LISTENING

EMPOWERING

AFFIRMING

DEVELOPING

ENCOURAGING

RESPONDING

SERVING

HELPING

INSPIRING

PLANNING

LEADERSHIP AURORA

CLASS OF 2003

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.

John F. Kennedy

(1917-1963), speech prepared for delivery in Dallas the day of his assassination November 22, 1963

Introduction

Since 1984 the Aurora Chamber of Commerce has promoted and fostered the development of leadership in our community. Leadership Aurora is a program designed to meet our city's need for the active participation of informed, skilled and involved community leaders. As a result, Leadership Aurora educates and prepares community leaders who are committed to shaping Aurora's future.

Leadership Aurora provides the opportunity for participants to broaden their knowledge of the community while enhancing their leadership skills. The program brings diverse people 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 strengths, challenges and opportunities
- To enhance leadership abilities
- To create a network of informed, concerned leaders
- To encourage greater involvement in the community

We applaud and congratulate the 2002-03 Leadership Aurora Class who have accepted the challenge to ensure Aurora, Colorado is a better place to live, work and play!

Acknowledgements

Leadership Aurora is one of more than 1,000 community leadership programs in the United States, and is a member of the Community Leadership Association. It is a program of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and 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.

Each month topics are presented through the use of prominent individuals from the public and private sectors, in-depth dialogue of current issues pertinent to the session topics, case studies, site visits, interactive and "hands-on" experience. Participants also work in teams or as a group on projects of their own design to provide tangible solutions to various contemporary community challenges. The community actually becomes the classroom.

Through contact with a wide range of professionals and the "behind the scenes" knowledge gained, Leadership Aurora participants have the opportunity to expand their influence on the community. Leadership Aurora seeks to present views from a wide spectrum of experts. The success of the program is measured by the positive effect on the participants, their organizations and the community.

The class of 2002-03 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 this past year. Each of you shares in the success of the program. Thank you!

LEADERSHIP
A • U • R • O • R • A

Board Chair

As the year comes to an end for our Leadership Aurora Class of 2003, I want to extend my sincere congratulations!

This September we initiated our class members in our beautiful mountain town of Estes Park. Although it was windy, there was no stopping the friendships that were instantly developed. It was apparent this class truly showed more synergy than we would have ever expected. The leaders within this group were already venturing forth. Whether it was tested during our planned activities or simply during a round table discussion, we knew this group wasn't going to let us down. Leadership is a team effort and we couldn't wait to see what this class would bring throughout the program sessions.

With all this enthusiasm I knew the Leadership Board would be faced with challenges to excel in the preparation of our upcoming sessions. From community, media, police, fire, education, economic and infrastructure to the military sessions, our anticipation had just begun. Colorado was blessed with some much-needed moisture in March, thus we were forced to cancel our first session ever, Health Care Day, due to snow. Can you believe having an actual snow day for the City of Aurora in 2003?

The class completed many projects for our community. Just to name a few: providing gift baskets over the holidays for families in need, via Aurora Mental Health Center; building storage shelves and raising $500+ for the Comitis Crisis Center. These funds were donated for their emergency hotel funds for families in need; they worked with Joseph's Journey, which provides a child who is terminally ill an experience in outdoor adventure, and also participated in a book drive for the Aurora Rotary. In their spare time, because of having a very passionate social director who organized many outside activities, they went on a fourteener-hike, attended a Nuggets game, and had several happy-hours. What a great group of people who continue to rally on and on!

I would like to personally thank each and every one of the Leadership Board Members. Without the passion from these dedicated people these class sessions would not have been successful. Thanks to Kimberly Curtis, Program Director, who is very dear to my heart, as she kept me focused during all our tasks-at-hand.

Remember, although this year has come to an end – access what you have learned, use all your resources for future networking opportunities and continue to build those relationships. Stay involved and continue to volunteer your time for the City of Aurora. This program accomplishment has enriched many people and we thank you for your participation. Best of Luck to the Class of 2003!

Cindy Kunkel
2002-03 Leadership Aurora Board Chair

Class President

Thanks for the journey! If a journey begins with a single step, then our adventure in Leadership Aurora began last September in Estes Park at our class retreat. Each of us entered this program as an individual with a unique set of skills, strengths, and abilities. Along with these qualities was a willingness to be part of a leadership team for the betterment of our community.

We soon discovered a great deal about our distinct backgrounds, personalities, and our own character, as we were made aware of our True Colors. With the understanding of each color, we also gained the perspective that successful organizations are comprised of a blend of "oranges", "golds", "greens", and "blues", and that every color adds a needed dimension.

As our journey continued, the class attended monthly sessions where we increased our depth of knowledge and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of police officers, educators, media representatives, community organizations, city officials, our friends in the military, and members of the Aurora Fire Department. Our session on Health Care entitled, "Where Does it Hurt?" although canceled, was appropriately named as we all recovered from back pain after shoveling snow from the snowstorm of the century. Each session brought its own set of insights and a realization that there are hundreds of organizations, businesses and individuals who work hard daily to make Aurora a great place to live.

At this point, we must acknowledge the tremendous work and efforts of the Aurora Leadership Board and Kimberly Curtis who ensured that each and every session was a valuable learning experience. Their work opened our minds and our eyes to many different facets of the city. Thank you!

Along the way, this cohort of leaders was able to demonstrate a strong commitment to the city of Aurora and put our leadership skills into practice. We provided holiday baskets and gifts to families in need, raised money to sponsor hotel stays for those with no other shelter, and provided support to a group with the sole purpose of granting a special wish to a child with a terminal illness. In addition, we collected children books for the Rotary Club and built a shelving and storage area for the Comitis Crisis Center.

I want to personally thank every one of you for your precious gift of time and your incredible commitment to the future of Aurora. I have learned so much from all of you and it has truly been an honor and a pleasure to work with you. I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge how close this class has been throughout the year. We have developed professional and personal relationships that will be carried far into the future. We all treasure these friendships. The time together has melded our individual strengths into a cohesive collaborative force.

As this journey comes to an end, it is time to look forward and on to the next great adventure. Let us keep our commitment to serving Aurora and never doubt the ability each of us has to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Greg Moore
2002-03 Class President

2003 Class Profiles

Angelique Acevedo-Barrón
Assistant Principal
Cherry Creek Schools
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Birthplace: Houston, Texas

Education: B.A. Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA; M.A., Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Ph. D. (ABD) in Education, University of Denver, Denver, CO

Family: Francisco, husband, step-daughters: April, Frajana, and our cat, Isis

Hobbies: Sculpture, ceramics, painting, singing, traveling, boxing and guitar

The networking this experience has introduced to me will help me continue my efforts in bringing the school district to the community and the community to the school district. Together, this can build a stronger more secure future for the state of Colorado and contribute to the alliance with life-long learning the Cherry Creek schools are committed to.

Favorite Quote:
"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never has and it never will. If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation are men who want crops without plowing the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its waters."

— Frederick Douglas

Melisa Baker
Recreation Specialist
City of Aurora, Office of Youth Development
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Birthplace: Southern California

Education: B.A. in Sport & Exercise Management & Psychology, Adams State College; M.A. in Health Physical Education and Recreation, Adams State College

Family: Dan, husband, and three wonderful dogs

Hobbies: Scrapbooking, crafts, camping and spending time with my family

Over the past year I have gained new friends and community contacts. I plan to utilize these contacts in the future to continue to provide engaging youth programming.

Favorite Quote:
"Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you can do. Attitude determines how well you do it."

— Lou Holtz

Mary C. Berrigan
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Birthplace: Minnesota

Education: B.S. in Pharmacy, Creighton University; Masters in Health Administration, University of Colorado

Family: Patrick and Kelly, sons

Hobbies: Decorating, reading and outdoor activities

I plan to use my experience from Leadership Aurora to volunteer at an organization that benefits the youth of Aurora. The class has introduced me to individuals and organizations where I could volunteer my time.

Favorite Quote:
"To laugh often and love much;
To win respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics
And endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty;
To find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch
Or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived
This is to have succeeded."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Birthplace: LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Education: B.S. in Nursing, Univ. of Wisconsin; M.S. in Nursing Administration, University of Colorado

Family: Tony, husband, three step children and nine step grand children

Hobbies: Weight lifting, nature walks, reading, hearing live music, playing piano, meditation and yoga

This experience has strengthened my interest and respect for the community of Aurora. I work in Aurora and am now interested in relocating to Aurora. I would also like to participate on an Aurora community board and also volunteer in the education system. Making a contribution to the children living in Aurora is important to me.

Favorite Quote:
"I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no 'brief candle' to me. It is a splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

— George Bernard Shaw

Favorite Quote:
""When you get to a fork in the road, take it."
— Yogi Bera

I plan to use my experience from Leadership Aurora to continue to grow the great friendships that I have formed through the class and to strive to be an effective leader in my personal and professional life.

Birthplace: Denver, Colorado

Education: B.A. in Speech Communication, Colorado State University

Family: John, husband

Hobbies: Kickboxing, camping, hiking, reading, cooking, snow shoeing and skiing

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Favorite Quote:
"Carpe Diem"- "Seize the Day"
— Author Unknown

Through Leadership Aurora, I've gained a more in depth understanding of the community I live in. I plan to be here for a long time and hope to make many more positive contributions to my community. This program has opened my eyes to all of the truly wonderful programs that Aurora offers to its residents. It's also shown me where I can offer my skills and expertise to make it a better place to live and work. Also, it has confirmed what I suspected all along, and that is what great partners the military and the local community are. I've met so many interesting people in my class and hope that the relationships we've built will help all of us to continue working to improve Aurora.

Birthplace: Born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. Entered the U.S. Air Force in 1980

Education: B.S. in Computer Information Systems, Park College, Parkville, MO; B.S. in Accounting, Park College, Parkville, MO

Family: Married with three teenage sons

Hobbies: Bike riding, reading, skiing and believe it or not, yard work, and attending all of the sports and school activities for my boys

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Favorite Quote:
"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
— Philippians 4:13

I plan to use this knowledge by becoming more active in my community by volunteering with various groups. Also, I hope to utilize community resources more.

Birthplace: Gilbert, Louisiana

Education: B.S. in Resource Management, Troy State University, Troy, Alabama; M.A. in Personnel Management, with an area of concentration in Supervision, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

Family: Glenda Madison Coleman, wife of 28 years, three daughters: Chava, Shallon and Challona

Hobbies: Reading, finishing basement and golf

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Favorite Quote:
"You can accomplish anything in life, provided that you do not mind who gets credit."
— Harry S. Truman

The personal and professional relationships I have formed with the members of Leadership Aurora have been wonderful. Using what I've learned during our site visits I hope to find ways to bring their professions into my school to share their expertise with my students and faculty.

Birthplace: Columbus, GA

Education: B.S., Eastern Michigan University; M.A., University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado

Family: Single

Hobbies: Running, reading, family, friends, laughing and movies

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Favorite Quote:
"Don't just float through life, make waves."
— Author Unknown

I plan to use my experiences from Leadership Aurora to help build additional continuity within our city that will benefit the citizens.

Birthplace: San Antonio, Texas, Raised in Houston, Texas

Education: B.A. in Psychology, University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado

M.B.A./H.A., University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado

Family: Mike, Fiancé, Lauren, daughter, Haley, our lab, and Buddy the fish

Hobbies: Running, triathlons, camping, crafts, skiing, kayaking, all outdoor activities and being a kid again with our 2 year-old daughter

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Birthplace: Eupora, Mississippi

Education: M.B.A., Daniels College of Business, University of Denver

Family: Judy, wife, two daughters, Tracy and Monica

Hobbies: Golf and reading

I plan to raise my level of contact when dealing with the various levels of government and commerce based on my Leadership Aurora experience.

Favorite Quote:
"There is no hope for the satisfied man."
— Post Founder, Fredrick G. Bonfils

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Birthplace: Denver, Colorado

Education: B.A. in Speech/Broadcasting, Colorado State University; M.A. in Communication, University of California, Santa Barbara

Family: Newest addition to my family is a rescued puppy, Jeda—she runs our family now

Hobbies: Film, travel, travel and more travel, laughter and dance

Because I moved to Colorado one month before I began Leadership Aurora I have, and will continue to use my Leadership Aurora experience to integrate myself into the Aurora community. This will allow me to tap into valuable resources as well, I hope, to become a community resource.

Favorite Quote:
"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."
— Author unknown

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Birthplace: Portland, OR

Education: B.A. in English, University of Colorado at Boulder

M.B.A. in Marketing, University of Colorado at Denver

Family: Father (living in the ancestral home in Lakewood), Mother (in the warmer climes of Naples, FL), Brother (Denver), Dachshund (small and brown)

Hobbies: Reading, running, ice skating, golf, comics, watching and collecting movies and home electronics

It takes an endless amount of work to keep a community in good-working order. Sometimes this can be overwhelming because where does one begin? The past year's experiences have helped crystallize for me the areas where I can possibly be of the most use and has introduced me to a great group of individuals who collectively own a vast amount of knowledge, skills and experiences.

Favorite Quote:
"There is no spoon."
— The Matrix

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Birthplace: Bakersfield, CA

Education: B.A. in Business Administration, Colorado College

Family: Jackson, 15 year old cat

Hobbies: Running

I think I have a much broader knowledge of Aurora as a city as well as a better understanding of my "style" as it relates to the business world. Through this experience, I have become not only a better leader, but also a better community member.

Favorite Quote:
"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Birthplace: Los Angeles, CA

Education: Cerritos Junior College

Family: Two Dogs: Poopsie and Tyler

Hobbies: Spending time in the mountains and at the beach

Leadership Aurora has given me the opportunity to learn more about the community we live in and how I can become involved in making it a better place to live. I have developed many new friends and business acquaintances that will be long lasting. Overall, Leadership Aurora has been one of the most positive experiences I've been involved in.

Favorite Quote:
"Try not to become a man of success, but rather a man of value."
— Albert Einstein

Favorite Quote:
"A book must be the axe for the frozen sea within us."
— Franz Kafka

I have gained a better appreciation for the community I work in. I have also made many friends and contacts that will help me be of service to the student population I work with and the community at large.

Birthplace: Matanzas, Cuba

Education: B.A., Colorado Women's College; M.F.A., University of Madrid, Spain; M.A., Webster University

Family: Ed, husband, Kirsten, daughter, Hannah, granddaughter, cats, fish, and Maynard, a retired greyhound

Hobbies: Reading, classical music, travel and outdoors

María C. Halloran
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Favorite Quote:
"Leadership is who you are before it is what you do. People teach what they know, but reproduce what they are."
— John C. Maxwell

I will take every opportunity to share leadership qualities adopted with individuals who are in the forefront of community involvement. I will also encourage leadership in my community and make an effort to blend initiatives bringing communities together for a shared cause.

Birthplace: Greenville, Texas

Education: B.S. Social Work, West Texas State University

Family: Married 21 years to wife, Francine, six sons and one daughter

Hobbies: Youth sports, collecting college football jerseys, and collecting maps

Vic Hayes
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Favorite Quote:
"Character is doing the right thing when nobody is looking."
— Congressman J. C. Watts

I will continue in the tradition of those before me, and will proactively promote the city of Aurora and its businesses to ensure the city's future economic growth.

Birthplace: Born in Matanzas, Cuba. Raised in Aurora, Colorado

Education: Currently working on a (20-year-plan) B.S. at ACC and ANU

Family: Judy, wife of 15 years, two daughters: Sophia and Maree

Hobbies: Organizing benefit softball tournaments, playing softball and enjoying good cigars and scotch.

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Favorite Quote:
"A leader knows the way, shows the way and goes the way."
— Lou Holtz

Most importantly, I have gained friendships. Secondly, I have gained understanding of our community and the people who make it work. I will weave those friendships and understandings into making Aurora a better home for all.

Birthplace: Denver, Colorado

Education: B.A. in History, Colorado State University

Family: Chris, wife of 25 years, James, son, and Amy, daughter

Hobbies: Skiing, climbing, sports cars and running

(Jerry) Robert L. Hinkle
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Favorite Quote:
"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion."
— The Dalai Lama

By learning so much about the city of Aurora, and the community within, it has given me many ideas as to ways I can make a difference. We all make up a city and a community. It is so important to help out in any way possible. Lead by example.

Birthplace: Denver, Colorado

Education: Criminology, Metro State; Gupton Jones College of Mortuary Science

Family: Yvonne, wife of 15 years, and our dog, Moose, and 3 cats, Bones, Simon and Murray

Hobbies: Woodworking, golf and road trips to Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico

Jim Horan
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Birthplace: Enid, Oklahoma

Education: B.S. in Communications, University of Utah

Family: None that claim me

Hobbies: Volleyball, cooking and tango

I've learned a lot that is already giving me a much broader perspective on the city. Professionally, it has given me a number of ideas for good stories to do for KACT, to help educate the public on some of the fine programs, and tough challenges, facing the area.

Favorite Quote:
"To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong."
— Author Unknown

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Birthplace: Easton, PA, but lived and grew up in Phillipsburg, NJ

Education: B.A., Upsala College, East Orange, NJ; M.A., Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, NJ

Family: George Issaeff, husband of 26 years, a son, Jeff, and daughter, Lauren

Hobbies: Tennis, biking, traveling with my family, gardening, watching my daughter's basketball games and volunteer activities in the community and at the kids' schools

Being part of the 2003 Leadership Aurora class has given me a greater understanding of the Aurora community, an opportunity to meet other community leaders, and insight into my role in the community. These experiences have given me skills, knowledge, and networking opportunities, which will last a lifetime and allow me to be more effective with my personal and professional goals.

Favorite Quote:
"It's a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it."
— Somerset Maugham

J. Douglas Johnson
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Birthplace: Greeley, Colorado

Education: B.S., Colorado State University

Family: Amy, wife, Colter, son, and Elise, daughter

Hobbies: Flying, hunting and fishing

Leadership Aurora has afforded me the opportunities to make new friends in business, the community and personally.

Favorite Quote:
"In time of change the leaders will inherit the earth, while the knowers will find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists."
— Eric Hoffer

Brandi Jones
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Birthplace: Stuttgart, Germany

Education: Associates Degree in Science in Commercial Arts/Advertising; B.A. in Technology/Graphics Design; B.S. in Communication Advertising

Family: My kitties, Jacob and Drake

Hobbies: Pool, darts, hanging out with my friends and watching movies

From the first day I learned a valuable lesson that I've tried to apply from that day – the three P's – pause, paraphrase and probe. In the group I've learned when to use all three, or just a couple.

Favorite Quote:
"Live and let learn."
— Author Unknown

Casey W. Jones
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Birthplace: Manhattan, KS

Education: Bachelors of Public Administration, Washington University

Family: Wife, Roxi, two sons, Jacob and Logan

Hobbies: Sons' sports activities, golf and photography

I have identified many of the issues and needs of the community. Leadership Aurora has provided me with the network, knowledge and resources to contribute more to our community.

Favorite Quote:
"The best portion of a good man's life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love."
— William Wordsworth

Favorite Quote:
"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself."
— Author Unknown

My experiences in Leadership Aurora gave me a deeper understanding of our city and the resources that are available. I enjoyed great contact with some great people working in different business areas of the city.

Birthplace: Raised in Aurora, CO

Education: University of Maryland

Family: Samandral Jones, wife, and one daughter

Hobbies: All outdoor activities

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Favorite Quote:
"Dream no small dreams for they have no power to move the heart."
— Goethe

Leadership Aurora provided an enormous resource of opportunities for involvement and networking with community leaders. It was a real life experience in all aspects of Aurora. What a valuable educational insight – a real inspiration for participation.

Birthplace: Omaha, NE

Education: B.S. Medical Dietetics, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Family: All live in Washington State

Hobbies: Cross-country, hunter-jumper equestrian, arts, skiing and travel

Carol Kolash
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Favorite Quote:
"Seize the day."
— Author Unknown

I plan continued service in the Aurora Rotary Club and improved staff coordination with the city of Aurora and the Aurora Public Schools as a result of my experience with Leadership Aurora.

Birthplace: Fullerton, CA

Education: B.S. from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY

M.B.A. from Washington State University and now a candidate for Ph.D. K-12 Superintendent's License and Administrative License

Family: Brenda, wife and four girls, Kari, Mariah, Anja, Kayla

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, camping, and skiing

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Favorite Quote:
"I start with the premise that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers."
— Ralph Nader

I plan to use my experiences from Leadership Aurora to assist in the development of new leaders and to promote, through my actions, active participation in community projects.

Birthplace: Casper, Wyoming

Education: B.S. in Natural Resources, CSU; M.Ed. in Technology in Education, Lesley University

Family: Sharon, wife, Nash, son, and Alannah, daughter.

Hobbies: My family, travel, hiking, white-water rafting, skiing, reading, and gardening

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Favorite Quote:
"The quality of a person's life can be measured in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence regardless of their chosen field of endeavor."
— Vince Lombardi

I plan to continue to expand my connections within the Aurora community. My enhanced knowledge of Aurora will help me to further support public education's contribution to the city.

Birthplace: Denver, CO

Education: B.A., Metro State College

M.A., University of Colorado at Denver

Family: Lisa, wife, two sons: Tim (19) and Dillon (9) and one daughter, Molly (16)

Hobbies: Running, reading, coaching Dillon's soccer team, attending Tim and Molly's soccer games, spending time with my children, the Broncos, cooking and learning about new stuff

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Birthplace: Born and raised in Montana

Education: B.S. in Occupational Therapy, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA

Family: Married to Dan for 14 years, 2 great children (Taylor, 14, and Sam,12), 2 step-children (Michele, 35, and Jenny, 30), and 5 grandchildren, ages 3–12

Hobbies: Time with family, training, competing and teaching Taekwondo, woodworking, gardening, home remodeling, and skiing

Spalding Rehab Hospital's goal is to be a reflection of the community, in order to meet the changing community needs. I have learned an incredible amount about the area and have met so many talented people in the Aurora community through my Leadership Aurora experiences. This information provides Spalding the opportunity to stay in touch with the needs of Aurora, and opens doors for future cooperative efforts between people and organizations that will enhance the community even more.

Favorite Quote:
"Our greatest glory in not in never failing, but in rising up every time we fall."
— Confucius

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Birthplace: Denver, Colorado

Education: An East Angle and product of CCC and Metro State

Family: Roylene, wife, two daughters Jamie and Mary

Hobbies: The Fire Service and stage productions

My personal experiences will be applied to my work place and my relationships. The lessons learned from Leadership Aurora classmates, and our instructors will be put to good use and relayed to others. With more understanding of the system, we can help evolve and improve our community. We can be a strong voice for the Chamber, the community, and the exciting things that are occurring in the city of Aurora.

Favorite Quote:
"Honor, Duty, Country"
— Author Unknown

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Birthplace: California, raised in New Mexico

Education: B.A. in Business Administration, Regis University

Family: Married for 19 years to wife, Michaela, Manuela, daughter, and Anthony, son,

Hobbies: Walking and fishing

Leadership Aurora has given me valuable insight into the community. I would like to use my experiences to help others understand the challenges faced by the community.

Favorite Quote:
"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. If you teach him how to fish, you feed him for a lifetime."
— Author Unknown

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Birthplace: Beaver Dam, WI

Education: B.A. in Organizational Management; M.A. (in progress) in Business Management, Webster University

Family: Karen, wife, Tim and Erika, children

Hobbies: Archery, horseback riding, skiing, scuba diving, hunting, fishing and community work

Wow – what didn't I learn? First, how 38 individuals with a wide variety of backgrounds can come together as a team and accomplish many things both professionally and socially. Probably the most important thing I learned is how the Aurora community operates having witnessed and participated in so many different hands-on tours, briefings and visits throughout the city. Organizations I never knew existed or if I did, never understood the complexity and the type of people it took to run these professional organizations. Finally, I learned a lot about the importance of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and it's vital role in the community. We have formed lifelong friendships while participating in this leadership class and I hope to keep in contact with as many as I can long after this class has graduated.

Favorite Quote:
"We didn't lose the game, we just ran out of time."
— Vince Lombardi

Favorite Quote:
"The great leaders are like the best conductors – they reach beyond the notes to reach the magic in the players."
— Blaine Lee
The Power Principle

Anything we do, anything we want to do, anything we decide not to do – leadership is important. With the skills I've gained from this class I hope to lead by example.

Birthplace: Rifle, CO

Education: B.S., Colorado State University

M.B.A., University of Houston

Family: Margaret, wife, Eric and Ryan, sons

Hobbies: Reading, wood working and dogs

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Favorite Quote:
"The authentic self is the "you". It is a part of you that is not defined by your job or your role. It is the composite of all your unique gifts, skills, abilities, talents, interest, insights and wisdom."
— Author Unknown

In some way, I would like to build a sense of community through community service, taken within my role in the Rotary Club of Aurora.

Birthplace: Longmont, CO

Education: University of Colorado and Metropolitan State College

Family: Married 22 years; Greg and Brendan, sons

Hobbies: Reading, golf, painting and cooking

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Favorite Quote:
"I expect to pass this way but once. Therefore, if there be any kindness I can show or any good that I can do let me do it now."
— William Penn

Leadership Aurora has been a wonderful experience. With the help of my many new friends and a new knowledge of Aurora communities and businesses, I believe that many doors of opportunity to influence positive change have been opened.

Birthplace: Raised in Totowa, NJ

Education: B.S. in Computer Science, University of Maryland

Family: Carol, wife, Kristen, daughter, Michael, son

Hobbies: Cycling, mountain climbing, community involvement, snow boarding, flying, sailing and ham radio

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Favorite Quote:
"Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others"
— Cicero

Through the past year with Leadership Aurora, I have met many new and interesting persons. Each person has demonstrated their desire to improve themselves and their community. I look forward to opportunities to offer my talents to both the community and to others as opportunities present themselves.

Birthplace: Akron, OH

Education: Akron General Medical Center – Paramedic School, University of Akron

Family: Nancy, wife and Michelle, daughter

Hobbies: Hiking, hunting and sight seeing

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Favorite Quote:
"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

"I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."
— Acts 20:35 KJV

Through Leadership Aurora, I have gained firsthand knowledge about Aurora city government and management. Armed with this knowledge, I can now use my life and experience to affect meaningful change in my immediate community, and ultimately my global community. I have also had the unique opportunity to meet extraordinary people. I will forever cherish the friendships I have made with my classmates.

Birthplace: Born in Springfield, MA; Raised in Columbus, Ohio

Education: B.S. in Computer Information Systems, Regis University, Denver, Colorado; M.S. in Computer Information Technology, Regis University, Denver, Colorado

Family: Single

Hobbies: Golf, ballroom dance, reading, picture cropping, bowling and roller skating

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Opening Retreat

Leadership for a Changing World"

Lakeshore Lodge, Estes Park, CO

Session Coordinators:

Cindy Kunkel (Chair), Rich Allison, Becky Barcheski, Grant Barrett, Sheila Martin, Sam McGhee, Diane Norman, Jake Shirk

The opening retreat was a great learning experience for all. Not only did members learn about classmates through various activities, but they also learned about themselves. Lieutenant Jake Shirk set the tone for the weekend with his lighthearted approach conveying important leadership experiences. The piggyback riding and brainteasers certainly helped to form camaraderie. "No doubt, the team building events were the most memorable," Bob Schwanke said. Participants learned if their personality was orange, blue, gold, or green as identified by the True Colors exercise and became Snickers, Baby Ruths or a variety of other candy bars. While listening to the elk bugles, life-long friendships were clearly formed at this event.

2002-2003 - Leadership Aurora class

The "oranges" brave the acid river.

Gigi, Mark, Melisa, Lance and Heather getting to know each other.

A candy bar dinner.

Carol, Rudy, Angelique and Lawrence socialize.

"Blues" planning a group hug.

"In the Line of Fire"

Session Coordinators: Jake Shirk (Chair), Sam McGhee

This session revealed the numerous programs and activities within the Aurora Police Department. Class members were able to participate in a virtual SWAT exercise, understand the department's new organizational structure, spend time in the jail, have the opportunity to fire automatic weapons and see first hand the force behind the Canine Unit. We were all impressed by the rigorous training police officers experience in the Academy and throughout their careers. Class members were able to witness the following leadership skills put into practice: conflict management, encouragement, and courage. There is little doubt why the Aurora Police Department has achieved an international reputation for being in the forefront of progressive public safety organizations. What a great way to begin our class sessions!

Leadership class member George Dumas tests his aim on the firing range during the Police Session.

"Lights, Camera, Action!"

Session Coordinators: Kim Podobnik (Chair), Buck Buckingham, Rozi Horn, Sam McGhee, Randy Simpson, Candrea Thomas

Sometimes, what you say isn't as important as how you say it. And sometimes, what you don't say carries more weight than what you do say. These were some of the observations we made during the Media Day session. This session gave us a better understanding of the media's role in the community and how businesses and other organizations can better work with the media.

We greatly enjoyed the panel discussion with Mike Landess of KMGH-7 and Jim Benneman of KUSA-9 and learned about the challenges of taking a day's worth of news into the limited amount of airtime of a 5:00 p.m. broadcast. Later we all had great fun taking turns being interviewed in the television studio at Aurora's own station, KACT-8. We toured the rest of the station's production facilities and finished the day by presenting the news stories that we produced in small groups.

Brandi Jones, Bob Schwanke, Melissa Francis and Mary Berrigan, work together to get their story straight for the Media Day Session.

"Community Ties and You"

Session Coordinators: Annie Ayers (Chair), Christine Hoppe, Sheila Martin, Kim Podobnik

After an overview on Aurora's demographics, discussing how the community is changing to meet the needs of a diverse and growing population, a briefing on Parks and Recreation and being treated to a delightful holiday concert by school children, we were off for a hands-on tour of various locations. By visiting the Department of Human Services, Aurora History Museum, the new Municipal Building, Aurora Mental Health Center, Comitis Crisis Center and Aurora Senior Center we saw first-hand the commitment of those individuals who work day in and day out to come to the aid of people in need. They are the unsung heroes of Aurora, working behind the scenes to have a positive impact on individual lives. It was a wake up call and a reminder of our responsibility as citizens to return some of the blessings we have received over our lifetimes.

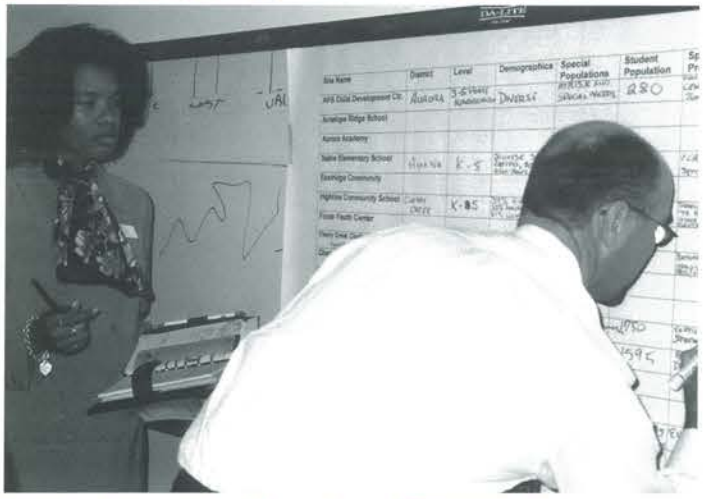
The Leadership Class tours the new Aurora Municipal Building during Community Day Session.

Mark Isenburg stars as the developer's spokesperson during the Economic and Infrastructure Session.

"Building on our Future"

Session Coordinators: Sheila Martin (Chair), Rich Allison, Becky Barcheski, Diane Norman, Kim Podobnik, Brent Stark

The Economic and Infrastructure Session provided insight into the complex development process that takes place in our city. "After the Economics and Infrastructure Session, I have a new appreciation for Aurora," Melisa Baker said. This session offered a quick look into the delicate balancing act that takes place each time a new structure is erected. An incredible amount of hard work and dedication go into the design of our city. As the City Council carefully weighs the pros and cons of future building, the developer's initial concept of the site and the voices of the city and local neighbors must all be taken into account. The role-playing opportunity allowed class members to experience some of the drama surrounding the development process. Especially impressive was Mark Isenburg's star performance as the developer's spokesperson.



Leanne Wheeler and Lance Goerndt post their observations after spending the morning surveying different educational facilities serving Aurora.

"School Daze"

Session Coordinators: Christine Hoppe (Chair), Becky Barcheski, Tim Ehgotz, Rozi Horn, Norma Silvers

In all, the members of Leadership Aurora Class of 2002-2003 visited 16 educational sites, in both Aurora Public Schools and Cherry Creek Public Schools. Large group discussions were held with members from both school systems' Boards, the Colorado Department of Education and the two Districts' Foundation members. Many issues facing the education system in Aurora were discussed including, state testing such as CSAP, the missions of the districts, and the obstacles facing the education system. The challenges facing the educational systems in Aurora seem to be wide spread and cross all economic and social boundaries. New to the education system are multilingual barriers presented by the students and their families and a transit student population. From the most impoverished school to the most affluent, Leadership Aurora members learned of the many issues, beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic, facing our educational systems and how we can assist the districts in meeting those challenges.

Classmate Heather Dolan enjoys making her first snowman with her daughter and neighbor.

"Where Does It Hurt?"

Session Coordinators: Bev Husted-Petry (Chair), Annie Ayers, Bob Barké, Cindy Kunkel, David Patterson

Instead of learning about the health care system in Aurora, the 2003 Leadership Class spent their Health Care session, scheduled March 19th, snowed in their homes due to the biggest blizzard that Aurora has seen in 90 years. Businesses, schools and roads were closed for up to four days as over 40 inches of snow blanketed the city. Although the class was disappointed to have missed the Health Care session, it was great to be part of the excitement and history.

"Pride and Presence"

Session Coordinators: Candrea Thomas (Chair)
Buck Buckingham, Tim Ehgotz, Rozi Horn,
Christine Hoppe, Diane Norman, Bob Steine

We met early in the morning at the Buckley Air Force Base and as the security gate checked our access pass, we knew that this would be a day unlike any other. The morning began with presentations that highlighted the history and accomplishments of the forces located at Buckley. The pride that the speakers brought forth was contagious. We then were given the opportunity to receive a mini training on chemical warfare and weapons of mass destruction, including graphic pictures and viewing of equipment used currently in the Middle East. The training emphasized that teamwork is the key to the success in any branch of the military, especially during a combat situation.

Then we embarked on the event of a lifetime, a flight on a KC-135 Tanker during a mid-air refueling of two F-16s. The flight crew was amazing and was more than accessible during the flight to answer questions and encourage our excitement. The mid air re-fueling took place near the Kansas border and all class members were able to get a view if they desired. We arrived back to base with tons of pictures and stories. Melissa Francis summarized the feeling of us all when she stated, "I've never been so proud of my country, those that work and serve in the military, or my co-Leadership Aurora classmates."

The Leadership Aurora class prepares to board a KC-135 Tanker for the experience of a lifetime.

"Where There's Smoke, There's Fire"

Session Coordinators: Mark Stephenson (Chair),
Diane Norman, David Patterson, Jake Shirk

Our day started with a welcome from our very own Leadership Aurora classmate, Fire Chief Casey W. Jones, followed by a lively overview of the department and a very informative session where we learned a lot about fire behavior. The rest of the day was spent on a variety of hands-on activities including the use of thermal imaging equipment, the "jaws of life", E.M.S., hazardous materials, decontamination units, fire prevention, bucket ride, and a thrilling descent from the tower on the slide rope. We also posed for a class picture in front of a propane fire some of our classmates had just tried to put out wearing full bunker gear.

The extent of community involvement by all levels within the AFD ranks is impressive. In life threatening situations the camaraderie seen among the firefighters is an asset. The leadership skills required in such a setting, to motivate, organize and mobilize so many facets is incredible. Teamwork and professionalism abounded during this highly informative and fun day.

All bunkered up, Brooke Brasher, Tom Tobiassen, Greg Fickas and Angelique Acevedo-Barrón pose in front of a car used for extrication drills on Fire Day.

Class Projects

"Adopt a Family - Holiday Gift and Food Baskets"

The class, in conjunction with Aurora Mental Health Center, provided food items for families in need at Thanksgiving and then again in December. The December baskets also included gift items for each family member. Through Leadership Aurora and other organizations, 180 families received a food basket at Thanksgiving and over 200 families had a great December holiday dinner complete with holiday gifts.

"Shelving Project for Comitis"

The class volunteered to help on the Comitis Crisis Center in the construction of shelving to store food items. Five shelving units were erected and food items were organized for the shelter. A very special thanks to Adolfson & Peterson Construction for the generous donation of building materials!

"Hotel/Motel Partnership Program"

Area hotels and motels are part of a national organization that assists the Comitis Crisis Center find hotel space for clients when emergencies arise. The class donated $640.16 to be used to provide "free nights" to homeless families in Aurora when situations arise where families cannot find shelter due to health issues, victims of crime and/or when emergency shelters are full.

"Rotary Club of Aurora – Children's Books"

The Rotary Club of Aurora has an award-winning program called Live-n-Learn. They send out invitations to over 3,000 grade school children to participate in a reading program eight times a year. The Rotary Members and Interact students read to the children, and the children are then allowed to take a book home. Class members donated children's books to this worthy cause.

"Donations to Joseph's Journey"

Throughout the course of this year, class members have met and worked with Joseph's Journey, an organization committed to granting the wish of an outdoor adventure to a child with a terminal illness. Class members provided additional funding to fulfill a child's wish.

Socials

Great friendships were formed through the 2003 Leadership Class and cultivated at the social activities held outside of the class sessions. The group kicked off the class year with drinks and appetizers at Caldonias and the Famous Door. Not all the socials involved bars however, as ten members of the class hiked Mt. Bierstadt on a beautiful October day. In February, the class cheered on the Nuggets at a game where the Nuggets won and after the Military "Pride and Presence" session the class was still flying high and headed over to Murphy Creek to wind down.

The Leadership Aurora class relaxes at Murphy Creek golf course after the Military Session.

CLASS OF 2003

Interest Directory

	Aging	Arts / Theater	Chemical Abuse	Child Abuse	Childcare	Community Planning	Econ. Development	Education	Government	Disabled	Health Services	Legal	Mental Health	Recreation	Religion	Small Business	Transportation	Youth Services	Visitor Promotion
Angelique Acevedo-Barrón		■						■		■		■	■				■	■	
Melisa Baker		■						■						■				■	
Mary Berrigan		■					■				■			■				■	
Kathy Boyle				■		■		■	■		■								
Brooke Brasher		■			■	■		■			■			■				■	■
Brian Callahan						■		■	■					■					
Lawrence Coleman			■	■							■				■			■	
Gigi Dodson	■	■	■	■		■		■	■		■	■	■				■		■
Heather Dolan		■		■	■			■	■		■		■	■				■	
George Dumas	■							■		■						■			■
Georgia Durán		■			■			■	■					■				■	
Greg Fickas		■				■		■	■					■		■		■	
Melissa Francis	■									■			■	■					■
Lance Goerndt	■	■			■	■			■					■		■		■	■
María Halloran		■				■	■	■			■		■	■					■
Vic Hayes	■					■	■	■	■						■	■		■	
Rudy Herrera	■		■	■				■					■	■					
Robert (Jerry) Hinkle						■			■			■							■
Jim Horan		■		■										■			■		
Mark Isenburg		■				■		■	■					■			■	■	
Jeanette Issaeff		■				■	■	■	■					■	■				■
John (Doug) Johnson						■			■					■		■			
Brandi Jones		■		■		■		■						■	■	■	■	■	■
Casey Jones				■				■	■									■	
William Jones						■	■								■	■		■	
Carol Kolash				■		■	■										■	■	
Fred Maiocco						■	■	■	■					■			■	■	
Greg Moore		■				■		■	■					■				■	
Scott Nuanes		■						■	■					■			■		
Merrilee Phillips	■					■		■	■	■	■			■				■	■
Ira (Jerry) Rhodes		■	■			■			■		■								
David Romero						■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■
Robert (Bob) Schwanke						■	■	■	■	■				■		■	■	■	■
Vernon (Butch) Shoup						■	■							■		■			
Lois Tafoya		■				■		■								■		■	
Tom Tobiassen						■			■		■			■		■	■		■
Robert (Bob) Waples			■					■			■			■		■			
Leanne Wheeler		■				■	■	■	■			■		■	■	■		■	

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