

01  
02

"... Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead

## LEADERSHIP AURORA CLASS • 2001-2002

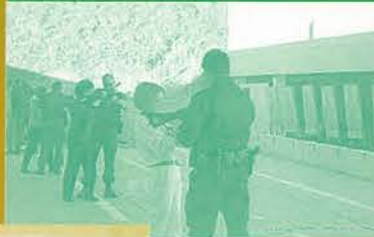
LOYALTY



RESPONSIBILITY



DETERMINATION



ACHIEVEMENT



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 enhance leadership abilities by identifying leadership styles, 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 LEADERSHIP CLASS OF 2001-2002

Leadership Aurora is one of more than 1,000 community leadership programs across the United States. It is a program sponsored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and underwritten by the Chamber, in-kind donations and tuition. Past graduates of Leadership Aurora assume the role of board members and oversee curriculum and other program specifics.

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

The class of 2001-2002 expresses its sincere gratitude to each board member who spent countless volunteer hours formulating program content and securing presenters for each session. Past class members 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 the past year. Each of you shares in the success of Leadership Aurora. Thank you!





## Tim Ehgotz

### Leadership Aurora Board Chair

Congratulations, graduates of Leadership Aurora 2001-2002. Your investment of time and energy along with team building and collegial partnerships hopefully have afforded you friendships and networking opportunities that you'll enjoy for years ahead.

As stated in the book, *The Leader of the Future* (The Drucker Foundation Future Series), "True leadership brings people of diverse backgrounds and interests



together in ways that provide fair and equitable opportunities to contribute their best, achieve personal goals, and realize their full potential."

Collaborative learning opportunities began in Winter Park under sunny skies and mountain fall colors. This class bonded quickly and as the True Colors personality assessment provided additional enthusiasm, class members began planning

how to set their sights on becoming an exceptional group of leaders. The class returned to our City prepared for the challenge of participating in learning who, what, when, where and why Aurora is a terrific place to live, work, invest and play.

Community Day set off the monthly sessions by providing valued information about our diversity as well as our public and professional organizations. Other sessions providing hands-on, in-depth training were: police, fire fighting, health care, education and the military presence in Aurora. The economic and media sessions actively involved all members in a variety of hot-seat, real-time decision-making scenarios.

The class developed, organized and participated in several projects aimed at sharing their talents with local community groups. They gathered coats for the homeless, baby blankets for low-income new moms, used cell phones for battered women, and canned food for holiday baskets. In addition, the class presented a Home Safety Seminar for seniors.

Compliments and a big thank you to the members of the Leadership Aurora Board of Directors who volunteer their time and do a superb job of planning, setting up and delivering each monthly session with front-line information sharing. Their attention to detail and valuable contributions are examples to follow of these community leaders. Special thanks to Kimberly Curtis, Leadership Aurora Program Director, whose leadership and compassion is to be commended.

We hope your experience in the program will motivate you to stay involved in our City and encourage others to continue to contribute to Aurora's greatness. Your participation in this program made it better; please share your lessons learned with others so that they may follow in your footsteps.

Glad to be here,  
God Bless America

Tim Ehgotz  
Leadership Aurora Board Chair

## Sam McGhee

### 2001 - 2002 Class President

When we first met in September, we were 35 people from all walks of life representing business, government, education and the medical field. We were unacquainted and unfamiliar with each other's abilities and unsuspecting of the potential at hand. Nevertheless, individually we possessed a strong sense of community commitment. Some of us were apprehensive about what was to come, yet, as the weekend retreat continued, our individual strengths were revealed. From that moment, it was apparent to me that this group would be unstoppable in any effort we focused on. As the year progressed, we developed relationships with one another, solved problems, and focused on solutions. A team was born.

As I reflect on our cohesiveness, it brings to my mind the word "Synergy": The capacity of a collective whole, being much greater than the sum of the parts or individuals. We have wholeheartedly embraced and repeatedly demonstrated the notion of synergy by successfully putting into action more than eight projects in addition to the Aurora Seniors' Safety Seminar class project. As well, I have appreciated the innumerable times when many of you would come forward and volunteer as the various needs arose. I thank everyone for their willingness to collaborate, to cooperate and to bring forward such varied backgrounds and experiences so that each of our perspectives would be broadened. I especially thank the people who were eager to take action in these uncertain times when the controlling grip of hesitation and doubt may have thwarted opportunities.

To the members of the Leadership Aurora Board: Thank you for providing many diverse experiences during the various sessions. You have provided the necessary ingredients to spark the flames of inquiry, debate and involvement.

And finally, while we will never be assembled as this particular group again, the common good and positive results achieved during our time together will live on. It is now up to us to take the seeds planted and create more of the same. We may part ways after this year's session concludes but the momentum formed from the character of our class can carry forward, bringing others together for noble causes. So, go out there and be the powerful leaders that you are. Influence those around you with the spirit of the Leadership Aurora Class of 2001-2002. Truly, it has been such a pleasure to be associated with all of you.



Sam McGhee  
2001-2002 Class President



# 01 02 Class Profiles



## "True Colors"

At the opening retreat for the 2001-2002 Leadership Aurora program, class members participated in a daylong introduction to Don Lowry's True Colors®.

The program, a metaphor for understanding human characteristics, is geared toward helping participants see and use different ways of rewarding and supporting people's natural behaviors and values. Identification with differences in human characteristics is accomplished through the use of metaphors such as "characters" and "color."

True Colors® four personality colors are blue, gold, green and orange. Blues value balance and harmony, loyalty and a sense of belonging, empathy, aesthetic experiences and reflective awareness. Golds value being practical and sensible, and

represent stability, maintenance of the culture and the organization, efficiency and dependability. Greens value their intellect and capabilities above all else and depend upon information rather than feelings to create a sense of well-being. Oranges feel the will to win and be successful, desire all things that offer intense living and full experience, and generate an impulse toward active doing.

The True Colors® theme is carried throughout the 2001-2002 Leadership Aurora class yearbook, with each class member's "color" associated with their individual biography.



## Richard B. Allison

Senior Vice President  
Adolfson & Peterson  
Construction  
797 Ventura St.  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-363-7101  
rallison@a-p.com

Rich is vice president for Adolfson & Peterson Construction. He is responsible for the overall operations of the Colorado office. Rich was born and raised in Iowa, and graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor of science in construction engineering. He started his career in construction at the age of 16, working as carpenter/laborer for a small residential contractor. Rich joined Adolfson & Peterson in 1983 when he moved to Colorado. Prior to joining A&P, he worked in Minnesota for four years. Rich and his wife, Barb, who live in Highlands Ranch, have been married for 18 years and have two sons, Joe and Dan. Rich is an active member of the Rotary Club of Denver Southeast.

Rich loves coaching youth baseball and basketball. During his personal free time, you'll find him out on the golf course.

Through Leadership Aurora, Rich gained friendships, knowledge and networking connections.

Favorite Quote:  
*"Striving to be the best of the best."*

— Dontotsu



## Ricky Brandt

Lieutenant, Professional  
Standards Section  
Aurora Police Department  
15001 E. Alameda Parkway  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-739-6817  
rbrandt@ciaurora.co.us

Ricky was born in Vicenza, Italy, in 1958 and has lived in the Denver area since 1963. All of his mother's family is still in and around Verona. He was married in September 1981 and accepted to the Aurora Police Department Academy two months later. Twenty years later, Ricky still has the same wife and job. He decided at age 13 that police work was for him and he's never regretted the career choice. He's still amazed that a person can have this much fun and get paid for it. During his career Ricky has been assigned to Patrol, Foot Patrol, Vice and Narcotics, Internal Affairs, DART (tactical motorcycles) and Federal Drug Task Forces. He currently commands the department's Emergency Response Team.

He obtained a bachelor of arts degree in business in 1998 and is currently enrolled in a graduate program. His hobbies include Hi-Fi stereo, fine wine, fine food, travel and weightlifting. He enjoys adrenaline sports such as mountain biking, skydiving (going to do it again this summer!), scuba diving, and white water rafting.

There is much Ricky gained in Leadership Aurora: new friends, new experiences, new insights. What he found in his Leadership experience is that his classmates give of themselves to help others. He has gained a great sense of pride to have been associated with some of the finest people he has ever had the pleasure of meeting.

Favorite Quote:  
*"Do, or do not, There is no try."*  
— Yoda



## Elizabeth (Beth) Demmons

U.S. Air Force Captain  
Director of Services  
Buckley AFB  
400 N. Beaver Creek St. (Stop 90)  
Buckley AFB, CO 80011-9609  
303-677-6919  
elizabethdemmons@buckley.af.mil

Beth graduated in 1988 from Butte High School in Butte, Mont., and proceeded to the U.S. Air Force Academy. After four long years, she graduated with a bachelor of science degree in legal studies and entered the Air Force as a second lieutenant in 1992. Her military career has taken her to many places. Her assignments have included Scott Air Force Base, Ill.; a one-year tour at Kunsan Air Base, Korea; an assignment to Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; and now Buckley Air Force Base. In that time, she also was privileged to receive a scholarship to attend the University of South Carolina to complete her master's degree in Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Administration. She is married to a wonderful man named Ken, and they had their first child, Kelson Turner, on Oct. 24, 2001.

Beth enjoys the outdoors and participates in hiking and biking. She also enjoys sports and regularly participates in volleyball and softball. She enjoys crafting, including needlepoint, stained glass, and flower and wreath arrangements.

Beth thinks Leadership Aurora was a terrific experience. She says the best part of the program was the people. From organizers to participants and guest speakers, they were all top notch. She believes friendships and alliances have been forged forever.

Favorite Quote:  
*"Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones."*

— Phillips Brooks





## Mimi DeRose

Principal of Polton Elementary  
Cherry Creek Schools  
2895 S. Oakland St  
Aurora, CO 80014  
720-747-2600  
mderose@mail.ccsd.k12.co.us

Mimi grew up on Long Island and moved to Colorado 24 years ago. She has worked in Cherry Creek that entire time, serving the first 17 years as a teacher. Mimi and her husband have a daughter in college and a son in high school. In addition, her 80-year-old mother has lived with them for 17 years.

She enjoys keeping track of and attending her children's activities, spending time with family and friends, reading, biking and working on various projects.

Through Leadership Aurora, Mimi developed an even larger appreciation for the services other organizations provide to the community. Her perspectives are broader. Perhaps the most significant benefit of this program has been the specific and positive experiences she has had learning more about the city of Aurora.

### **Favorite Quote:**

*"Marshaling, focusing and developing energy, information and relationships becomes the role of leaders."*

— Margaret Wheatley



## Marianne Dexter

Chief Nursing Officer/  
Chief Operating Officer  
Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital  
900 Potomac St  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-363-5299  
marianne.dexter@healthonecares.com

Marianne is a native of Milford, Conn. and moved to Aurora in 1997. She has a bachelor of science in nursing from the University of Bridgeport in Bridgeport, Conn., and a master of science in nursing from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn. Practicing as a nurse in the rehabilitation field for "20-something years," Marianne has now been the chief nursing officer at Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital for the last five years. She loves nursing and would never think of doing anything else.

Marianne has been married for 27 years and has three children and one grandchild. She spends a lot of time with her family and especially enjoys attending their sports activities.

Leadership Aurora has given Marianne a wonderful opportunity to learn about the community she lives and works in. The networking experiences and the friendships made with the high energy, dedicated leaders of Aurora have been incredible.

### **Favorite Quote:**

*"I think one's feelings waste themselves in words; they ought all to be distilled into actions which bring results."*

— Florence Nightingale



## Diana Dreiling

Vice President  
Wells Fargo Bank  
2222 S. Buckley Road  
Aurora, CO 80013  
303-338-4700  
Diana.M.Dreiling@WellsFargo.com

Diana, a Colorado native, attended Colorado State University and San Diego State College. She has been in banking since 1971. She has been married to her wonderful husband, Joe, for 30 years, and has two children (not children anymore!), Ryan, 26 years old, and Breanna, 20 years old. Diana's son and his wife have a beautiful 6-month-old and another on the way.

Diana enjoys reading, bike riding, ceramics and golf (that is a joke because she's tried it twice!).

Through Leadership Aurora, Diana believes the greatest thing she gained was the sharing of experiences and friendships with the class. The class is so diverse and yet has so much in common, as well as the willingness to share both personal and professional experiences. The activities really opened her eyes to all that is going on in Aurora and the community and looking at things a little differently than before. Her opportunity to join the Aurora Education Foundation Board is a direct result of her contact with Leadership Aurora. It is an experience that she will carry with her, and she is honestly sad that it is about to come to an end.

### **Favorite Quote:**

*"The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning."*

— Morrie Schwartz



## Julie Everitt

Public Information Officer  
City of Aurora  
1450 S. Havana St., Room 528  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-739-7181  
jeveritt@ci.aurora.co.us

Born in Michigan, Julie grew up in Colorado Springs. She moved to Texas in 1991 to attend Baylor University in Waco, where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in journalism. After graduating, Julie worked as a newspaper reporter for the *Waco Tribune-Herald* and later for the *Fort Worth Business Press*. She entered the public relations field in 2000, starting at an advertising and public relations agency in Fort Worth. That same year, she moved to Aurora with her fiancé, David Patterson, who also is a member of the Leadership Aurora Class of 2001-2002. They will be married at a May 2002 ceremony in Houston. As a public information officer for the city of Aurora, Julie has found that life at work is never dull.

In her spare time, Julie enjoys reading, watching movies, listening to music, cooking, traveling, yoga, walking, tennis and generally taking part in new experiences.

The Leadership Aurora sessions provided Julie with an opportunity to try new things, learn about community issues in greater depth, broaden her knowledge about Aurora as a whole and meet interesting people in a variety of industries.

### **Favorite Quote:**

*"We must cultivate our garden."*  
— Voltaire





## Wendy Farley

Director of Franchising  
AT&T Broadband  
8000 E. Iliff Ave.  
Denver, CO 80231  
303-603-5013  
Farley.Wendy.W@broadbandatt.com

Wendy is originally from New Orleans. She moved to Colorado in 1999 with her husband, who is a fourth-generation Coloradoan. She is a Colorado lawyer. In her current position, she serves as the liaison between the city of Aurora and her company. She handles any city issue that relates to AT&T Broadband in Aurora.

Wendy is expecting her first child in July. She enjoys skiing, biking, tennis, traveling and reading.

The Leadership Aurora experience has provided Wendy the opportunity to learn the unique challenges facing private and public institutions in Aurora. She also has enjoyed getting to know her classmates.

### Favorite Quote:

*"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."*

— John F. Kennedy



## Robert (Bob) Fryberger

Chief Financial Officer  
Fitzsimons Community  
Federal Credit Union  
13529 E. 17th Place  
Aurora, CO 80010  
303-226-8571  
RobertF@Fitzfcu.org

Bob was born in Denver as a third generation native to the state. He was raised in Northglenn, and graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a bachelor of science degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting. After graduation, Bob was hired by Fitzsimons Community Federal Credit Union as the accounting manager and was eventually promoted to the chief financial officer position. In 1998, Bob earned his master of science degree in finance from the University of Colorado at Denver. Bob has been highly involved with the credit union movement for the last 14 years, and a member of credit unions since he was 8 years old.

Bob has been married to Caroline for the last 11 years, and together they have 2 children: Jacqueline, 10, and Nicholas, 6. Bob loves spending time with his family and especially enjoys taking them on trips to France. He also likes getting involved with coaching his son's soccer team and assisting both kids with homework.

The Leadership Aurora program has given Bob a broader perspective and understanding of the complexity involved with maintaining a city. He has also gained friendships with professionals just as dedicated toward keeping Aurora a great place to work and live.

### Favorite Quote:

*"I find the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have."*

— Thomas Jefferson



## Rebecca (Becky) L.T. Gann

Financial Manager  
Colorado Air National Guard  
18860 E. Breckenridge Ave.  
MS-60  
Buckley AFB, CO 80011  
303-677-9684  
rebecca.gann@cobuckang.af.mil

Originally from North Dakota, Becky had made her home in wonderful Colorado since 1981. She has been a member of the National Guard since 1975, and in the Colorado Air National Guard since 1984. She received her officer commission in 1988 and today is a Lieutenant Colonel. She is proud to serve her community and country, both in uniform and out. Becky believes serving her community is the best way to make friends and influence the future.

Becky lives with her husband of 18 years and her mother-in-law. She enjoys rainy days, soothing music and a good book. Oh, and she loves to go antiquing.

For Becky, meeting fellow burgeoning leaders of this great community through Leadership Aurora has been highly illuminating and rewarding. She feels that although each class member's interests vary, our hearts are the same - caring.

### Favorite quote:

*"No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States."*

— George Washington



## Jeff Hancock

Vice President  
FirstBank of Aurora  
19771 E. Smoky Hill Road  
Aurora, CO 80015  
303-696-2982  
jeff.hancock@efirstbank.com

Jeff was born in San Antonio, Texas, but grew up in the Chicago suburbs. He attended the University of Illinois, where he managed the men's varsity basketball team and received his degree in finance. He moved to Colorado in 1994 to escape the traffic and cold winters in Chicago. He went to work for FirstBank in 1997, which is the same year he met his wife whom he married in the fall of 2001.

In his free time, Jeff enjoys golfing, skiing and traveling around the world.

His involvement in Leadership Aurora has exposed him to a variety of different leadership styles and philosophies and a great group of people.

### Favorite Quote:

*"Happiness is not a state to arrive at, but a manner of traveling."*

— Margaret Lee Runbeck





## Rose-Etta (Rozi) Horn

Computer Education Provider  
MIRO Training, Inc.  
360 Ursula St.  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-522-5653  
raddinc@attbi.com

For the past seven years, Rozi has been a computer education provider for MIRO Training, Inc. to various businesses and community colleges in the Denver Metro area where she teaches a variety of computer courses. To support her teaching credential, she holds a bachelor of science in computer information systems management and she is currently completing her thesis for her master's degree in education with emphasis on adult education at Colorado State University. At CSU, Rozi is a research assistant at the Family and Youth Institute. In January 2003, she will begin her doctorate. She grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and she is the last of four children. Rozi started her quest for knowledge in college at the early age of 16 at the University of Cincinnati. Also in her quest for knowledge, Rozi believes the thing she enjoys most about school is the exchange of knowledge with others. She is married to a very loving and supportive husband, and they have two wonderful young adult children, ages 19 and 22. Rozi enjoys life, and as a result, has many hobbies. Her favorites are sewing, reading, listening to music, and of course, working on computers.

Rozi feels that the Leadership Aurora experience has been a very fulfilling and fun experience. Never before has she been a part of such a committee of caring, comedic characters with hearts of gold. She believes she is blessed to have been a part of such a group.

Favorite Quote:

*"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."*

— Scott Adams



## Barbara Hughes

Director of the Aurora  
Nurse-Midwives  
The Medical Center of Aurora  
1400 S. Potomac, #225  
Aurora, CO 80013  
303-695-2869  
barbara.hughes@healthonecares.com

Barbara graduated from the University of Colorado School of Nursing with a bachelor's degree in 1980. After graduation, she sought certification as a childbirth educator through ASPO and worked as a labor and delivery nurse at University Hospital in Denver. Barbara returned to graduate school with a focus in Nurse-Midwifery, completing her master's degree in nursing in 1985. She has practiced as a certified nurse-midwife in both private hospital and academic settings and was on the faculty of the University of Colorado School of Nursing from 1988 to 1997. To further develop her business knowledge and leadership potential, Barbara completed a master's degree in business administration in 1996. Currently, Barbara is the director of Aurora Nurse-Midwives at The Medical Center of Aurora, the largest nurse-midwifery practice in Colorado. She also serves as the co-chair of the ethics committee at the hospital.

Barbara is passionate about nurse-midwifery and often devotes spare time to professional development and public speaking to or about nurse-midwives. She is involved with numerous local and national professional organizations and boards. Her one guilty pleasure is reading murder mystery novels.

Barbara believes the Leadership Aurora experience enriched both her professional and personal life. She says her knowledge about the Aurora community in so many areas has expanded her network of contacts and will better enable her to reach out into the community to serve mothers and babies.

Favorite Quote:

*"There are two classes of people in the world: those who take the best and enjoy it, and those who wish for something better and try to create it."*

— Florence Nightingale



## Diane Lehman-McClane

Executive Asst. to Mayor and  
City Council  
City of Aurora  
1470 S. Havana, Suite 808  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-739-7592  
dlehman@ciaurora.co.us

Diane was raised in Evergreen, Colo., and attended the University of Missouri at Kansas City. She has had adventures in working for the Board of Trade in Kansas City, Mo; Walt Disney in New York; Nike Apparel in Beaverton, Ore., and with the City of Aurora for the last 15 years. She raised two incredible children, has two gorgeous granddaughters and is married to her best friend.

Diane enjoys reading, quilting, textile handwork, stained glass, gardening, jazz and classical music, and of course, grandbabies.

She believes the Leadership Aurora experience has been engaging and educational. She has learned even more about the city where she lives, works and plays. Most significantly, she says she has met outstanding members of our community, whose leadership skills are impressive, whose dedication to their fellow people is inspiring and whose hearts are incomparable. Diane thinks this is the best Leadership Aurora class in the universe.

Favorite Quote:

*"What is essential is invisible to the eye. It is only with the heart that one can see rightly."*

— Antoine de Saint Exupery



## Molly McClure

Director of Marketing  
Abilene Awards and Logos  
1730 S. Abilene St.  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-786-0337  
molly@yarnups.com

Molly was born and raised in Aurora and is a product of Aurora Public Schools' Dartmouth Elementary School, Columbia Middle School and Rangeview High School. She graduated from Metro State with honors in hospitality, meeting and travel administration. She moved to Glendale for two and half years and worked at Loews Giorgio Hotel as a PBX operator. Her first management position was with Holiday Inn SE (now Radisson Hotel Denver SE). She went on to be an assistant general manager at Homestead Suites in the Denver Tech Center, and was general manager at Fairfield Inn. She is currently the Director of Marketing for Abilene Awards & Logos.

Molly enjoys dancing, mountain hiking, camping, museums and history.

Through Leadership Aurora, Molly gained a better understanding of the city and an even greater respect for those serving it.

Favorite Quote:

*"Everything happens for a reason! The only one who may ever know that reason is the Lord Himself, so take His plan in stride."*

— Molly McClure





## Sam McGhee

Lieutenant  
Aurora Police Department  
15001 E. Alameda Parkway  
Aurora, CO 80012  
Phone: 303-739-6305  
SMcGhee@ciaurora.co.us

A Colorado native, Sam developed an interest in law enforcement at an early age. His first exposure to the field was during high school as a cadet. While attending Colorado State University, he worked as a store detective, pursuing his commitment. He began his formal police career in 1980, and in 1984, became a proud member of the Aurora Police Department. Sam has spent almost half of his career as an undercover narcotics officer and drug unit commander.

Now a lieutenant, Sam has experienced much of what the profession has to offer. As a manager, Sam has been fortunate to be involved in creating the Aurora Police Department's Strategic Plan, which has catapulted the organization into the biggest changes in the department's history. Based on his experience as a leader, Sam is interested in organizations that are resilient to the acceleration of change that is occurring by creating an opportunity for exponential growth for individuals, teams and organizations. As a result, Sam shares his experiences and enthusiasm through his workshops.

His wife Karen is the best Realtor on the planet and his children, Lauren and Connor, keep him centered.

It is said, "Like attracts like." The Leadership Aurora experience has provided Sam an opportunity to be surrounded with people who truly wish to have a profound effect on our community.

### Favorite Quote:

*"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same."*

— Marianne Williamson



## Jerry Michaelis

Sales Representative  
Bankers Advertising  
1424 S. Lima St.  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-755-4627  
JERMICHAELIS@hotmail.com

Jerry was born in Ness County, Kan. Upon graduating from Fort Hays State University with a bachelor of science in geology, he moved to Los Angeles. One year later, he relocated to Texas where he was employed in the oil industry. Six years later, he was transferred to Denver/Aurora where he currently resides. He has been a resident of Aurora for 31 years, and presently serves as a representative for Bankers Advertising Co.

He has a daughter who lives in Aurora and a stepson in Arkansas. Jerry is a member of the Swallow Hill Music Association where he spends many hours studying and playing music. He is a member of Optimist International and secretary/treasurer of the Downtown Aurora Club.

Since the passing of Jerry's wife, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Aurora, Ambassadors and Tips & Leads have become an important part of his life. All have contributed to gaining self-confidence and introducing him to the community. He enjoys all sports, playing golf and just being outdoors.

The last few months in Leadership Aurora have exposed Jerry to many activities and organizations in our community of which he was unaware. Much that is provided is taken for granted. The experience has built his self-confidence and introduced him to a wonderful group of dedicated people.

### Favorite Quote:

*"If a man does his best, what else is there?"*

— Gen. George S. Patton



## Lisa Mull

Administration Director  
Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
562 Sable Blvd., Suite 200  
Aurora, CO 80011-0809  
303-344-1500  
lisa.mull@aurorachamber.org

Before the Leadership Aurora retreat, Lisa had just married Dave Mull, assistant director of and adjunct professor to Columbia College. She has a beautiful daughter, Meghan, 23, and an adorable grandson, T.J., 4. She loved her business travel recently to Bogota, Buenos Aires, Budapest, Paris, San Juan and Hawaii. She attended college in Mexico for three years and is still mostly bilingual. She is writing a book on her previous life as a "flower child" of the 1960s and 1970s.

Of the 480 college credits she has accumulated over the years, Lisa is completing the 120 credits she needs to wrap up her bachelor of science degree in business administration before 2002 is over, and will begin her graduate studies shortly thereafter.

Lisa enjoys her grandson, competitive swimming, writing, thrift shopping and couch-potato activities such as needlework, reading and lots of television.

In Leadership Aurora, Lisa learned that the city of Aurora is more diverse in its opportunities, interests, resources and expertise than she realized. She thinks it was exciting to see how much it offered and the high quality of its offerings. In addition, she believes that she has made some life-long friends in her classmates. She looks forward to working with them in the future, and to watching them become even more valuable community leaders.

### Favorite Quote:

*"It is never too late to be what you might have been."*

— George Eliot



## Corine Norman

Business Development Partner  
Fenetics, Inc.  
10155 E. Fair Circle  
Englewood, CO 80111  
303-915-1166  
corine.norman@fenetics.com

After moving around nationally and internationally with the military, Corine finally settled in Aurora with her parents and graduated from Eaglecrest High School. She attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated summa cum laude in 2000 with a bachelor of arts in economics and political science. As a research associate for a benchmark consulting firm out of Chapel Hill, Corine concentrated on e-business, human resources and power plant best practice projects. Enticed by the opportunity to move back to Colorado, she joined the Aurora Economic Development Council in March 2001, directing EDC investor development. Corine currently partners with Fenetics, Inc., in the business development function, assisting companies in generating dynamic Web-based tools.

Corine is happy to be with her family in Aurora and values all of her friendships in the Aurora community.

Through Leadership Aurora, Corine realized that it is okay just to be herself because leaders come from every background, profession, education level and personality group. She noted that each class member had his or her own style this year, and that the key to leadership is knowing yourself and how you can work successfully with others.

### Favorite Quote:

*"People may doubt what you say, but they always believe what you do."*

— E. Elli





## Madolyn Paroske

Director  
Aurora Public Schools  
Board of Education  
1085 Peoria St.  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-696-0164  
mparoske@attbi.com

Madolyn grew up in Plymouth, Mich., located between Ann Arbor and Detroit. After a three-year stopover in Texas, she arrived in Colorado and knew she was home. She has been married to her husband, John, for 29 years. They have two sons, Marcus, 26, and Darren, 24, who have both gone out into the world on their own and left John and her to begin life as a couple again. Madolyn and John are now avid travelers, seeing their own country and the world. She also enjoys watching movies, surfing the Web, putting together 500-piece puzzles and reading into the night when it's quiet.

Through Leadership Aurora, Madolyn gained a better overview of inside Aurora. She also added many more people to her networking in the community.

### Favorite Quote:

*"So far as I know, anything worth having is not usually uttered at seven o'clock in the morning; and if it is, it will generally be repeated at a more reasonable hour for a larger and more wakeful audience."*

— Moss Hart



## David G. Patterson

Division General Manager  
Rural/Metro Ambulance  
3350 Peoria St., #100  
Aurora, CO 80010  
303-343-7098  
David.Patterson@rmetro.com

David moved to Aurora from Texas, where he is originally from. As a Houston native, he moved to Waco to attend school. After graduating from Baylor University with a bachelor of business administration in management and marketing, he was employed by Rural/Metro as a paramedic, director of operations and general manager in Waco and Fort Worth. While in Waco, David was a graduate of the Leadership Waco program.

He has been the division general manager for Rural/Metro's Colorado operations since November 2000 when he accepted the promotion and relocated. Part of this division is the "911" emergency ambulance contract for the city of Aurora. He is engaged to be married to Leadership Aurora 2001-2002 class member Julie Everitt in May 2002. He is currently pursuing a master of arts in organizational management from the University of Phoenix.

David serves as a board member of the Community College of Aurora Foundation, the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado, and the Aurora Economic Development Council. He is also a member of the Rotary Club of Aurora. David is a paramedic and an Eagle Scout. In his free time, he enjoys playing tennis, golf, racquetball and music.

Leadership Aurora has given David a fresh perspective of the Aurora community. Completing the program has helped him to appreciate and understand some of the organizations, agencies and people that make Aurora what it is today.

### Favorite Quote:

*"When you choose your friends, don't be short-changed by choosing personality over character."*

— W. Somerset Maugham



## Mark Ricard

Battalion Chief  
Aurora Fire Department  
12250 E. Iliff Ave., Suite 300  
Aurora, CO 80014  
303-326-8999  
msrafd@aol.com

Mark, who has been married for more than 25 years, has two sons who are college students at University of Southern Colorado and University of Northern Colorado. Born in Springfield, Mo., he spent several years in Wyoming and was a forest fire "hot spot" crew member from 1972-74. He joined Gunnison Fire Department in 1974, and then moved to the Aurora Fire Department in 1977. He attended Western State College from 1968-72, graduating with a bachelor of arts in business, English and Spanish.

In his free time, Mark enjoys golf, boating/fishing, working around the house and restoring a 1973 F100 4WD pick-up truck.

Through Leadership Aurora, Mark is amazed at how many doors have opened for opportunity. Classmates have been more than willing to help each other, and the "networking" has already paid dividends for the Aurora Fire Department. He learned more about Aurora in the first session than he has learned in the past 25 years.

### Favorite Quote:

*"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."*

— Mark Twain



## Mitzi Schindler

Director of Communications  
for Fitzsimons  
University of Colorado Health  
Sciences Center/University of  
Colorado Hospital  
Mail Stop F-413  
P.O. Box 6508  
Aurora, CO 80045-0508  
303-724-0224  
Mitzi.Schindler@uch.edu

Mitzi has been with the Office of Public Relations at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center for 16 years, beginning as the art director and then later incorporating additional responsibilities as a news media assistant. Her current position as director of communications for Fitzsimons began in the fall of 1997. Mitzi's responsibilities include internal and external communications regarding the University's move to Fitzsimons, and she loves what she does.

She enjoys reading, bike riding, traveling, eating really good food and sleeping.

Mitzi's experience with Leadership Aurora certainly gave her a Thursday each month to look forward to. It also made her feel like an integral part of the community.

### Favorite Quote:

*"The buck stops here."*

— Harry Truman





## Jana Shaw

Communications and  
Community Relations  
Manager  
Raytheon Company  
16800 E. Centretch Parkway  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-344-6544  
jshaw@raytheon.com

Jana is a Colorado native, and Aurora has been her home since 1975. She and her husband of 20 years, John, have three sons, Ryan, 18, Jared, 15, and Cody, 12. All three attend Aurora Public Schools.

Jana has been employed by Raytheon for more than 16 years. Raytheon has allowed Jana to take on positions of increasing responsibility over her career. Her responsibilities as a communications/community relations manager keep her extremely busy. She finds time to volunteer in the community with events such as "Sparkle" and "KidSpree" as well as supporting as many events as possible related to her sons and the schools they attend. She is also a new board member of the Aurora Education Foundation.

Jana is very family oriented, spending as much time with her husband and sons as possible. Jana collects perfume bottles for a hobby. She loves all kinds of music and is a member of the Raytheon Choral.

The most important thing Jana gained from Leadership Aurora was a comprehensive understanding of the strengths and needs of the community in which she lives and works. She says Leadership Aurora has been the most positive networking opportunity she has ever experienced. She looks forward to continuing to make a difference in the community with her new friends from the 2001-2002 Leadership Aurora class.

Favorite Quote:  
"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."  
— Winston Churchill



## Carol Shearon

Program Manager  
Xcel Energy Foundation  
2070 S. Valentia St.  
Denver, CO 80231  
303-671-3806  
carolshearon@xcelenergy.com

Carol earned both a bachelor of arts and master of arts in education. She taught physical education for one year, and coached volleyball, basketball, gymnastics and track at Alamosa Junior High School in Alamosa, Colo. At Xcel Energy, she started in customer service, then went into the training department and eventually landed in public relations. She has been involved in corporate philanthropy for 10 years.

In her free time, Carol enjoys playing piano, reading, gardening, and volleyball, and is an active member of Colorado Community Church where she works in the preschool on Sundays.

Leadership Aurora provided Carol with a greater understanding of how Aurora works and why it is a successful city. She also has enjoyed meeting some of the outstanding participants in this program who demonstrate "leadership" daily.

Favorite Quote:  
"You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses."

— Ziggy



## Marvin D. Smith

Centennial District Director  
Denver Area Council, Boy  
Scouts of America  
2901 W. 19th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80204  
303-480-0805, ext. 239  
Msmith@denverareacouncil.com

Marvin moved to Louisiana at an early age from Portland, Ore. He attended college at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La. In the fall of 1996, he received his bachelor of science from the School of Agriculture. The Denver Area Council Boy Scouts of America provided Marvin with a great opportunity in being able to impact the families of the Aurora community.

The Leadership Aurora program has educated him on how different departments operate within the city. From the topic of police department operations to the economic impact that businesses make within the community, this program gives its participants a great opportunity to become informed and involved in the community.

Favorite Quote:  
"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



## Roechelle Smith

Doctor of Chiropractic  
Prolific Chiropractic, P.C.  
2323 S. Troy St., Suite 2-105  
Aurora, CO 80014  
303-337-1321  
roesmithdc@netscape.net

Roechelle was born in Los Angeles. She graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. After a taste of "corporate America" at Hewlett-Packard, she went back to school to become a chiropractor. She practiced briefly in California before moving eastward to Colorado and opening her own practice. Happily married for about 10 years, Roechelle has two cute and energetic children, ages 7 and 3 (they take after their dad).

Roechelle danced professionally most of her life, but most recently with Jouway Dance Ensemble in San Francisco. Now, she gets her "kicks" by Jazzercise, yoga or via liturgical dance at church. She also enjoys murder mysteries, sewing and competing with her hubby by attempting to pick the NCAA Basketball Tournament winners for the past 12-plus years.

In Leadership Aurora, Roechelle has learned so much about what makes Aurora work as well as that it is a city to live and work in. She feels even better about relocating here. She's also met some incredibly strong and gifted leaders in her class, who are kind and generous business people and friends.

Favorite Quote:  
"God and time are synonymous, and through time, God reveals all things – Be patient."

— Dianne Reeves





## W. Brent Stark

Vice President – Construction  
Loan Manager  
Citywide Banks  
10660 E. Colfax Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80010  
303-365-3624  
stark@citywidebanks.com

Brent was born and raised in a small agricultural town in Kansas. His college education took him to West Texas before finishing his bachelor of business administration in marketing with an accounting minor at Wichita State University. His professional career began as a mortgage loan officer in Wichita, Kan. Soon after, he moved into the construction-lending field. His previous employment took him to three different states. He currently has found a home with a local community bank in Aurora. He finds his career very rewarding, and living in Colorado has been a wonderful experience.

In Leadership Aurora, Brent learned how different agencies work for the betterment of the community. He realized there is a lot of planning and research that goes into planning and maintaining a community.

Favorite Quote:  
"Do that which you fear the most and the fear will subside."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



## Gigi C. Stewart

Director of Development  
Aurora Education Foundation  
1085 Peoria St.  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-344-8060, ext. 28006  
gigis@admin.apsk12co.us

After returning from Maryknoll's Lay Missioner program in Africa in 1994, Gigi was ready to move out of her native state of New York. After visiting a friend in Colorado, Gigi never took the return flight back to the East Coast. She quickly found a place to live and a job at the University of Denver, and had all her belongings shipped to Colorado.

Gigi graduated from DU in 1999 with a master's degree in social work, and also gained five years of experience in non-profit administration and development at DU with The Bridge Project. In April 2001, she began her work with the Aurora Education Foundation, which is a job she loves.

Gigi is a mentor for a 10-year-old girl through the DU Bridge Project and volunteers regularly at her church. Last year, she completed the Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day, walking 60 miles in three days. She has climbed seven Fourteeners, and enjoys travel, cooking, theater, tennis and cross-country skiing. She is happily married.

The Leadership Aurora experience has helped her to establish herself in a new community and to learn a great deal about the great people and city of Aurora.

Favorite Quote:  
"We can do no great things;  
only small things with great love."

— Mother Teresa



## Julie Taylor

Associate Chief Nursing Officer  
The Medical Center of Aurora  
1501 S. Potomac  
Aurora, CO 80010  
303-695-2960  
Julie.Taylor@healthonecares.com

A product of a nurse and a social worker, Julie followed in her parents' footsteps into health care and became a registered nurse in 1987. She and her husband, Mike, both North Dakota natives, relocated to Denver in 1996 when she accepted the position as HealthONE division director of case management. In 1998, she transferred to The Medical Center of Aurora (TMCA) to assume the role of director of case management, where she has been afforded many opportunities to expand her growth and development as a leader by assuming responsibility for other hospital departments. Julie completed her master's degree in nursing through the University of Phoenix in February of this year. Currently, she is the associate chief nursing officer at TMCA, and hopes to become a chief nursing officer/chief executive officer in a small- to medium-sized hospital one day.

Julie and Mike have been married 13 years and are expecting their first child in May. They love the outdoors, and will do anything short of mountain climbing to be out in the fresh air.

Julie is very concerned about the future of health care, given the scarcity of resources (both human and physical supply), and she wants to be part of planning for the solution. The Leadership Aurora experience has provided opportunities to network with other community leaders and learn more about resources available and talent that can be drawn upon to create the synergy needed to make a true difference.

Favorite Quote:  
"When we walk to the edge of all the light we have, and take that step into the darkness of the unknown, we must believe that one of two things will happen: There will be something solid for us to stand on, or we will be taught to fly."

-- John C. Maxwell



## Christopher L. Vann

High School Teacher/  
Air Force Junior ROTC  
18509 E. Louisiana Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80017  
303-671-8958  
vann0903@aol.com

Chris spent 21 years in the U.S. Air Force, where he worked in the supply/logistics career field. In the last six years of his career, he was a supply instructor at Lowry Air Force Base, Colo. He has a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Columbia College and a master of arts degree in human resource development from Webster University. He currently is pursuing his principal's license from the University of Phoenix.

Born in Winton, N.C., Chris is married and has four children, the youngest of whom is 4 years old and the oldest of whom is 25 years old. He has taught high school Air Force Junior ROTC for the past 10 years. He loves to play tennis and basketball, bike riding and gardening. He also enjoys card games and traveling.

From Leadership Aurora, Chris gained friends who will last a lifetime. He gained a tremendous knowledge about the city of Aurora and how the city works. He learned from the Leadership Aurora team how to expand his skills, talents and abilities. He cherishes this year with the team, which helped him more than any other team to look beyond his "safety net" and to take a chance with his talents. He will always remember the retreat as a new beginning for him.

Favorite Quote:  
"Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country."  
— John F. Kennedy





## Gaile Weisbly

Director of Community Building  
Mile High United Way  
2505 18th St.  
Denver, CO 80211  
303-561-2367  
gaile.weisbly@unitedwaydenver.org

Gaile is a second generation Colorado native. Her grandparents, who emigrated from Russia, came to the state in the early 1920s. She has attempted to leave here twice - once to Houston and once to Cleveland - but she always returns. As Dorothy said, "There's no place like home."

She is the proud mother of twin sons. Eric is a business analyst in San Francisco. Michael has a wonderful girlfriend named Alyson and both are attorneys in Los Angeles.

Gaile earned a bachelor's degree in speech and English literature from the University of Houston, and a master of arts degree in gerontology from the University of Northern Colorado. She loves her job at Mile High United Way and is extremely proud to be a part of this wonderful organization.

She loves to travel and has made a significant "dent" in viewing the world. Her interests also include the symphony and chamber music. Gaile has been an avid bicycle rider for years and has now become a "rabid" golfer. She absolutely adores playing golf and is striving to achieve mediocrity.

In Leadership Aurora, Gaile learned that as leaders, we have enormous individual and collective power. We have the potential to make our community a better place to live. Effective leaders can change the world.

Favorite Quote:

*"Life is what happens when you are making plans."*

— John Lennon



## Veronica O. White

Program Coordinator and  
Event/Meeting Planner  
Consultant  
University of Denver Center for  
African American Policy  
2199 S. University  
Denver, CO 80208  
303-871-4195  
ladyvov@msn.com

Veronica was born in Denver. She moved to California (East Bay area) in the late 1960s with her mother and sister. She returned to Denver 15 years later to be closer to her family. Veronica attended San Jose State University, but after returning to Denver, she continued her higher education at Columbia University where she received a bachelor of arts in psychology. Veronica has always been an advocate for education and has volunteered in many activities and programs in Cherry Creek Schools, the school system from where her son, now 18, is a graduate.

Veronica has worked for various departments at the State of Colorado, National Conference of State Legislatures, and is currently the program coordinator at the University of Denver, Center for African American Policy.

Veronica enjoys the many volunteer obligations she endures, including commissioner with the Aurora Human Relations Commission and president of the Kaleidoscope Aurora Council. She is an avid reader, loves bowling and relishes writing poetry.

Leadership Aurora provided Veronica with an in-depth understanding of the various functions of the city of Aurora.

Favorite Quote:

*"...Allow your deepest truths to be altered - Because your new idea of Who You Are is where the growth is... Life begins at the end of your comfort zone."*

-- Unknown



## Mary H. Williams

Business Sales Manager/Vice  
President  
KeyBank National Association  
1675 Broadway, Suite 200  
Denver, CO 80202  
720-904-4262  
mary\_h\_williams@keybank.com

Mary has been a banker in Colorado for more than 20 years, primarily focusing on lending and sales management. She has a bachelor of science degree in economics from Colorado State University and a master of business administration from the University of Colorado - Denver. Mary has been active in the community by participating in several women's organizations. She also serves on the board of Business Capital of Colorado and as a deacon in her church.

Mary's husband, David Williams, is a politician and a real estate professional. Their son, Ryan, lives in the Pittsburgh area. A native of Colorado, Mary enjoys the great Colorado outdoors, cooking and reading.

Through Leadership Aurora, Mary has learned more about this wonderful community and how she can participate more in it.

Favorite Quote:

*"The longer I live, the more convinced I become that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it."*

— Charles Swindoll



## Debra (Debi) Young

Management Analyst  
Air Reserve Personnel Center  
6760 E. Irvington Place, #750  
Denver, CO 80280-2500  
303-676-6292  
debi.young@arpc.denver.af.mil

Debi grew up as an "Air Force brat" and Lowry Air Force Base was her father's last assignment. She has lived in Aurora for the past 25 years. Debi started her working life as a dental assistant, but went to work for the federal government at the Air Reserve Personnel Center in 1978. She has worked in almost all of the Center's directorates during her career.

All of Debi's immediate family lives in Aurora. She has one daughter, who is married, and a golden retriever and two cats. She enjoys walking, biking, camping and reading.

In Leadership Aurora, Debi enjoyed finding out in depth about the community she has lived in and all that it has to offer. She also benefited from contacts made and finding out about opportunities for community involvement.

Favorite Quote:

*"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you think you cannot do."*

— Eleanor Roosevelt



## "Leadership for a Changing World"

*Session Coordinators:* Tim Ehgotz (Chair), Ray Barnes, Grant Barrett, Cindy Kunkel, Dominic Martinez, Diane Norman, Kim Podobnik, Jacob Shirk, Leroy Williams

On Sept. 20, 2001, the Leadership Aurora Class of 2001-2002 started out as individuals from a variety of professions – doctors, lawyers, police and fire officers, bankers to name a few. The group came to Winter Park to find out what Leadership Aurora was all about. We heard from a variety of speakers, each adding a piece to the puzzle. But maybe more importantly, we learned about each other, who we are, where we're from, what we believe, and whether we're green, blue, gold or orange. From this information we started to gel, to become one group committed to learning and contributing to our community.

2001-2002  
Leadership Aurora class



Marvin "gets down" to Brent's amazement, and to the great amusement of Ricky, Mitzi and Veronica.



Mitzi shows her true "orangeness"



Beth introduces Kelson, the first of several class babies born to us during the year.



Rich, Rozi and Mark thoroughly enjoyed blocking Jeff from the camera.





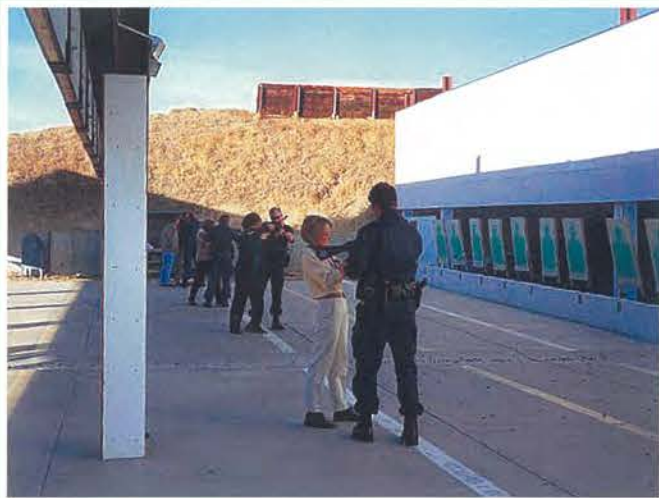
## "Community Ties and You"

Session Coordinators: Sheila Martin (Chair), Anne Ayers, Debbie Grace, Christine Hoppe, Kim Podobnik

The objective for Community Day was to obtain a broad overview of our community. In the morning session, class members learned about how to help young people become the future leaders of the community and how the city of Aurora is developing. The afternoon was spent touring various human services and community needs groups. We gained from this day a better insight on how our city is growing, how we can use our assets to connect to all people, and an awareness of the social and economic needs of the people in our diverse community. We also established our Leadership Aurora 2001-2002 class mantra, "Full Speed Ahead!"



*Gigi braves several pounds of attack fish drying in the sun at Windsor Gardens.*



## "In the Line of Fire"

Session Coordinators: Jacob Shirk (Chair), Steve Marshall

The session provided new and refreshing insights into who and what police officers are, what they do and why, and how they are trained. The day was filled with "Shoot, Don't Shoot" drills, a SWAT demonstration, a tour of the city jail and a chance to fire a few automatic weapons. We learned about the history of the department as well as its vision for the future. Most of all, we witnessed the dedication embraced by our police officers to keep our community safe.

*Wendy (foreground) and Jana challenge the targets to a duel.*

## "Where Does It Hurt?"

Session Coordinators: Cindy Kunkel (Chair), Bob Barké, Debbie Grace, Bev Husted-Petry

As we set out to learn what health care in Aurora is all about, we toured the newest facilities for University of Colorado Health Sciences Center at Fitzsimons as well as The Medical Center of Aurora's South Campus. At the University of Colorado Hospital's outpatient facility, administrators discussed their efforts to complete a vision intended to meet the community's needs. We heard how the Fitzsimons redevelopment and nearby revitalization efforts will breathe new life into the surrounding neighborhoods. We saw how The Medical Center of Aurora's various departments are designed to work together to maximize efficiency and provide quality health care. And by the day's end, it was clear that despite the health care profession's many obstacles, those who are dedicated to the field are truly individuals with a mission.



*Lisa and Roechelle perform for the patients, who all got a little more ill from the experience.*



## "School Daze"

Session Coordinators: Tim Ehgotsz (Chair),  
Becky Barcheski, Christine Hoppe,  
Diane Norman, Norma Silvers

Education Day was an "eye opening" experience for Leadership Aurora class members. It was apparent that educators today are not just teachers, but they are also parental substitutes, mentors, counselors, disciplinarians and all-around wonderful people. We gained a newfound respect for them because of language barriers, testing obstacles and myriad other challenges they must overcome. We walked away that day still scratching our heads about teachers and their challenges in reaching such a diverse group of kids, but our faith in their dedication to the teaching profession is stronger than ever.



*Mimi signs her educational experience to Carol, Marianne and Gaile.*



*"Mayor" Barbara and "City Attorney" Lisa listen intently to a belly-aching from a "citizen".*

## "Wheel of Fortune"

Session Coordinators: Leroy Williams (Chair), Becky Barcheski, Grant Barrett, Sheila Martin, Dominic Martinez, Diane Norman, Bob Steine

From the perspective of a council member's chair in the Aurora City Council chambers, the inner workings of city government certainly seemed different from our initial expectations. The morning sessions on business partnerships, planning and development issues, budget forecasting, and transportation and utilities issues gave us a solid background on economic development and infrastructure. In the afternoon, we role-played the process of approving/denying a "proposed" commercial development in a residential area. Class members took on the role of developers, neighborhood groups, city staff and city council, negotiating a deal that would meet everyone's needs. The exercise added an element of realism to the day that helped the class gain an enhanced appreciation for the economic development process in our community.

## "Lights, Camera, Action!"

Session Coordinators: Randy Simpson (Chair),  
Buck Buckingham, Bev Husted-Petry,  
Kim Podobnik, Candrea Thomas

For many class members, the Media Session not only increased awareness of the power of the media but also opened some eyes to exactly what is involved with media production. We received advice from consultants, public relations professionals and reporters on how to effectively communicate with the press. Then we put our knowledge into practice in an on-air debate at KACT-TV Channel 8. Reading a newspaper or watching the evening news will never be the same again.



*Moderator Dave Minshall coaches Jana, Diana and Molly on media methods.*



## "Pride & Presence"

Session Coordinators: John "Buck" Buckingham (Chair),  
Candrea Thomas

Class members had a chance to get up close and personal with Aurora's giant golf balls. With heightened security this year, there were no top-secret satellite tours. But we did venture inside Hanger 801 to watch maintenance work on an F-16, navigate a flight-simulated fighter and see life through a night-vision viewer. Some of us boarded a refueling plane and soared over the eastern Colorado plains to catch glimpses of military aircraft hooking up for a drink. The others stayed grounded due to maintenance issues, witnessing instead a military fly by before drowning those missed-opportunity sorrows at the Camana Club. For both groups, the day increased an understanding of and respect for the military and its critical importance in maintaining the safety and integrity of the nation.



*Due to mesh jumpseats and no cocktail service, this C-135 Stratotanker was grounded.*



*Some of Leadership Aurora's fledgling firefighters douse flames at the Rocky Mountain Fire Academy.*

## "Where There's Smoke There's Fire"

Session Coordinators: Mark Stephenson (Chair)

The fire session was a blast -- a blast of water, that is Fire Chief Casey Jones sprinkled us with a morning greeting. The department's Kevin Hammons and Rory Chetalet deluged us with information. Deputy Chief Mark Stephenson conjured up potions and notions to teach us about fire behavior. Then we donned bunker gear and hit the training ground to be swept off our feet by the aerial ladder gents, given a magic rope ride from the burn building's fourth story window and hosed down a fuming, plumbing propane tank fire.

*David was set up!  
He's innocent, I tell you!*



*Diana waves from inside a pod at the city jail. Rozi, Gaile, Carol, Mark, Jeff, Becky and Diane think they'll get out soon.*



### "Senior Safety Day"

Several members of the Aurora Police and Fire departments and the Leadership Aurora class sponsored a "Senior Safety Day" March 8 at the Aurora Senior Center. The seminar included information on a wide range of safety issues. To further evaluate safety and make recommendations, Leadership classmates completed actual home visits with seniors.

### "Cell Phone Project"

Contributing to a project spearheaded by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Women In Business Committee, the class donated about 50 old cell phones to be reprogrammed only to dial 911 and given to local domestic violence victims by the Aurora Police Department. More than 500 total cell phones have been collected through this project.

### "Toiletries for Aurora Public Schools"

The 2001-2002 Leadership Aurora class collected more than 150 "free" toiletries this year for use in hygiene kits given to needy children in northwest Aurora public schools. The City of Aurora Neighborhood Action Team coordinates the hygiene kits project, which started in May 1999.

### "Coats for COMITIS"

In the fall of 2001, Leadership Aurora class members donated nearly 100 coats and other winter clothing to COMITIS Crisis Center for use by numerous COMITIS clients in need of warmth during the winter months.

### "Baby Blankets"

Class members generously donated more than 100 baby blankets that were presented to new mothers who gave birth through the Aurora Nurse-Midwives practice at The Medical Center of Aurora.



*Mark, Diane and Marvin braved a blizzard to evaluate the safety of a senior's home.*



*Rich peers out from the mountain of coats collected for COMITIS.*

### "Holiday Meals for Military Families"

The class, in conjunction with the Aurora Chamber Ambassadors, contributed food for more than 100 holiday baskets to assist the many Aurora military families impacted by Afghanistan deployments during the 2001 holiday season.

### "Canned Food for St. Andrews"

Realizing the tremendous service St. Andrews Food Bank provides for the Aurora community, class members pulled together on short notice to donate more than 130 canned foods and other food items.

### "Internet Education for Seniors"

The Leadership class offered a Senior Internet Training Course for seniors at the Aurora Senior Center, which demonstrated how to use the AT&T Broadband Internet Service available at the Senior Center and helped to bridge the digital divide in Aurora.



*Leadership class members visit the Aurora Fox Arts Center during their first monthly session, Community Day, when they gained an enhanced awareness of our communities' needs.*



[illegible]



**Annie Ayers**

COMITIS Crisis Center  
P.O. Box 919  
Aurora, CO 80040  
303-341-9160  
Anne.Ayers@comitis.org

**Becky Barcheski**

Community College of Aurora  
1059 Yosemite Drive, Bldg 785  
Denver, CO 80230  
303-340-7083  
becky.barcheski@cca.cccoes.edu

**Bob Barké**

Bar-K Insurance Solutions, Inc.  
2140 S. Ivanhoe St., Ste 100  
Denver, CO 80222  
303-795-2158  
bobbarké@yahoo.com

**Grant Barrett**

Abilene Awards & Logos  
1730 S. Abilene St.  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-755-0337  
grant@yamups.com

**Lt. Col. John "Buck" Buckingham**

1050 Cheyenne Place  
Parker, CO 80138  
303-677-9488  
email:john.buckingham@cobuck.ang.af.mil

**Kimberly Curtis, Program Director**

Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
562 Sable Blvd., Ste 200  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-344-1500  
kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org

**Tim Ehgotz, Chair**

Pickens Tech Center  
500 Airport Blvd.  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-344-4910  
time@pickensaps.k12co.us

**Debbie Grace**

Aurora Mental Health Center  
14301 E. Hampden Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80014  
303-617-2323  
debbiegrace@aumhc.org

**Christine Hoppe**

Aurora Public Schools  
15701 E. 1st Ave., #109  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-365-7816, Ext. 28411  
christh@hline.aps.k12co.us

**Beverly Husted-Petry**

The Medical Center of Aurora  
1501 S. Potomac  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-873-5682  
Beverly.Husted@HealthONEcares.com

**Cindy Kunkel**

PacificCare of Colorado  
6455 S. Yosemite, #D84-206  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111  
303-714-3457  
cindy.kunkel@PHS.com

**Capt. Steve Marshall**

Aurora Police Department  
15001 E. Alameda Parkway  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-739-6845  
smarshal@ciaurora.co.us

**Sheila Martin**

Redi-Print, Inc.  
378 S. Chambers Road  
Aurora, CO 80017  
303-745-0010  
dsmart695303@cs.com

**Dominic Martinez**

Wells Fargo Bank-Buchtel  
3910 Buchtel Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80210  
303-584-6544  
Dominic.V.Martinez@wellsfargo.com

**Lt. Sam McGhee, Class President**

Aurora Police Department  
15001 E. Alameda Drive  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-739-6305  
SMcGhee@ciaurora.co.us

**Diane Norman**

L'Oreal USA Sales, Inc.  
19503 E. 34th Drive  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-574-4903  
dnorman@usloreal.com

**Kim Podobnik**

Arapahoe Co. Dept. of Human Services  
14980 E. Alameda Parkway  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-636-1906  
kpodobnik@co.arapahoe.co.us

**Lt. Jacob Shirk**

Aurora Police Department  
15001 E. Alameda Parkway  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-739-6290  
jshirk@ciaurora.co.us

**Norma Silvers**

Antelope Ridge Elementary  
5455 S. Tempe St.  
Aurora, CO 80015  
720-886-3300  
nsilvers@mailccsd.k12co.us

**Randy Simpson**

KACT-TV Channel 8  
14949 E. Alameda Drive  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-739-6605  
rgatess@yahoo.com

**Bob Steine**

Law Offices of Robert O. Steine  
2620 S. Parker Road, #170  
Aurora, CO 80014  
303-755-5856  
bobsteine@hotmail.com

**Mark Stephenson**

Aurora Fire Department  
12250 E. Iliff Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80014  
303-326-8970  
mstephen@ciaurora.co.us

**Candrea Thomas**

821st Space Group  
18401 E. A-Basin  
Buckley AFB, CO 80011-9509  
303-677-6869  
Candrea.Thomas@buckley.af.mil

**Leroy Williams**

Chief Information Officer  
Colorado State Dept. of Personnel  
1525 Sherman St.  
Denver, CO 80205  
303-866-6160  
Leroy.Williams@state.co.us



**Raytheon**



**AURORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**562 Sable Boulevard • Suite 200**

**Aurora, Colorado 80011-0809**

**Phone 303-344-1500 • Fax 303-344-1564**

**[www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org)**

**E-mail: [info@aurorachamber.org](mailto:info@aurorachamber.org)**

A special thank you to those who have worked so hard in putting this yearbook together:

Class members Rick Brandt, Marianne Dexter, Julie Everitt, Rozi Horn, Diane Lehman-McClane, Sam McGhee, Lisa Mull, Mitzi Schindler, and Carol Shearon for their imaginative ideas and creative copy writing and editing.

Class member Jana Shaw for serving as official class photographer and taking some great candid shots.

Mikel-Gamber Photography for professional services on the class photos.