



NEWS RELEASE

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### **Statement from Adams State University**

ALAMOSA, COLO. (July 25, 2016) . . . After completing successful arbitration, Adams State University was found to have no wrongdoing in a case brought forward by an unsuccessful job applicant and the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, according to Julie Waechter, Adams State assistant to the president for communications. William F. Downes, a retired judge, oversaw the mediation and ultimately decided in favor of Adams State, after nearly a year of controversy.

The case was introduced following criticism brought by a former contractor regarding university hiring and compensation policies. Adams State officials clarified that the ACLU did not “win” the case; Danny Ledonne was not compensated by the university. The university’s insurance company paid the ACLU attorney fees; the only cost to Adams State was a \$2,500 deductible, according to Waechter.

She added the persona non grata ban was not, as Mr. Ledonne claimed, in response to his criticism. The ban was in response to concerns expressed by faculty, staff, and students. No fault was found against Adams State University or the administration. In fact, the University continued to comply with all his requests for information after the ban.

Adams State prides itself on being a leader in the Colorado community, particularly in the southern and western regions of the state. The university is a strong supporter of a diverse on-campus community and the Hispanic population of Colorado as a Federal HSI (Hispanic Serving Institution), which affirms enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students. Adams State’s current undergraduate Hispanic enrollment is roughly 35 percent. Adams State University serves as a vital engine of education and economic prosperity. As one of the single largest employers in the region, Adams State will continue to provide jobs and a high-quality education to people locally. Adams State University is committed to providing a high-achievement and high-altitude learning environment to people from all over the world.