



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 27, 2014

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Senator Jeanne Nicholson Honored *Colorado Community Behavioral Health Champion*

WHEAT RIDGE –Senator Jeanne Nicholson, District 16, was recently chosen as a “Community Behavioral Health Champion” by the Colorado Behavioral Health Council (CBHC). Jefferson Center hosted the award presentation honoring Senator Nicholson as part of its annual Policy Action Network Kickoff Event earlier this week.

This prestigious recognition of Senator Nicholson’s reflects her tireless work to advance behavioral health in Colorado as a professional nurse, a former Board Member of Jefferson Center, a former Gilpin County Commissioner, a former Colorado House Representative, and now as a Colorado Senator.

“I am so pleased to recognize and honor Senator Nicholson’s many contributions over the years to promote healthy communities. She has a passion for responding to people’s needs and knows first-hand the urgent issues facing our communities,” commented Dr. Harriet Hall, President & CEO of Jefferson Center and President of CBHC. “Senator Nicholson has always been a great partner, collaborator, and supporter of mental health services. We so appreciate her continued support as a State Senator, and look forward to continuing to work closely with her.”

Senator Nicholson has been a full-time resident of her district for 35 years. She has been extremely active in her support of child, family, community and education-based initiatives and programs, both politically and personally for many years. Senator Nicholson led the effort on SB14-215 to fund the Behavioral Health Organizations to provide school-based substance abuse prevention and early intervention services.

Senator Nicholson has been a two-time Florence Nightingale finalist and received the Children’s Champion Award in 2009 for her work in promoting the importance of early childhood development. She and her husband Craig reside in Gilpin County next to Golden Gate State Park. They have two sons and one foster daughter.

About Jefferson Center for Mental Health

Celebrating its 56th year, Jefferson Center for Mental Health helps to bring hope for a brighter future to thousands of community members who struggle with mental health challenges. As the community’s nonprofit mental health center, Jefferson Center serves people throughout Jefferson, Gilpin and Clear Creek counties at over 20 locations, as well as schools, nursing homes, senior centers, physician’s offices and health clinics and other community settings. Last year Jefferson Center served more than 23,000 people in need. Center staff has expertise in numerous areas including children and family issues, adults with serious mental illness, suicide prevention, early intervention, juvenile justice, and trauma treatment, as well as offers free wellness classes. For more information about Jefferson