partnership Chair, she brought together eleven states, the U.S. Department of Labor and several vendors to design and create innovative applications that are today being used by analysts in 47 states and territories in webinars and e-learning tools.

“I am honored to receive the Charles Benefield Award from the Labor Market Information Training Institute,” Hall says. “Their work combines the exacting detail of the economics discipline with a clear vision for the future of projections. It has been a privilege to work with them.”

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About the Charles Benefield Award

Charles Benefield was a tireless advocate for advancing quality labor market information. In his career with the U.S. Department of Labor, his efforts were instrumental in obtaining financial support for the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) and projections programs. His efforts to continuously improve data collection and its uses played a large role in the establishment of the Labor Market Information Training Institute, with initial funding provided by ETA. After his death, the Labor Market Information Training Institute recognized his efforts by creating the Charles Benefield Award.

About the Labor Market Information Training Institute

In the fall of 1994, with a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, a consortium of states and federal agencies created the national Labor Market Information Training Institute, offering coursework and resources to LMI professionals and users across the United States. The LMI Forum is an annual conference that fosters communication within the LMI field, encouraging the exchange of ideas and innovative practices.

Attachment:

Photo of Alexandra Hall receiving award (a high resolution photo is available on request)

