

Loveland's Keith Reester Awarded International Fellowship

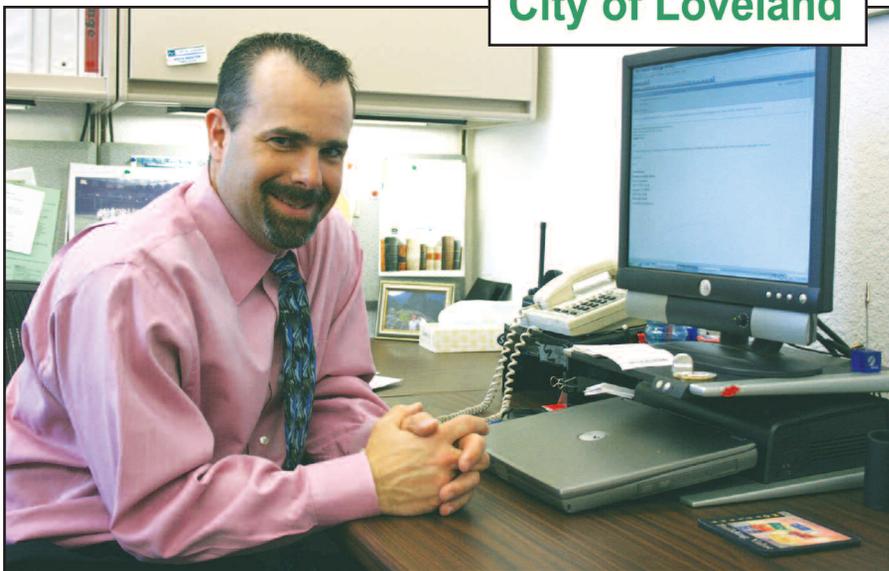
Keith Reester, director of public works for City of Loveland, has been named a 2007 International Fellow by the American Public Works Association and the Eisenhower World Affairs Institute. Through the Jennings Randolph International Fellowship Program, Reester will travel to Australia in August to attend the International Public Works and Engineering Australia Conference and complete a research fellowship. Reester is only the 12th person from the United States selected for this prestigious Australian fellowship award since the program's inception in 1987. He will officially be representing the United States, the American Public Works Association and, of course, City of Loveland.

Reester's research will be aimed at finding innovative approaches to replacing the retiring baby boomer generation in the public works and engineering fields. In his research, Reester will conduct interviews, lead focus groups and survey professionals working in Australia. The research will be coupled with work already underway stateside, including surveys already completed with Colorado municipal executives.

Australia, like many other modern nations, is facing this retirement crisis in the next decade as employers seek to replace the talent, experience and legacy of baby boomers in the workforce.

While attending the IPWEA Conference, Reester will also present his American research findings while leading a program on "Building Exceptional Teams." The conference will be held in Cairns, Queensland. Reester will travel with American Public Works Association President, Bill Verkest.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to learn and share with other public works professionals from Australia and the world," Reester said. "They face so many similar issues, from development to traffic control to recruiting and retaining top-flight talent, I am really looking forward to learning and sharing that with Loveland and Colorado."



City of Loveland Public Works Director, Keith Reester.

The Jennings Randolph International Fellowship Program was created in 1987 in a joint effort by the American Public Works Association and the Eisenhower World Affairs Institute. The mission of the Eisenhower Institute is to advance former President Dwight Eisenhower's intellectual and leadership legacies in foreign and domestic policy through a rigorous pursuit of facts, encouragement of reasoned and respectful debate and the quest for outcomes that serve the American people while promoting justice and international peace.

APWA seeks to further this mission by providing an exchange opportunity to broaden knowledge and exchange experiences and information on trends and advances in public works through direct contact with international partners. Fellows are selected every other year on a competitive basis and are expected to share their experiences both here and abroad with other public works professionals. The program also provides fellowships to the Czech Republic, Mexico, New Zealand and the Slovak Republic.

Reester has been with Loveland for over four years and as public works director, leads the City's largest department. He currently also serves as a volunteer member of the APWA-Colorado Chapter Board of Directors. Reester has published a host of professional articles and programs dedicated to improving organizations and communities around the country. ●

