

SOUTHWEST COLORADO COLLABORATION



The resources of the GCI have helped us tremendously with obtaining the right training, consultants, tax breaks and more. These offerings have definitely helped Chinook to strengthen and grow."

- Jessica Denison, COO, Chinook Medical Gear, Inc.



GROWTH COMPANY INITIATIVE



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**SUPPORTING THE
ENTREPRENEURS
OF SOUTHWEST COLORADO**

WHAT IS THE GROWTH COMPANY INITIATIVE?

The Growth Company Initiative (GCI) supports both emerging and existing businesses that export products and services outside of southwest Colorado. We provide peer network and mentoring opportunities, business resources, expertise, time, and access to capital.

WHY BE PART OF THE GROWTH COMPANY INITIATIVE?

- Receive assistance in sourcing and securing capital.
- Have access to resources such as databases, skilled advisors and workforce development opportunities.
- Coordinate with Fort Lewis College and other educational/workforce partners to raise the quality of the workforce through education, internships, and student research teams.
- Become an advocate for businesses at the State and local level.
- Mentor entrepreneurs of future Growth Companies.
- Network with other Growth Companies to share ideas, and resources.
- Help build a strong and entrepreneurial friendly community.

The GCI has allowed StoneAge to be a bigger part of the community through peer networking and mentoring growing businesses. We believe that the more local businesses work together, the stronger we can make the entire community."

- Kerry Petranek, CEO, StoneAge, Inc.

ARE YOU A GROWTH COMPANY?

A Growth Company (GC) is defined as:

- A business that is currently growing and looking for more growth opportunities.
- A for-profit business.
- Serving markets outside the southwest Colorado economy.
- Requiring a highly skilled, educated and technical workforce.
- Providing an innovative or unique product.
- Having a sustainable, competitive advantage based on intellectual property, a unique business model or outstanding management.



A FEW OF THE CURRENT GCI MEMBERS

- **ZUKES**
- **MERCURY**
- **SKA BREWING**
- **OSPREY PACKS**
- **STONEAGE, INC.**
- **GROWING SPACES, LLC**
- **FREENOTES COMPANY, INC.**
- **MUSCANELL MILLWORKS, INC.**
- **CHINOOK MEDICAL GEAR, INC.**
- **OPEN SKY WILDERNESS THERAPY**
- **DESERT SUN COFFEE ROASTERS, INC.**

NOT THERE YET, BUT HAVE THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT? THE GCI IS HERE FOR YOU!

The GCI gives entrepreneurs with the potential to be GCs the time and support needed to grow.

- Business evaluation on how to get to where you want to be.
- Receive peer mentoring from established GCs.
- Access resources such as skilled advisors and capital.

The opportunity to share knowledge and ideas with other growth company leaders is a productive and rewarding experience. The GCI is actively contributing to a more healthy environment for entrepreneurial development and overall business growth, and I am grateful for the opportunity to both benefit and contribute to goals of the GCI."

- Aaron Fernandez, CEO, Open Sky Wilderness Therapy

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The GCI is a collaborative effort of economic development organizations, businesses, and educational partners in southwest Colorado but is driven at the county level. Please contact your local economic development organization for more information about how you can participate:

- La Plata Economic Development Alliance: 970-259-1700
- Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation: 970-731-1433
- Montezuma Community Economic Development Association: 970-564-4002

If you do not have a local organization contact Region 9 EDD at 970-247-9621.

