

News

Western Colorado well-represented in HR organization

Phil Castle
Business Times

Western Colorado enjoys strong representation in an organization for human resource professionals with the election of two Grand Junction women as deputy state director and district director.

Carlene Goldthwaite, a corporate training manager at Rocky Mountain Health Management Corp., serves as deputy state director of the Colorado Society of Human Resource Management State Council. Goldthwaite is the first deputy director from outside the Denver metropolitan area. She's in line to become the next state director in two years.

Pene Walker, HR leader at Community Hospital, succeeds Goldthwaite as Western District Director.

Both Goldthwaite and Walker are members and past presidents of the Western Colorado Human Resource Association, the local chapter of the SHRM.

Goldthwaite said the state council serves as a link between the national SHRM organization and six local chapters.

Walker says she serves as a liaison between the state council and two local chapters: the Western Colorado chapter in Grand Junction and High Country chapter in Eagle and Summit counties. Each chapter has about 100 members.

Nationally, the SHRM represents more than 200,000 human resources professionals, while the Colorado organization has a mailing list of about 5,000 people, Goldthwaite said.

The SHRM works in a number of ways to serve the professional and advance the profession, Goldthwaite said: monitoring and lobbying legislation that affects employers and employees, offering a robust certification process for professionals and striving to give professionals a more strategic role with their companies and organizations.

Walker said local chapters host educational presentations and offer a valuable network in which members can share information and ideas. The WCHRA holds a luncheon meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at Two Rivers Convention Center in Grand Junction.

Those functions are important, Walker said, especially given the widespread geography of Western Colorado. "It's such an incredibly nurturing piece," she said. "The networking piece is huge."

Moreover, HR professional face increasingly complex duties in managing an important resource — people. "It's the biggest asset any company has, and the most complex and variable," Walker said.



Carlene
Goldthwaite



Pene Walker

