

**Colorado Entrepreneurship MarketPlace
Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce
Mary Jo Coulehan**

On behalf of the Pagosa Springs community and the Chamber of Commerce we want to thank the Colorado Rural Development Council for choosing our community to host the 4th Annual Rural Entrepreneurship MarketPlace. Although the state of Colorado experienced an early season snowstorm that week, we still braved the weather and enjoyed a fantastic conference. The caliber of speakers over this two-day event was the best ever we believe. With smaller groups, the speakers and attendees were able to interact more closely. If businesses out there don't believe in networking opportunities – then you are WRONG! The impact and caliber of networking was fantastic, especially on Friday evening at the beautiful Springs Resort. Again speakers and attendees commented on how intense the businesses were and the amazing contacts made. Some felt the networking was just as impactful as the educational sessions. We continue to receive emails on how people can hook up with others from the conference and interactive emails are still continuing to fly across the internet waves.

Our community will take this energy and work with the local businesses to continue this enthusiasm. We will be developing a peer mentoring group from attendees to the MarketPlace and will use the conference enthusiasm to attract businesses to our existing Chamber educational programs such as the Business Bites luncheon series. We have also signed up a new chamber member because of the MarketPlace. We are thrilled to have hosted this annual event and hope that not only the statewide conference but regional conferences continue in the future.