

ShoreLine

DABA president departs for Apex  
by: Sarah Melton  
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Denver Area Business Association (DABA) President Brad Simmons has resigned to pursue a career opportunity in Apex.

Simmons moved to Apex July 1 to be a broker with Atkinson Properties Group, a real estate company owned by his father-in-law, Bob Atkinson. "It was just an opportunity I couldn't pass up," Simmons said. "We're getting the kids closer to their grandparents and so forth."

But leaving the community behind was not an easy decision for Simmons, who has been involved with DABA for five years.

"It was one of the best groups I've ever been involved with," he said. "I am going to miss the camaraderie, talking to people and helping businesses stay alive in this economy."

Simmons, former vice president of Carolina Trust Bank in Denver, accomplished two goals he had for DABA before leaving.

"My two main goals were to make sure the ambassadors were back on track and to make sure they were doing what they were supposed to be doing and improve the web site," he said.

DABA's Web site has received praise since McBryde Website Design & Internet Marketing revamped it earlier this year.

"I was so gung-ho with the web site and with people getting additional exposure on there," Simmons said. "With the number of hits we were getting, it was incredible."

Denis Bilodeau is acting as the interim president of DABA until a new officer is elected in January. Bilodeau was DABA's president last year. Bilodeau, president of Aquesta Insurance Services in Cornelius, hopes to push forward with the changes Simmons has implemented.

"Brad had a very strong presence — a powerful presence — and good leadership," Bilodeau said. "As a DABA member, he saw what we were lacking as an organization and was trying to strengthen those areas."

Bilodeau has goals for the organization too. He wants to increase the membership. DABA currently has 126 members. Eleven of those members joined this year.

"It's all about the positive outlook and the excitement about the Denver area," Bilodeau said.

"The fact that DABA is now 11 years old and we are seeing a rebound in our numbers is positive."

DABA is also looking to fill a vacancy on its board of directors. Anyone interested in serving, or for more information on DABA, visit [www.dabanc.org](http://www.dabanc.org).

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