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NEWS RELEASE

Released by üli Creative LLC Public Relations 303.971.0134 www.ulicreative.com

For Immediate Release
June 10, 2008

Photo caption: ACECDenverZoo.jpg

ACEC/CO president and major sponsors present Denver Zoo President and CEO with a check for \$19,000 raised by ACEC/CO membership at fundraising event to benefit the new Asian Tropics project. (Pictured left to right) Peter Nelson, P L Nelson Engineering, Inc.; Lauren Evans, ACEC/CO president, Pinyon Environmental Engineering Resources Inc.; Craig Piper, President and CEO, Denver Zoo; and Bill Green, The RMH Group, Inc.

Engineering Council Raises \$19,000 **for New Asian Tropics Project at Denver Zoo**

DENVER – The American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado (ACEC/CO) raised \$19,000 at its “Engineers Gone Wild” members evening at Denver Zoo to support Asian Tropics, the zoo’s next major project. The total contribution will be more than \$38,000 due to a dollar for dollar match provided by a zoo improvement bond that was approved by voters in 1999.

Designed as an environmentally conscious, sustainable animal exhibit, Asian Tropics will follow the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) system and may become the first major animal exhibit complex to be certified by the LEED® program. The project will incorporate a variety of sustainable features such as the use of recycled water, efficient HVAC systems, and

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natural daylighting and ventilation. The zoo will also utilize a biomass gasification system, which will heat and power portions of the Asian Tropics exhibit by converting zoo animal waste and the trash left by \$1.7 million visitors annually into usable energy implemented through engineering innovations.

Lauren Evans, president of ACEC/CO's board of directors, along with main sponsors of the event, P L Nelson Engineering, Inc. and The RMH Group, Inc., presented Denver Zoo President/CEO Craig Piper, with a check for \$19,000 to support the 10-acre Asian Tropics project. When complete, the exhibit will serve as a conservation center and house highly endangered Asian species including elephants, Indian rhinos and Malayan tapirs.

“As a Council we decided to support an area organization that is incorporating engineering innovations,” said Evans to the more than 300 engineering industry attendees on hand to participate in a special social event at the zoo. “This zoo exhibit will highlight engineering that helps create a safe, energy efficient environment for animals, zoo keepers, and visitors,” she added. This continues the Council's commitment of giving back to the community that was initiated during its 50th anniversary in 2006 when funds were raised to make a significant contribution to benefit the restoration of a uniquely engineered landmark - the Boettcher Tropical Conservatory at Denver Botanic Gardens.

“Engineers are innovators and problem solvers and have enhanced the lives of billions of people,” said Evans. “It is important that people know that engineers are involved in almost every aspect of our lives – from the roads we drive on, to accessing energy and water, to building safe structures where we live, work and play – including zoos,” she added. She also emphasized that although the work engineers perform is often

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“behind the scenes,” our quality of life – the health, safety and public welfare - depend on a this critical workforce.

“As engineers, we commend Denver Zoo for its vision and continued commitment to conservation and stewardship of resources. On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado, we are honored to contribute to the creation of this wonderful habitat,” she said.

“Preserving wildlife around the world requires creative scientists and engineers,” noted Piper in accepting ACEC’s contribution. “We hope Asian Tropics and other Denver Zoo exhibits and programs will inspire young people to pursue careers where they can help solve challenges for both people and our environment. As a conservation organization, it’s also important to all of us at Denver Zoo that we provide leadership to operate in an environmentally responsible way,” he added. The zoo plans to break ground on the Asian Tropics project in 2009, with projected completion in 2011.

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About The American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado (ACEC/CO)
ACEC/CO is the business association of 250 member firms employing more than 10,000 employees in the independent private practice of consulting engineering. ACEC/CO is a primary resource for accessing engineering information, expertise and business ethics practices. The Council provides leadership and direction by developing practical, feasible options and solutions based upon technical conversations and sustainable outcomes.