

Survey reveals worker profile

By Ross Dolan

While it might not be your personal income bracket, the income results of a Castle Rock Economic Development Council (CREDCO) workforce survey pegs the median salary of a town resident at \$60,000 per year.

The purpose of the 29-page study, according to CREDCO Executive Director Meme Dunckel Martin was to update information gathered in similar studies in both 1996 and 2000. The information will be used to support CREDCO programs, which seek to draw successful businesses to the Castle Rock area.

Strategic Solutions of Golden conducted the telephone survey in July and interviewed 300 Castle Rock area residents. That company also conducted the earlier surveys. About two-thirds of those interviewed live within town limits, the remainder live out of town. The neighboring towns of Larkspur, Sedalia and Franktown were included in the

study. In both the 2000 and 2003 surveys, 24 percent of those interviewed said they had lived in the survey area from six to 10 years. The number of those who lived in the area more than 10 years rose seven percent from the previous survey.

Martin said, "The results of the survey are reassuring. Although our community has been impacted by the recent recession, our workforce is still strong. It is well-educated, very experienced and quite diversified."

The survey showed that 86 percent of area households had at least one full-time wage earner and that 76 percent of job holders are white collar workers, 54 percent of whom have professional or managerial occupations. Eighty percent of area wage earners have some college education and 58 percent are college graduates.

While 60 percent of workers work outside of Castle Rock, 57 percent of those interviewed said they would be willing to take a

job in Castle Rock if one were available and about a quarter of interviewees said they would accept a job that paid less if it meant they no longer had to commute. Interestingly, 94 percent of wage earners said they drive themselves to work, but only 20 percent said they would take light rail once the station opened at Interstate 25 and Lincoln Avenue.

The survey also reflected economic hard times. It reported that 3 percent had household members who were unemployed and looking for work; that 29 percent sought a job in Castle Rock in the past year, and that 40 percent of that number were unable to find a job. Giving a positive spin to the numbers, however, 60 percent of those who tried were able to find a job in town.

Copies of the workforce survey are available by calling CREDCO or ordering via e-mail to info@credco.org.

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