



**“Coming together is a beginning,
keeping together is progress,
working together is success”**

— Henry Ford

LEADERSHIP
A • U • R • O • R • A

**2000 • 2001
Yearbook**

Introduction

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce realized the need to promote and foster the development of leadership in our community in 1984. As a result, the Leadership Aurora program was formed to meet our city's need for the active participation of informed, skilled and involved community leaders.

Leadership Aurora provides the opportunity for participants to broaden their knowledge of the community while enhancing their leadership skills. The program brings diverse people together to learn from each other; creates an expectation of servant leadership; produces a basic understanding of how people and groups function; and builds in real opportunities to teach knowledge and skills.

The purpose of Leadership Aurora is reflected in its goals:

- To develop awareness of the Aurora area -- its challenges and opportunities
- To strengthen leadership abilities by identifying leadership styles, skills, and possibilities
- To form a network of informed, concerned citizens who can guide the future growth of Aurora
- To educate and motivate leaders to greater involvement in the community

WE CONGRATULATE THOSE WHO HAVE
ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE TO MAKE AURORA
A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY —

THE FIRST LEADERSHIP CLASS OF THE
MILLENNIUM - 2001!

Acknowledgements

Leadership Aurora is one of more than 1,000 community leadership programs across the United States. It is a program of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, underwritten by the Chamber, in-kind donations, and tuition. Curriculum and other program specifics are overseen by Leadership Aurora Board members who themselves are graduates of the program.

The community becomes the classroom as class members learn about every aspect of community life from education and economic development, to media, police and fire protection, quality of life, and healthcare. The success of the program is measured by the positive effect on the participants, their organizations and the community.

The Leadership Aurora program expresses its gratitude to each board member who spent countless volunteer hours formulating program content and securing presenters for each session. They bring their commitment, knowledge and expertise in developing leaders for our community. On behalf of the Leadership Aurora Board, we also extend our thanks to all of the speakers and presenters who volunteered their time during this past year. Each of you shares in the success of the program. Thank you!



Dominic Martinez

Leadership Aurora Chair

With the beautiful backdrop of Copper Mountain, we began this year's class of 2000-2001. Even from the beginning, this class has taken everything in stride, including a thunderstorm that knocked out all the elevators and lights for several hours. During the team building exercises they showed us how diverse, intelligent, and purposeful this group of leaders really is. Their challenges included keeping a lot of balloons up in the air at the same time,

taking directions from a classmate while assembling a puzzle blindfolded (no easy task), and participating in a True Colors personality assessment that gave unique insight into each class member. The class really bonded and set the stage for a very successful year.

This year's class had a number of major accomplishments that could be characterized as challenging, sometimes overwhelming, and always fun. Over the ten-month program they had an opportunity to be immersed in the enormous diversity of our city, neighborhood, and service

organizations during Community Day. Other days demonstrated the challenges of policing, fire fighting, and healthcare delivery. Simulating the development of a new retail store from conception to approval was a unique opportunity to see city government in action. Not many of us get the opportunity to be interviewed for television, or "ambushed" by a media crew and asked tough questions about a controversial topic.

In addition, they took on two class projects: a blood drive for Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center Blood Bank, hosted by Spalding Rehabilitation Center and helped in the renovation of COMITIS Crisis Center at Fitzsimons, by painting approximately 18 rooms. Many hours and hard work went into helping this center move to its new location. This is the kind of gesture that will be remembered for many years.

There are always people behind the scenes who help to make things happen. Special thanks to all of the Leadership Aurora Board Members who participated tirelessly to deliver thoughtful, realistic and informative sessions. Their volunteer hours, insight, and hard work make each session the heart of this successful program. And thanks of course to Kimberly Curtis, Program Director, without whom there would be no Leadership Aurora.

Our goal is that these experiences will motivate each class member to reach out, volunteer, and spread the word that everyone in our city can make a difference if individuals will take the time to get involved. These important lessons will give each of them the ability to bring value to their company and their career.

Dominic Martinez
Leadership Aurora Chair
2000-2001



Leroy Williams

2000 - 2001 Class President

Congratulations, fellow graduates of Leadership Aurora 2000-2001! As a class, we learned a tremendous amount of information in a relatively short timeframe about the issues, opportunities, and many challenges facing the community of Aurora. As graduates of the program, we now have an opportunity to build upon this knowledge, and the vast network of resources made available through the Chamber and Leadership Aurora, to demonstrate our leadership abilities and make a difference.

Thank you to everyone who donated their precious time to participate on the various committees, projects, and individual volunteer opportunities to help the class be successful. A special thanks to Class Vice President Frances Gomez for sharing in this opportunity to lead, and to our class project leads, Lanne Lancaster for pulling together the ComitIS Crisis Center project, and Cindy Mansfield for pulling together the blood drive project. We will always be able to reflect back and know that we participated in the redevelopment effort of Fitzsimons (through ComitIS) and know that we made a positive difference in people's lives.

I also want to thank each of you for your participation in the class sessions. The Board members did an outstanding job with coordinating and facilitating each of these sessions, but it was also the knowledge and experience that you all shared, that truly made these sessions valuable. "Can you spell CSAP"?

I truly enjoyed working with all of you. You are all highly dedicated, professional people. Remember — Leadership equals Capacity to Lead. It is up to each of us to find a way to create and utilize that capacity to positively make a difference in our community.

God Bless!

Leroy Williams
2000-2001 Class President



LEADERSHIP

A • U • R • O • R • A

2000 ~ 2001 Class Profiles



**Jay
Clary**

**Bea
Awoniyi**

**Rory
Chetelat**

Jay Clary

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Born on a farm in upstate New York, Jay received his degree in Marketing from Chamberlayne College. He has lived in Aurora for over 20 years. His background includes running the Connecticut office for a division of the Gannett Corporation (USA Today and Channel 9), as VP/GM and Marketing Communications Manager for US West. He has been involved with the Aurora Chamber for 4 years and is currently a chairman for one of the Chamber's tips and leads groups, an ambassador with the Chamber. Jay's community service involvement includes serving on the board of United Way, on the board of Shores HOA, and the board of the Denver Advertising Federation. He is also a member of the South Metro Denver Chamber and the Aurora Board of Realtors®.

The Aurora leadership experience has given Jay the exposure he needed to interact more efficiently within the Aurora community. The entire experience has been so rewarding that it is hard to express in words, the friendships, knowledge...

Favorite Quote:

"Men are equal; it is not birth but virtue that makes the difference."

—Voltaire

Bea Awoniyi

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Originally from Nigeria, Bea moved to the United States about 17 years ago. She moved from Maryland to Colorado in 1990, lived in Denver for 3 years and has been a resident of Aurora for 8 years. Bea has been married to her high school sweetheart, Caleb, for almost 18 years. Both of them have been blessed with three beautiful children ages 16, 14, and 13. Bea earned a B.S. and M.S. degrees from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. She believes strongly in resource utilizing. She coordinates disability services at Red Rocks Community College and teaches computer applications.

Bea loves being a wife and a mother; she enjoys cooking, singing, praying, and playing on her computer. Her passion is advocating for and helping people with disabilities. Leadership Aurora has given Bea incredible opportunity to learn about the community in which she lives and raises her children. She also values the network and friendship that have been developed through this process.

Favorite Quote:

"Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel."

—Proverbs 20:17

Rory Chetelat

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Rory has been married for 27 years, and is the father of 2 girls 25 and 20 years old. He is also the grandfather of a charming little 5-year-old girl. He worked for the fire department for 20 years—15 years online and 5 years in administration. Rory received a Bachelors degree Business Administration from Columbia College and a Masters in Communication from University of Northern Colorado. His family owns a hair salon, J.C. Cuts in Aurora.

Rory and his family love to travel, have been on 12 cruises, travel to England annually with a group of exchange paramedics and firefighters. Him and his wife spend their time creating stained glass creations and a variety of other craft and home decorating projects.

Favorite Quote:

"We are continually with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as insolvable problems."

—John W. Gardner



**Terry
Coffman**

**Melissa
Elliott**

**Maj. Thomas
A. Deall**

Terry Coffman

Owner
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Terry was born and raised in a small agricultural town in central Illinois and is the eldest of six children. He and his wife, Cheryle, have a blended family of seven children and eight grandchildren. Terry has been in the lending business for 33 years, the mortgage business for 15 years, and has had his own mortgage brokerage company for 10 years. He has been active in the Aurora Chamber for 6 years.

Terry enjoys camping, fishing, tennis, the Broncos, history, reading, and lots of other stuff. Aurora, like any team, is the sum of all its parts. Leadership has given Terry insight into how all the parts mesh into the vibrant community we have today, and how he can be a contributor to its continued success.

Favorite Quote:

"Give a man a fish and you will feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you will feed him for a lifetime."

— Author Unknown

Melissa Elliott

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Melissa grew up in Littleton and attended Colorado State University. She has a B.A. in Journalism and a second major in Equine Science because of her love of horses. She is married to a special education teacher in the Cherry Creek School District. They have a 7-year-old son. Melissa has lived in Aurora since 1991. She worked for an agricultural organization for 8 years as lobbyist and public relations director prior to coming to the City of Aurora.

Melissa is very interested in politics and considers herself a "news hound." She enjoys reading historical novels, walking and shuttling her son to all his activities. She is active in her HOA and her son's school. Leadership Aurora has brought Melissa a better understanding of the City in which she lives, works, and play, and an understanding of the people, commerce and government.

Favorite Quote:

"The wonderful thing about books is that some of them have great pictures."

—George W. Bush

Maj. Thomas A. Deall

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Tom was born and raised in Brooklyn NY. He moved to southern Arizona in 1975. After completing his bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona in 1983, Tom joined the US Navy. After two years, he transferred to the Air Force where he flew as a B-52 navigator to include combat during the Gulf War. Following that Tom cross trained into public affairs and have enjoyed assignments in Indiana, New Orleans, and now Colorado as a PAO. He is married to the former Lisa Ann Apodaca and have both been blessed with 4 children; Thomas 14, Joseph 13; Matthew 12; and Samantha 10.

Tom feels the friendships are clearly the greatest reward of the Leadership Aurora experience followed by introductions to valued people such as policemen, firemen, and teachers. As a leader, his eyes are opened wider to how we as individuals come together to strengthen the city in which we live.

Favorite Quote:

"Words are like fine perfume. Their fragrance lingers, so be careful how you spread them around."

—Mother Theresa of Calcutta

Ellyn Gebhardt

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After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Marketing from the University of Northern Colorado, Ellyn became a manager for Thom McAn Shoes. While in that position, she became the top manager in the Mountain Region and opened new retail outlets as well as closed non-profitable ones. Six years ago, Ellyn was hired as an account executive for the Aurora Publishing Company and she is now the sales manager for the three newspapers being published in the city. In this position, she has helped sponsor Aurora's KidSpree, Pumpkin Festival, Fire and Ice and the Sparkle Campaign.

Ellyn enjoys gardening, reading, swimming and skiing.

Favorite Quote:

"The argument is the exchange of ignorance, discussion is the exchange of knowledge."

—Aristotle



**Ellyn
Gebhardt**

**Mary
Heller**

**Fran
Gomez**

**Richard
Haverkamp**

**Christine
Hoppe**

Mary Heller

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While going through the Leadership Aurora class, Mary was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant at the Aurora Police Department. She has been in law enforcement for sixteen years and has served in Patrol, Vice and Narcotics, Police Area Representative Unit, and EEO Internal Investigations. The wonderful thing about police work, says Mary, is that she gets paid to have fun. She is married and has two teenage children. She earned her B.A. degree in Psychology from the University of Colorado.

Mary's passion are gardening, art, theater, and travel.

Favorite Quote:

"Seize the day."

—Author Unknown

Fran Gomez

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Fran has lived in the Metro area since she was three. She attended Metropolitan State College to earn her Bachelor of Arts in Biology, with a minor in Anthropology. She began working for the Aurora Police Department in March 1990, and has worked in the Patrol and PAR (Police Area Representative) Bureaus. She was promoted to Agent in February 1997, and worked Juvenile Crimes in the Investigations Bureau and now represents the Aurora Police Department as the Public Information Officer. Fran has been happily married for 5 glorious years.

Fran enjoys working out, gardening and photography. The Leadership Aurora experience has given Fran the opportunity to meet many wonderful people, to build friendship and valuable working relationships. She experienced many fun and exciting adventures that would not have been possible without Leadership Aurora.

Favorite Quote:

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

Richard (Dick) Haverkamp

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Originally from Northern Minnesota, Dick came to Colorado in 1977 with a B.S. in civil engineering and a Masters in Public Administration. He has worked for the Cities of Lakewood, Littleton and Aurora, all in traffic engineering positions. He worked his way through college fueling aircraft and learned to fly. "Flying is like living in Colorado—the higher you get, the higher you get!" Timing the traffic signals and dealing with the growth of Aurora keeps Dick on his toes, but he finds time to golf, collect guns, travel and fly.

Leadership Aurora has afforded Dick excellent networking opportunities, skills to become a better leader and the value of being involved in your community. Also he has realized the Aurora Chamber is a well-oiled machine! This is his second Denver area leadership program, and leadership Aurora is far superior.

Favorite Quote:

"Even though you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

—Will Rogers

Christine Hoppe

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Christine graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Business Management. After a short career in retail management, she entered the insurance industry. Christine has worked for several different types of insurance providers, from insurance carriers to brokers. She is currently the risk manager for Aurora Public Schools and loves working in public education!

The Leadership Aurora program provides Christine an incredible insight to the entities that make up the city of Aurora. In addition to providing an understanding of how the city operates, the program also gives the opportunity to meet the people who make this city as great as it is!

Favorite Quote:

"Always remember there will be greater and lesser people than yourself."

—Author Unknown

Lt. Col. Kim M. Johnson

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Kim was born in Elmhurst, Illinois. She joined the U.S. Air Force in 1977, and for 23+ years she has been in the communications/computers career field. She has been assigned to five different states, as well as three different countries. Kim has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Southwest Texas State University and a Masters of Business Administration from University of Alaska, Anchorage. She is a two-time attendee of the Colorado Outward Bound School.

Kim enjoys the outdoors—camping, hiking, biking, walking her two labrador retrievers, reading, movies, skiing! The Leadership Aurora experience taught Kim about how this city operates and how the community works together. She values the friendships she has made and all the experience and opportunities the class has provided.

Favorite Quote:

"Live each day to it's fullest as it is a gift from God. That's why it is called the Present."

—Author Unknown

J.J. Jaster

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JJ attended Chaminade University in Honolulu, HI. He finished his criminal justice degree at Barstow College in California simultaneous with completing 4 years in the US Marines in 1975. After spending 4 years as a police officer, JJ found his "niche" in the Retail Security Industry. He managed security and investigations for JC Penney, H.M. Woods, HomeBase and Safeway. Before becoming the Director of Security at the Aurora Mall nearly 8 years ago, JJ was the liaison between law enforcement and the Vatican Staff during the World Youth Day visit by Pope John Paul II, while simultaneously managing a staff of over 2000 security volunteers. At the same time, he and his wife, Corky, and 2 daughters discovered the wonderful opportunities available to the Aurora community and are now deeply entrenched in everything they can, that is Aurora. Since then, 4 of his 10 brothers and sisters followed him here.

JJ's leadership Aurora experience is the culmination of many years of hard work that guided him to discover the myriad of opportunities available to help in his community.

Favorite Quote:

"What lies behind us and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

Anita Johnson

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Anita joined the US Air Force in 1974 as a supply specialist. She joined the Colorado National Guard in 1982, and last year made a career change and now the National Guard's personnel superintendent. She is actively involved in the Air Leadership School as an instructor. The courses in the school include Group Dynamics, Group Conflict Resolution, Team Development, and Team Roles and Responsibilities. Anita earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration with emphasis in Accounting from Columbia College. She is married to Sim, has one daughter, who lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Anita loves jazz and gospel music and collects both. She sews a lot of her own clothing and enjoys both outdoor and indoor gardening. The Leadership Aurora experience has enhanced Anita's understanding and knowledge of the inner workings of an organization, a committee, and a city. Many of us have no concept of what happens behind the scene to ensure an endeavor is successful.

Favorite Quote:

"The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind."

—William James



Lt. Col. Kim M. Johnson

J.J. Jaster

Anita Johnson

Christinne Johnson

Beverly Husted-Petry

Christinne Johnson

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Christinne attended UNC in Greeley, CO and graduated in May 1996 with a BS in Accounting. After graduation she started with FirstBank of Aurora, where she is still employed. She is currently pursuing an MBA part-time at CU-Denver in the evenings.

The Leadership Aurora experience has given Christinne a great insight into the Aurora community. She now has a better understanding of how this city works. She has also made some great friends and business contacts.

Favorite Quote:

"Keep me away from the wisdom which does not cry, the philosophy which does not laugh and the greatness which does not bow before children."

—Kahlil Gibran

Beverly Husted-Petry

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A westward migrant and Colorado resident since 1977, Bev was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. She graduated from the University of Missouri with degrees in English/Journalism and Secondary Education. Her entire adult career has been spent in the field of communications including experiences at a top 40 radio station as promotions manager, grant writer for a major teaching medical center, public relations and marketing director for a local Denver hospital, and recruiter and community relations director. Bev has two sons, ages 25 and 15, and she was recently married after spending 12 years as a single parent.

Bev enjoys hiking and loves the outdoors. She is passionate about learning how to play golf since picking up clubs for the first time last summer. She is an avid gardener. She was a dancer and taught dancing until after college graduation. Participating in Leadership Aurora has been a great opportunity for Bev to learn by doing. She views the network of relationships growing from what we learned together as a major source of strength for Aurora's progress in the future.

Favorite Quote:

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

—Gandhi



**Ryan
King**

**Lanne
Lancaster**

**Mike
Kucera**

**Eric
Kophs**

Ryan King

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Ryan is from Wyoming where he attended the University of Wyoming. He relocated to Amarillo, TX for a job, and relocated back to the Rocky Mountains in June. He feels this is the best move he ever made! While in Texas he worked with a multi-media entertainment retailer, recruiting for 149 different nationwide locations.

Ryan enjoys golf, boating, camping, recreational traveling, football, baseball. Ryan has gained a great deal of information about his community and how he can be a positive participant. He has a great sense of belonging to the community. This was a great opportunity to meet new people and to learn of new and fun programs.

Favorite Quote:

"You can always re-take a class but you can never re-live a party."

—Author Unknown

Lanne Lancaster

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Lanne and her family moved to Aurora 15 years ago and settled in the Cherry Creek School District to raise their two sons; the youngest is now a senior at Smoky Hill High School. Lanne has worked at the college for 10 years and has held many positions there. Currently she teaches computer classes to students with disabilities. This field is always changing and it keeps her on her toes to think of new ways to adapt to various disabilities and learning styles.

Lanne enjoys creative memories scrap booking, reading historical mysteries, art of any medium and investing. Leadership Aurora experience has forced Lanne to recognize the amount of work and commitment that goes on behind the scenes to keep Aurora progressing. It was a real eye opener.

Favorite Quote:

"Even if you're on the right track you will get run over if you just sit there."

—Will Rogers

Mike Kucera

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Mike Kucera received his masters in Psychology in 1974 and finished his formal education at Northwestern in 1979. During the 70's he also completed courses in management and organizational behavior. While serving as the clinical director of an adolescent treatment center, Mike began flying around the country as a management and organizational consultant. His interest continues to be in working with both individuals and larger systems. He moved to Aurora, from the Chicago area, with his wife and two children in 1983. Mike has been employed at Aurora Mental Health Center since 1992. He is also on Regis Universities Adult Education faculty and continues doing management and organizational training.

Mike enjoys the outdoors; skiing, ice skating, snow shoeing, camping and hiking. Computers have always been a hobby of his. Mike's latest interest is practicing Qi Gong, an aspect of traditional medicine. He says that getting older is sometimes more painful but definitely much better.

Mike has gained a lot from the Leadership Aurora program including a much better understanding of the workings of the great community, and city called Aurora. Being around such high energy, upbeat, positive and action oriented people truly helped him to hone his own attitude; how tough it may be to arrive at a consensus on an issue with so many intelligent stakeholders - but oh what a rush when it happens; learning, working hard, having fun, and being productive are best when all taken together; he continues to learn the extraordinary value of classmates, good friends and community contacts.

Favorite Quote:

"The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can change his life by altering his attitude."

—William James

Eric Kophs

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Eric moved to Colorado 5 years ago from the Seattle area. He taught 6th grade in Washington State for 6 years and 4th, 5th grades in Cherry Creek as well as a Gifted and Talented coordinator. Eric has been an administrator in Cherry Creek for 3 years. He is a graduate of Eastern Washington University and the University of Phoenix with a Masters in Educational Supervision and Leadership. He truly valued his experience with Leadership Aurora. The experiences and connections made have made him a better leader and person.

As a leader in his organization, Eric's most valued experiences in regards to the Leadership Aurora experience was around the chance to collaborate and share stories with other leaders in their industries. Eric enjoys fly fishing, skiing, golf, gardening, spending time with his 9 year old son.

Favorite Quote:

"Let us never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate."

—John F. Kennedy



**Cindy
Mansfield**

**Judy
Lange**

**Niles
McKellar**

Cindy Mansfield

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Cindy was born and raised in Denver. She attended T.J. - Thomas Jefferson, (Denver Public High School). Cindy has a B.S. in Occupational Therapy from Colorado State University. She has no kids, but she has three cats!

Cindy loves to travel and participate recreationally in almost all sports. Her experience with Leadership Aurora was fantastic. She had fun while making contacts throughout Aurora and learning about many different aspects of the city.

Favorite Quote:

"All men fall. The great ones get back up!"

—Mike Murdock

Judy Lange

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Judy is a native of Colorado. Attended the University of Colorado in Boulder, graduated from the graduate school of banking in 1993. Have been in banking for 25 years. Currently at Citywide banks as assistant vice president/loan officer for the bank and insurance agency.

Judy has learned the true meaning of leadership through the Leadership Aurora program. The topics and speakers were outstanding with the city, it's government and the various agencies. She looks forward to continuing friendships with her classmates and business relations.

Favorite Quote:

"Luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity."

—Oprah Winfrey

Niles McKellar

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Niles moved to Colorado from Scott AFB, IL after retiring from the United States Air Force in 1989. She has a B.S. in Social Psychology from Park College, St. Louis, MO and an MA in Human Resources and Development from Webster University, Webster Groves, MO. After retiring from the Air Force, Niles came to work for the American Red Cross, Mile High Chapter where she has held various positions helping people during crisis. As an Armed Forces Emergency Assistance Specialist Niles provided emergency communications for service members and their families, and as a Disaster Specialist she provided emergency assistance and Family Service casework to families/individuals in times of disasters. She has been a member of the Aurora Action Coalition for Community Services (AACCS) for three years and was a member of the Aurora Preservation/Family Support Initiative for four years.

Niles involvement with Leadership Aurora has given her the opportunity to make new friendships and business relationships. It has also given her better understanding of the inner workings of our city government and the educational system of our two school districts.

Favorite Quote:

"To thine own self be true."

—William Shakespeare



**Nancy
Phillips**

**Diane
Norman**

**Vanny
Prark**

**Lori Medina-
Anderson**

Nancy Phillips

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Nancy was born in Calgary, Alberta Canada. That's where her family is from. She's Canadian but recently became an American citizen. Nancy graduated with a bachelor's in social work/psychology from the University of Calgary. From there she won Miss Calgary 1993 went on to win Miss Canada 1993 and participated in Miss Universe. She moved to Boulder, CO the next year and have lived in the United States ever since. Nancy graduated with a master's degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder in both print and broadcast journalism. She has worked for ABC, FOX, CNN, ET, Outdoor Life Network, and in entertainment television for the last ten years. Now Nancy works as the news director/anchor at KACT-TV.

Nancy is an avid runner. She has completed one marathon, several half marathons, and tons of smaller races. She loves to sing, but now it's only on occasion. And she works....a lot!

Favorite Quote:

"If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always gotten."

—Author Unknown

Diane Norman

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After living in 13 states and 2 countries Diane has been proud to call Aurora home since 1989. She has been involved in community activities since her arrival working with the Cherry Creek Schools, her local HOA, the City of Aurora, Hospice, and Habitat for Humanity. After getting her degree in Psychology at UCD she has worked in the fields of training and development and HR. She is the mother of a 23 year old and has been happily married for 24+ years. She loves Aurora and L'Oréal and never wants to leave either.

Diane enjoys golf, hiking, biking, weight lifting, and reading. Leadership Aurora has provided Diane life long friendships and a comprehensive understanding of how Aurora works and how she can make a difference.

Favorite Quote:

"The greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions and not our circumstances."

—Martha Washington

Vanny Prark

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Vanny moved to the Denver area in 1989, from Salt Lake City, UT. She graduated from the University of Colorado at Denver in 1993 with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration. Vanny has worked for the Aurora Federal Credit Union since 1993. She currently holds a position as an Executive Vice President. Vanny is married and has a five-year-old son and a two-year-old daughter.

The Leadership Aurora experience has given Vanny a better understanding of the various functions of the city as well as an opportunity to network and make new friends.

Favorite Quote:

"The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a person's foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher."

—Thomas Huxley

Lori Medina-Anderson

Family Community Partnership
Director
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Lori is a native of Colorado. She attended CU, but graduated from CSU. She is married and has 2 children – a 4 year old, and a 5 year old. Lori is from a close family – her mother and brother live with them and have for about 4 years. She has always been interested in working with children and families - and has worked in Aurora for about 7-8 years.

Lori loves her children and her family. She enjoys sports events (Broncos and NBA), traveling, and working on her house - backyard - etc. Through Leadership Aurora, Lori has gained self-confidence in her leadership skills. The experience provided wonderful peer models that she learned a lot from. She feels like a more positive-stronger supervisor/leader.

Favorite Quote:

"The purpose of getting power is to be able to give it away."

—Aneurin Bevan



**William
M. Stuart**

**Nosh
Tarachand**

**Cindy
Sainz**

William M. Stuart

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William is a Colorado native and graduate of Aurora Public Schools. He attended Gateway High School, and was a two sport athlete. After graduating from Hobart College, in Geneva, New York, he received his teaching license and masters degree from the University of Colorado - Denver. His entire professional career has been as an educator in the Aurora Public Schools. He taught Social Studies and coached football and track at Aurora Central prior to earning his administrative license. After serving as dean and assistant principal at Aurora Central, he accepted the principalship at William Smith High School, where he has served since 1999.

William has learned a great deal about the resources available to the citizens of Aurora through the Leadership Aurora program. Far too often we are unaware of the efforts of those in the community to make it a better safer place.

Favorite Quote:

"The great end of life is not knowledge, but action."

—Thomas Henry Huxley

Nosh Tarachand

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Nosh has been a resident in the State of Colorado for 20 years during which time he has owned and operated his own business. He has been involved with community activities as much as "time would allow." You'll know what he means as you read further—

Nosh enjoys flying, cycling, fishing, hiking, water skiing, camping, 4 wheeling, racquet ball, tennis, golfing, art shows, symphony; generally trying to make time for as many things as he can.

A world of knowledge is what described Nosh's experience with the Leadership Aurora program. He admires and values the knowledge presented by the leadership staff as well as employees of the city. He was impressed by the organization effort. "Kudos Kimberly" – Thank you

Favorite Quote:

"Knowledge is man's highest acquisition. It is priceless. It is unfailing and a lifelong friend, his surest and safest guide to life."

—Zarathustra

Cindy Sainz

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Cindy was born in Denver and lived in Aurora for 16 years. She attended the University of Colorado at Denver and Metro State 1978-1982. She has one child, a beautiful, smart and dynamic 18-year-old daughter named Genevieve. Cindy joined United Bank of Denver in 1978 (United Bank merged with Norwest and then with Wells Fargo). She is the past president of the Hispanic Employees Resource Group. Cindy and her daughter work together on many volunteer projects. They taught Sunday school, worked on political campaigns, and hosted an annual Christmas party for the elderly for over 10 years. They also fostered three little boys 3, 5, and 8 for two years. Cindy currently serves as a member of Rocky Mountain SER Amigos, Denver Children's Advocacy Center, OASIS, Chic Chicana, the American GI Forum, Junior Achievement, School to Work, and the Aurora YMCA.

Cindy is an occasional golfer. She and her daughter spend as much time together as they can with her busy schedule. She also spends time with her 3 "adopted" grandchildren ages 2, 7 and 8. Cindy has been able to gain new friends!! She knows more about the diversity in Aurora, in it's residents, it's businesses, housing and non-profits. She sees a prosperous future for Aurora.

Favorite Quote:

"One person can make a difference and every person should try."

—John F. Kennedy



**Anthony
W. Wade**

**Leroy
Williams**

**Lenora
Walker**

**Candrea K.
Thomas**

Anthony W. Wade

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Anthony is a Board Commissioner of the Aurora Human Relations Commission. He was appointed by the Aurora City Council to the Commission in 2000 and, along with fellow Commissioners, addresses the issues of human/community relations, equal opportunity, and diversity involving the citizens of Aurora. A U.S. Air Force veteran, he retired from Lowry Air Force Base in 1994 and is presently the Manager of Employment and Compensation for the Denver Water Department. His previous community service included, but is not limited to, the Aurora Community Housing Resources Board, Colorado EEO/AA Coalition, Board Member/ Recruitment Chair of the Cape Fear Area United Way in North Carolina and Program Chair of the Leadership North Carolina program.

Favorite Quote:

"If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

—Martin Luther King, Jr., 1964

Leroy Williams

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Leroy was born in Denver, Colorado, and graduated from Hinkley High School in Aurora. Upon graduation he enlisted in the Army, traveling abroad to Mannheim, Germany, where he was stationed for nearly 3 years. While here, he received his first training in the fields of telecommunications and computer science. After being honorably discharged and returning to the United States, Leroy completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Science, while working as a programmer analyst for Norwest Technical Services. In 1996, he began working for U S West Inc. Since then he has held various management positions with Qwest (U S West) including internal audit systems manager, business/financial analyst, director-Colorado local markets, and director-Dex information management and ebusiness strategy. Currently he is the director of information technology for Qwest Communications, responsible for the development and deployment of Qwest B2B & Supply Chain Management systems. During his employment with Qwest, Leroy completed the Executive MBA program at the University of Denver. Leroy has been married to his wife Kristi for 7 years. They have 3 children, Breanne-6, Jalen-5, and Trevor-3. His family is his primary source of inspiration and motivation

Leadership Aurora has given Leroy a tremendous opportunity to learn more about the growth challenges facing the city of Aurora, has allowed him to meet and network with wonderful people, and finally, has given him the chance to lead a great group of leaders and professionals.

Famous Quote:

"Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice: It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved."

—William Jennings Bryan

Lenora Walker

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Lenora is a native of Dayton, OH and moved to Aurora in 1990. She is a graduate of Regis University and now pursuing a masters degree there as well. She is actively involved in community organizations that impact children and families.

The Leadership Aurora experience gave Lenora insight into what Aurora's all about. She learned many valuable lessons and got to know some interesting people. She learned about the inner workings of our city and had experiences she will always treasure.

Favorite Quote:

"The time is always right to do what is right."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Candrea K. Thomas

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Candrea was born in Florida and raised in a military family. She served 7 1/2 years in the Air Force. She's been married over three years and has a year old son named Jackson. Candrea attends Colorado Christian University where she is studying organizational management with a Human Resources concentration. She is the deputy chief of Public Affairs at Buckley AFB where she concentrates on environmental concerns and community relations between base and personnel and city residents.

Candrea enjoys music, art and theater. Her favorite past time is reading. She spends a lot of time with her family, building memories that will last a lifetime. Leadership Aurora has expanded Candrea's ability to help create a better living and working environment for the people of Aurora.

Favorite Quote:

"The value of a man resides in what he gives and not what he is capable of receiving."

—Albert Einstein

Opening Retreat

“A Leadership Space Odyssey” or The Night the Lights Went Out in Copper Mountain

Session Coordinators: Dominic Martinez, Tim Ehgotz, Jo Snell,
Jake Shirk, Ray Barnes, Becky Barcheski, Cindy Kunkel,
Kim Podobnik, Steve Thompson

Many classmates got together for conversation and cocktails at Leadership Aurora’s pre-retreat party, resulting in the beginnings of friendships as well as carpooling to beautiful Copper Mountain for the three-day retreat.

Class enjoyed days filled with workshops, breakout sessions, team building exercises and more – all with fun included.

Ice breaking, team building, Milky Ways and Snickers, Sir Squirrel’s escapades, and discussions followed an evening of candle lighting and wood burning. Whether we were dining in the dark or blindfolded in the sun, we could clearly see that this was going to be a memorable year. Relationships were built and bonds were formed in those three days. We went up the mountain as 35 strangers and came down one cohesive unit. We were ready and willing to face the unknown ahead, trusting in each other.



Being blindfolded proved puzzling.



New friendships were formed.



2000-2001 Leadership Aurora class at beautiful Copper Mountain.



All together now – 1-2-3 Jump!



Exploring the community's needs.

“Community Ties & You” or Giving Back

Session Coordinators: Anne Ayers, Cindy Bohl, Sheila Martin, Susan Miller, Kim Podobnik, Terri Wohlever

The community's needs and the first class efforts to provide for Aurora's citizens were our first “Leadership” lessons. We delved into the richness of our community's diversity, the special services offered to our children and the plan for our city. Then we dug into spaetzle and schnitzel and were given our symbolic yo-yos. After a quick afternoon theater break we tried to absorb the enormity of the needs and issues related to Crisis & Families, Seniors, and Culture and Recreation. We all walked away with a deep feeling of commitment and the knowledge of how to “give back.”

“In the Line of Fire” or In the Scrutiny of the Public Eye

Session Coordinators: Jake Shirk, Steve Marshall, Paul Short

The patrol officer, the officer directing traffic, the neighborhood PAR officer, and the public relations officer are those that the Aurora citizens recognize. But as we learned during the Police Session, the Aurora Police Department is much more complex and sophisticated than that. Aurora citizens do not see the behind the scenes efforts to protect us and keep us safe.

Whether it is through investment in technology to improve communications, undercover operations to keep us safe from vice and narcotics trade, youth programs, SWAT, or DART, the fact that we don't know they are there showed us that they are doing a really great job.



Cindy Mansfield models the latest in SWAT gear attire.



Diane Norman pretends to inject Dick Havercamp with a life-saving drug during the tour of the emergency department

“Where Does it Hurt” or Advancements and Setbacks

Session Coordinators: Cindy Kunkel, Anne Ayers, Cindy Bohl, Steve Thompson, Terri Wohlever

Advancements in medicine were the theme of the day. Whether it was the Anschutz Center for Advanced Medicine at Fitzsimons or the new open MRI at The Medical Center of Aurora South. We saw that Aurora's medical care is on the track of “futuristic” medicine. Through the ER and on to the challenges facing the medical community and the insurance industry we were taken on a roller coaster ride through the ups and downs of our national healthcare dilemma. We agonized over the complexities facing our community and rejoiced that there are those out there who care. Maybe with this knowledge one of us will make a difference.

“Lights, Camera, Action!” or In the Hot Seat

Session Coordinators: Kim Podobnik, Sheila Martin, Randy Simpson, Sammie Wheeler-Clouse

When a single word can make the difference between being portrayed accurately or being misrepresented, such is the power of the media. Situations were demonstrated and situations were created to challenge us to think on our feet and react as leaders should. Whether on a panel responding to a barrage of questions or before the cameras and lights defending a position, the feelings and emotions were strong. We went into the day novices and came out with a higher regard and better understanding of those who are in the public eye, those that bring us the truth, and those that help form our opinions, the media.



Nosh Tarachand is “ambushed” by a Channel 8 news team.



Dianne Truwe explains the city zoning process as Judy Lange and J.J. Jaster listen intently.

“School Daze” or What Can Be

Session Coordinators: Tim Ehgotz, Becky Barcheski, Susan Miller, Marc Stine, Sammie Wheeler-Clouse

Learning. Lessons. Respect. Pride. Passion. Dedication.

Leaders. These are words that are still very much alive throughout Aurora’s schools. Hands on opportunities gave each a chance to watch, listen, and experience first hand the students and educators of our community. We found that students falling into all demographics, whether elementary, middle or high school, technical school or community college, were there to learn and enhance their future. We saw positive, motivated people enriching the lives of others. Leading us to believe that we will all benefit, and education will continue to propel future generations to excellence.

“Wheel of Fortune” or To Build or Not to Build

Session Coordinators: Sheila Martin, Becky Barcheski, Dominic Martinez, John Nelms, Paul Short, Jo Snell

Yeah or Ney. Those were the only two responses and difficult responses they were. Thrown into the midst of a scenario created to mirror reality we were a class divided. Divided into developers, neighbors, city staff, and City Council. Together again we were learning and appreciating an aspect of Aurora that so few experience. The challenges did not stop there. We were then confronted with issues that most avoid: affordable housing (where is it?), interest rates’ effect on the economy, and economic development. This day gave some of us the urge to run and hide and others of us the urge to run and serve.



Kim Johnson shares her artifact during the Education Session.



J.J. Jaster at the controls of a KC-135 tanker.

“Where There’s Smoke, There’s Fire” or Rain, Rain, Go Away

Session Coordinator: Ray Barnes

Once upon a time, on a cold and rainy night . . . oops, it was daytime! We learned what Aurora Firefighters deal with every day by watching a surprising demonstration about the triangle of fire -- fuel, heat and oxygen. An afternoon of fun on the academy drill ground (in the rain, of course), included learning to fight a fire at the base where the solid becomes a vapor, wearing firefighters’ bunker gear, putting out a propane tank fire with a fire hose that took four people to hold, and exploring a fire safety mobile trailer. It made us all feel a lot safer realizing the knowledge, expertise and training it takes to become a firefighter.



Learning to extinguish a fire at its base.



Sub-machine guns can be quite a kick.



Diane Norman carefully studies an ordinance during a mock city council meeting.

“Pride and Presence” or Gone with the Wind

Session Coordinators: Buck Buckingham, Tim Ehgotz, Paul Short

We met early in the morning at Buckley Air Force Base to learn about the military presence in the Aurora community in a much-anticipated session. Touring the maintenance facility where F-16s and stealth bombers are repaired and maintained fueled the dreams of many of what it would be like to fly in the wild blue yonder. Being able to see what was inside of the Buckley “golf balls” (huge satellite dishes), was a secret many longed to find out more about. The anticipated highlight of the day – climbing aboard a KC-135 tanker to see bombers re-fuel in mid-air – was dashed when high winds kept the plane grounded for our safety. Instead we gathered at the officers club to share our “Top Gun” fantasies.

Class Projects



Class members take a well-deserved break.

“Leading by Lending a Hand”

The Leadership Aurora Class of 2001 painting project with COMITIS Crisis Center was held on May 11 and 12, 2001. Approximately 34 people including class members, family members and students from West Middle School showed up to help COMITIS ready the remodeled building on the former Fitzsimons Army Base for offices and housing. Eight rooms and bathrooms were painted, another was partially completed, and two more prepped. U.S. Homes and Tamarac Square Ace Hardware donated fifty gallons of paint. Wells Fargo Banks, FirstBanks and Citywide Banks furnished the supplies needed for the undertaking such as paint-brushes, rollers, and masking tape. Class members Cindy Mansfield and Tom Deall along with Tom’s family provided a continental breakfast and lunch to feed the workers. Class project coordinator, Lanne Lancaster, and her committee put in many hours pulling the whole thing together. Their efforts will be remembered for many years to come by the staff and clients of COMITIS who will use the facility daily.



Did Christinne and Corine paint themselves into a corner?

“Blood Drive”

A willingness to give was demonstrated on Wednesday, March 14, 2001 when nine members of the 2000/2001 Leadership Aurora Class donated blood. We were willing to give all, including blood. The blood drive, sponsored by this leadership class was organized to benefit the Presbyterian/St. Luke’s Medical Center Blood Bank and hosted by the Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital. Cindy Mansfield, Spalding Rehabilitation Center CEO helped organize the event. This effort, a response to a plea from Denver Blood Banks for organizations to sponsor a Blood Drive due to an extreme shortage of blood locally, demonstrates the dedication and commitment of this group to give back to the people of this community.

2000 ~ 2001 Interest Directory

	Aging	Arts / Theater	Chemical Abuse	Child Abuse	Childcare	Community Planning	Econ. Development	Education	Government	Health Services	Legal	Mental Health	Recreation	Religion	Small Business	Transportation	Youth Services	Visitor Promotion
Bea Awoniyi						▲			▲	▲			▲		▲			▲
Rory Chetelat			▲				▲	▲	▲									
Jay Clary							▲	▲			▲						▲	
Terry Coffman			▲				▲	▲	▲	▲					▲	▲	▲	▲
Thomas Deall							▲		▲	▲	▲		▲		▲		▲	
Melissa Elliott						▲			▲	▲			▲				▲	
Ellyn Gebhardt	▲								▲				▲	▲		▲		▲
Fran Gomez	▲	▲			▲					▲		▲			▲			
Dick Havercamp							▲	▲	▲	▲					▲		▲	
Mary Heller			▲							▲		▲	▲				▲	
Christine Hoppe							▲	▲	▲	▲		▲					▲	
Beverly Husted-Petry							▲	▲		▲	▲						▲	
J.J. Jaster							▲	▲	▲	▲		▲				▲	▲	▲
Anita Johnson	▲				▲				▲	▲	▲	▲	▲		▲		▲	▲
Christinne Johnson				▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲		▲	▲		▲	▲	
Kim M. Johnson	▲			▲	▲				▲	▲				▲			▲	
Ryan King			▲						▲			▲			▲		▲	
Eric Kophs				▲	▲	▲		▲	▲			▲		▲			▲	
Mike Kucera							▲	▲		▲		▲	▲					
Lanne Lancaster			▲						▲		▲				▲			
Judy Lange	▲			▲							▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲		
Cindy Mansfield	▲										▲							
Niles McKellar	▲	▲			▲	▲					▲		▲				▲	▲
Lori Medina-Anderson				▲	▲	▲	▲		▲		▲	▲	▲	▲			▲	
Diane Norman	▲						▲	▲	▲	▲							▲	
Nancy Phillips			▲						▲				▲					
Vanny Prark									▲	▲		▲		▲		▲		
Cindy Sainz					▲	▲	▲	▲		▲	▲							
Bill Stuart			▲				▲		▲	▲							▲	
Nosh Tarachand	▲			▲	▲	▲	▲	▲		▲				▲		▲	▲	▲
Candrea Thomas			▲	▲	▲	▲	▲		▲	▲	▲			▲			▲	▲
Anthony Wade									▲									
Lenora Walker				▲			▲	▲	▲		▲							
Leroy Williams							▲	▲	▲	▲						▲		

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Change is in the air.

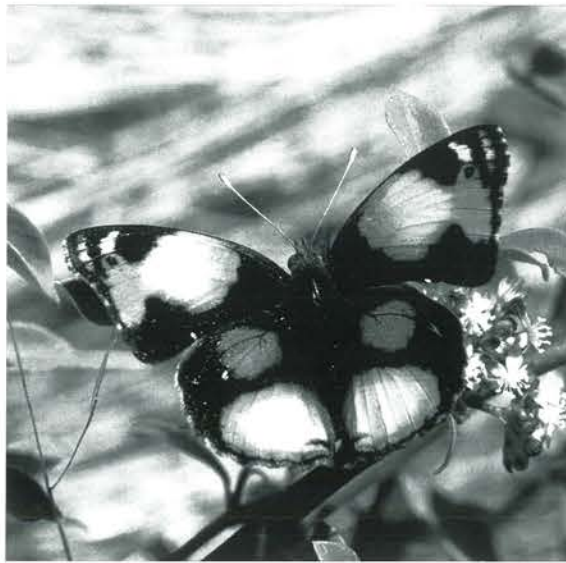


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