



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Colony Economic Development Corporation Receives State Award

The Colony, Texas, May 12, 2010... The Colony Economic Development Corporation received the 2009 Economic Excellence Award from the Texas Economic Development Council. The Colony is one of only 13 communities in the D/FW Metroplex and 35 statewide to earn this honor.

The award is presented to organizations that demonstrate a high level of achievements in their economic development efforts. Factors cited include The Colony's strong involvement with economic, real estate and industry professional organizations; the expertise and training of staff; and the well organized and coordinated economic development strategies.

"Receiving this award confirms that The Colony is headed in the right direction," said The Colony Mayor Joe McCourry . "Our city and economic development staff and volunteer leadership have been successful in bringing new businesses to The Colony that expand our tax base and give us all new retail, dining, service and employment choices."

"Even in a slower economy, The Colony issued 81 Certificate of Occupancies in 2009 and the pace looks stronger for 2010," said Keri Samford, Director of The Colony's Economic Development Corporation. "Our central location, high quality of affordable living, and available prime space and land are very attractive factors that we are aggressively marketing to desirable businesses and developers."

Strategic tools that have contributed to The Colony's success include The Cascades at The Colony and Austin Ranch.

The Cascades is a 100-acre master-planned community along the S.H. 121 corridor designed to meet both business and community needs with 280 residences built by KB Homes; approximately 200,000 square feet of flex office space, a Marriott Residence Inn; and a Marriott Fairfield Inn with a 6,900-square-foot-events center available to the public. Plans call for approximately 200,000 square feet of office space and 100,000 square feet of retail space in future phases.

Leasing activity has been strong with recent new tenants this spring including:

- **Lakeland Marketing**, a supplier of marketing supplies to the food service industry.
- **Tuffronts**, a manufacturer of pre-cut vending machine panels and supplies.
- **Write Now! Office Products**, one of the nation's fastest-growing office supply distributors.

Austin Ranch is located west of the Dallas North Tollway and south of S.H.121. This development has

1,900 acres of prime real estate for corporate campuses, commercial offices, industrial distribution parks, retail strip centers, pad sites, multi-family and single-family homes. Over 980 acres of Austin Ranch are within The Colony city limits.

At the heart of the multi-family component is Austin Square, a vibrant collection of shops, cafes, restaurants and service-oriented businesses.

Freddie Mac, Pizza Inn, Hillman Fastners, Edward Don and BeautiControl have all chosen Austin Ranch for their corporate headquarters.

For more information about The Colony Economic Development Corporation, visit www.TheColonyEDC.org or call 972-624-3127.

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