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Western Colorado Human Resource Association (WCHRA) Announces Winner of 2006 HR Professional of the Year—Barbara Burr SPHR.

(GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO, Sept 18, 2006)

Barbara Burr, a senior professional in human resources (SPHR,) was awarded the **2006 HR Professional of the Year** Award on Wednesday, by the organization's president, Lisa Martin, during the WCHRA Bi-Annual Fall Conference.

Martin stated that " Barbara is a wonderful example of the best of the Human Resource field. She represents herself, her organization, and the profession extraordinarily well. The Western Colorado Human Resource Association is extremely proud to have her as the 2006 Professional of the Year."

Burr's nomination stated: "She has implemented several new strategies in our hiring process including team interviewing, assessment testing, and refinement of our Essential Functions and Key Competencies. She has stressed the importance of rigorous hiring standards in order to employ a higher quality of employee which has a mindset predisposed to performing at a more independent, confident, creative and responsible level. Our organization has undergone several major changes over the past year, including a culture shift which this candidate has played an instrumental role in helping to develop.... Above all the achievements I have stated above, I believe the most important part of this candidate's job as our HR Manager is the care and assistance she provides to our managers and staff alike. This is probably the most crucial part of her job is to cultivate a safe space for all employees to feel heard, appreciated, valued and respected. In this, she does a most excellent job, naturally."

Burr was chosen from a pool of five finalists who were nominated by their peers. An independent panel of judges that included community leaders Pat Bishop, Bruce Hill, Julie Hinkson, Phil Jones and Josh Nichols, selected the winner.

Finalists included: Margie Arney PHR, Western Building Solutions; Barbara Burr SPHR, Mesa County Public Library District; Linda Davidson, Horizon Consulting, Terri Gird, Hilltop Community Resources; and Shelley Williams PHR, City of Grand Junction.

After winning the award, Burr stated "I am so delighted to be awarded the 2006 HR Professional of the Year award by the Western Colorado Human Resource Association (WCHRA). It is indeed the ultimate honor to be recognized by such outstanding colleagues in the field of Human Resource Management."

Burr was awarded a \$100 Gift Certificate and engraved commemorative award with recognition in the regional SHRM newsletter and WCHRA website.

About Western Colorado Human Resource Association

WCHRA, a superior merit chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM,) provides a functional network for human resource professionals and supports individuals whose role within their organization includes human resource related tasks.

The Association accomplishes this by producing quality educational and learning experiences, hosting regular meetings each month to facilitate sharing of ideas, trends and expertise, acting as a community resource for new and established businesses and organizations, and providing a forum to explore concerns related to the local employment arena.

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