



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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### NEWS RELEASE

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Date: 07/28/14

Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

Re: Weld Employee Honored

## WELD COUNTY EMPLOYEE HONORED BY COLORADO WELFARE FRAUD COUNCIL AS 2014 INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR

WELD COUNTY, CO – Weld County employee Aleissa Thomas was recognized as the 2014 Investigator of the Year by the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council (CWFC).

The award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution and/or exhibited excellence in the investigation of fraud and program abuse.

Thomas was selected from all investigators at the local, state and federal levels. She was also the 2007 recipient of CWFC's Income Maintenance Technician of the Year Award for her contribution and demonstration of excellence in the prevention of public assistance or food assistance fraud.

"Congratulations to Aleissa for her hard work resulting in this award," said Commissioner Sean Conway. "To be chosen out of all the investigators in the state is a very high honor."

Thomas has been with the Weld County Department of Human Services since 2004, when she joined the team as an eligibility technician, eventually transitioning to an agency trainer for four and a half years before becoming an investigator.

"This is an outstanding accomplishment Aleissa has achieved," said Department of Human Services Director Judy Griego. "Her award is a testament to the great work happening in our department."

"I'm very proud to be part of the team here in Weld County," Thomas said. "I was surprised to receive the award as my first full year as an investigator. It's definitely been a great year, and I'm excited that I've contributed to maintaining the welfare program's integrity."

Thomas said the team had already recovered \$1.2 million in fraud money for the year.

Thomas received the award in June at the CWFC Conference in Colorado Springs.

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