**Leadership Aurora Class 2016-17**
**Mini-Profile**

**Name:** Gregory Cazzell

**Company/Position:** Aurora Public Schools – Director of Security

**Brief Bio/History:**

As a Colorado native, I was born and raised in Colorado Springs. By choice, I was a terrible student in middle and high school and spent more than two summers in summer schools so I wouldn't be held back. My plan after graduation was to find a career where a college education wasn't required. Little did I know at the time, during the next 26 years education would have a huge impact on my path. At 21 I became a police office in rural southeastern Colorado and later continued this career after moving to the Denver metro area. During my police career I patrolled by mountain bike, was a crime against children detective and was completed a four year stint assigned to investigate organized street gangs involved in criminal activity. It was during this time I realized I need to go to college. Like so many other adult learners I worked during the day and took classes in the evening, and weekends to complete a BS in public management and administration from CSU, a Master of Science in criminology from Regis University and Advanced Police Management from Northwestern University Center for Public Safety. I am an adjunct professor at Johnson and Wales University in criminology. I retired from law enforcement as a detective sergeant in June of 2015 and was subsequently hired by Aurora Public Schools as the Director of Security. While it is unfortunate that our society requires an armed force to patrol our schools, but from the lessons here in Colorado, at Columbine, Platte Canyon, Deer Trail, and Arapahoe, as well as across the nation, it is vital and personally fulfilling.

My partner (domestic partner) Donavan and I have been together 15 years. We live in southeast Denver and have four dogs (a violation of Denver municipal ordinance☺).

**Hobbies/Interests**. I am a weekend warrior around and house and attempt to demonstrate my home and yard improvement skills. These are later completed correctly by a licensed contractor. Love Colorado, the outdoors, food, music, and the different eclectic neighborhoods and gathering events.

*(Please return by Friday, August 19, 2016)*

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