



# Inspiring Creative Leadership

*"Leaders don't force  
people to follow — they  
invite them on a journey"*

— Charles Lauer

**LEADERSHIP**  
A • U • R • O • R • A

*Class of 2005*

# Introduction

**T**wenty years ago, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce launched *Leadership Aurora* to educate local leaders from diverse backgrounds about our city and to prepare them for greater community involvement. Since then, over 600 people committed to shaping Aurora's future, have graduated from the program.

Once a month and for nine consecutive months, the *Leadership Aurora* class attends a daylong session that centers on a community theme such as education, healthcare or our urban infrastructure and economy. First-rate presenters address related topics, encourage thoughtful dialogue and provide remarkable opportunities for on-site participation. Class members learn about the city's strengths and challenges, and the expectation of servant leadership intrinsic to healthy community development. In addition, each class chooses a project (or projects) of its own design to help local organizations.

*Leadership Aurora* is one of more than 1,000 community leadership programs in the nation. It is a member of the Community Leadership Association, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to leadership development. Sponsored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, *Leadership Aurora* is funded by the Chamber, in-kind donations and class tuition. The Leadership Aurora Board steers the program, develops the curriculum and oversees its success.

We congratulate all Leadership Aurora graduates dedicated to serving Aurora and its destiny as a world-class city.

**The Leadership Aurora  
Class of 2005**

# Acknowledgements

**T**he Leadership Aurora Class 2004-2005 wishes to gratefully acknowledge the individuals, businesses and other organizations that provide invaluable support to one of the most outstanding leadership programs in the United States.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the **Aurora Chamber of Commerce**, which developed, implemented and supported Leadership Aurora to prepare leaders committed to Aurora's future. We wish to thank the **Leadership Aurora Board members** and all graduates of the program, who have contributed their time, energy and enthusiasm to plan and deliver each monthly session. We cannot give enough thanks to **Kimberly Curtis**, whose skilled leadership, positive attitude and impeccable organization insured the sessions went off without incident and like clockwork.

Many speakers and personnel who led us 'behind the curtain', sharing exclusive information and insights receive our deepest appreciation. We would also like to thank the organizations and businesses that provided in-kind services and donations such as 'goodie bags', facilities, equipment, instruction, transportation, meals and much more.

And last, but surely not least, we thank the people of Aurora. We are grateful to our community, respectful of its historical past, and we are looking forward to playing our part in helping to shape its future.





# Board Chair

**I** imagine, about a year ago, you were considering completing an application for the Leadership Aurora program. At that time, you may have had a baseline concept of what the program entailed. Now, a year later, the program year is complete. Congratulations to you for a successful year with Leadership Aurora!

Think of the places you went! Remember always your class retreat in Winter Park, Colorado. Remember your apprehensiveness at discussing your first leadership experience with a group of what then were strangers. After that long day, remember the leadership training with Stephen and Sam McGhee. I believe each of us learned a great deal about ourselves during that time. I believe it was that evening that many of this group was subject to the 'hot seat' and interesting questioning from class members. Remember the enthusiasm of your class as officers, committees and plans for your first community activity were prepared.

From there, we moved through the rotation of classes. In this book, you will find recaps and pictures from those days. Everyone has a favorite - was yours military day, police day, fire day or one of the other great program days? Remember your class project and working together at DAVA and for other great Aurora causes. There are always many memories created by a program like Leadership Aurora.

Most importantly, I challenge you to remember the friendships and connections you made during your year with Leadership Aurora. This yearbook is a tool to remember your classmates by pictures and bios. I encourage you to go a step further. Maintain these newfound relationships in person. Also, continue your interest in giving to our Aurora community.

I cannot close without giving thanks and praise to Kimberly Curtis, Program Director and the entire Leadership Aurora Board. This is a perfect example of a 'working' board. This team of individuals puts a great deal of work and effort into every Leadership Aurora event. Without this combination of talent and dedication, the program could not be the success it is.

*Best wishes to all of you in the times to come,*

**Christine Hoppe**  
Leadership Aurora Board Chair  
2004-05



# Class President

**I** remember the interview well. "Craig, why do you want to be part of Leadership Aurora?" What I thought was: "...for the contacts I would make." What I said was: "I don't know. I was told that it was a good program and I needed to go through it." I am sure most of my classmates provided a more articulate answer although I suspect many were equally uncertain.

On September 2004, thirty-four individuals met in the Colorado mountains to begin our Leadership Aurora experience. While there were some familiar faces, most of us had only been introduced a few days before. By the end of the first day I had begun to know my new friends.

As the weekend progressed, we laughed, cried, learned about ourselves and each other. We also learned we were safe with each other. By the end of the weekend, there were bonds built that will endure for many years to come.

I needed to reevaluate. Making contacts was not the answer to the question. Yes, I did make some; but more importantly I met some amazing people - people I could call my friends.

As our trust and confidence in each other grew, we decided as a group project to renovate the Downtown Aurora Visual Arts studio. I did not know what DAVA was or where it was. I did not know why it was

important. I did know that Susan was my friend. I trusted her and she needed help. I was starting to understand the goals and potential impact of Leadership Aurora.

We completed the DAVA Studio renovation in the middle of our class year. At the grand re-opening we saw how the children benefited from our efforts. It also allowed the children to say "thank you" in their own way. One young man made me a simple gold duck from some pipe cleaners he had. His unpretentious "thank you" touched me deeply. The other children provided us with additional kind words, cards and pictures. Their gratitude was amazing.

By the end of April, class projects included making Halloween gift bags for some very grateful children, and raising more than \$13,000 in money and gifts for the Business Giving Back program. We had collected enough Christmas toys to overflow a very large container placed in the Chamber office. We raised more than \$5,600 in cash, as well as some \$8,000 of in-kind donations for DAVA. Finally, and not the least of our accomplishments, we provided more than 1,500 hours of community service.

At the retreat, we had learned that a team is "a small number of people with complimentary skills who are committed to a common purpose...", for which they hold themselves accountable." Given the success of this year, I truly believe we are a team that had a positive impact on our community.

In closing, to each of my classmates whom I now call friends, and to my friends who pushed me to become involved in the Leadership Aurora program I would like to express my deepest gratitude. Because of you, I can now answer the question, "Craig, why do you want to be part of Leadership Aurora?" Because of the positive impact a team can have on the community by giving to it... and for the gold duck I received in return.

With Appreciation,

**F. Craig Ward**  
Class President 2004-05





# 2005 Class Profiles

## Jennifer Alderfer

Chief Operating Officer  
The Medical Center of Aurora  
North Campus  
700 Potomac  
Aurora CO 80011  
303-360-3040

Jennifer.Alderfer@HealthOnecares.com

### Favorite Quote:

*What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



I plan to use my Leadership Aurora experience to instill pride in Aurora with my colleagues. I've come away from the experience with a true sense of pride in the community in which I work, and I want to pass that on to others!

**Birthplace:** Marysville, KS

**Education:** Kansas State University, BA; University of Colorado – Denver, MBA, MHA

**Family:** Husband Troy, daughter Sydney 4 years, son Cavin 3 years, daughter Lily 1 year

**Hobbies:** Spending time with family, reading, skiing

## Randy Berner

Senior Project Manager  
Adolfson & Peterson Construction  
797 Ventura Street  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-363-7101  
rberner@a-p.com

### Favorite Quote:

*Life is a journey...so why not live an interesting one!*

— K. Ferguson



I plan to stay active in the Aurora community and find ways to improve, participate, and enrich the community. I gained multiple valued friendships and contacts within the city through the Leadership Aurora program and obtained a good understanding of what is important to both the city and myself.

**Birthplace:** Nebraska City, Nebraska

**Education:** Colorado State University, B.S. Construction Management

**Family:** Married for 24 years to my wife Cindy, Daughters Ashley (21) and son Colby (18)

**Hobbies:** All sports (especially coaching youth softball and skiing), fishing, and church activities

## Art Bogardus

Executive Director  
Pickens Tech  
500 Airport Blvd  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-344-4910  
artb@pickens.aps.k12.us

### Favorite Quote:

*How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.*

— George Washington Carver



Leadership Aurora opened the inner workings of Aurora to me. The experiences I gained will allow me to better serve students at Pickens Tech and the Aurora business community by understanding individual needs at a higher level. In short, the experience helped me gain great insight and appreciation for the people and community of Aurora.

**Birthplace:** Denver, Colorado

**Education:** B.S. Technology Education and Training, M.Ed. Education and Human Resource Studies, Colorado State University

**Family:** Wife Vickie (26 years), Sons Derek (24), and Neal (21)

**Hobbies:** Golf and travel

## Robert Bowsher

Director of Rehabilitation  
Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital  
900 Potomac  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-363-5650  
robert.bowsher@healthonecare.com

### Favorite Quote:

*Whether you think you can, or that you can't, you are usually right.*

— Henry Ford



Leadership Aurora has been an amazing experience that has motivated me to be more active in the community. The friendships I have made and the knowledge I have gained will be invaluable, both personally and professionally.

**Birthplace:** Denver, Colorado

**Education:** B.A. & M.A. University of Northern Colorado,

**Family:** Wife Susan, Andrew (12) and Lauren (9)

**Hobbies:** Bike riding, reading, and traveling

## Maggie Byrnes

Program Director of Intensive Adolescent  
Team  
Aurora Mental Health Center  
14301 E. Hampden Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80014  
303-617-2617  
maggiebyrnes@aumhc.org

### Favorite Quote:

*A revolutionary with a taste in wine  
has traveled half the way from Marx to  
Burke.*

— Norman Mailer



Leadership Aurora has given me the opportunity to network with wonderful people from many different areas of the city. I was able to learn more about the "big picture" of Aurora and all the wonderful resources that are available. I plan to use what I have learned for the betterment of myself, my staff, and my clients.

**Birthplace:** Rensselaer, Indiana  
**Education:** MSW, University of Michigan  
**Family:** Husband, Torry Larsen, sons Andy (19) and Mike (16)  
**Hobbies:** Garage-sales, stock market investing, hiking, rappelling

## Lawrence Chavers

Assistant Principal  
Thunder Ridge Middle School  
Cherry Creek School District #5  
Aurora, CO 80015  
720-886-1574  
lchavers12@msn.com

### Favorite Quote:

*If you stand for nothing, you'll fall for  
anything!*

— Malcolm X



I plan to use the experiences that I've had with Leadership Aurora to help me create my own business. I would like to extend this idea to wherever I may relocate.

**Birthplace:** Rome, NY  
**Education:** B.A., University of Wyoming; M.A., Education Administration, University of Phoenix  
**Family:** Mother - Mildred Chavers; father - Ronald Chavers; sisters - Davita, Rolanda, and Wanda  
**Hobbies:** Music, movies, basketball, football, deejaying parties

## Garren Christensen

Business Development Engineer  
QSE Technologies, Inc.  
6940 S. Holly Circle, Suite 100  
Centennial, CO 80112  
303-283-8400 x138  
garren.christensen@qsetech.com

### Favorite Quote:

*Learn to work harder on yourself than you  
do on your job. If you work hard on your  
job you can make a living. If you work  
hard on yourself you can make a fortune.*

— Jim Rohn



I have participated in a unique opportunity to view and understand the Aurora community in a way only possible through the Leadership Aurora program. With the greater understanding of how a community works, and the outstanding people I have met, I can now be a more active and valuable contributor in helping shape the community I live in.

**Birthplace:** Salt Lake City, Utah  
**Education:** Idaho State University & University of Idaho  
**Family:** Wife Shelley, daughters Madison 6 and Katey 2  
**Hobbies:** Shooting sports/guns, outdoor activities of all types, family

## Barbara Cleland

Community Relations Director  
Aurora Mental Health  
11659 E. Bethany Drive  
Aurora, CO 80014  
303-929-9855  
bcleland@aumhc.org

### Favorite Quote:

*Grant that I may not criticize my  
neighbor until I have walked a mile in  
his shoes.*

— Anonymous



Leadership Aurora has helped me in networking in both business and social life. The experience has also helped me find out how truly unique Aurora is as a city.

**Birthplace:** Salt Lake City, UT but raised in Denver CO  
**Education:** Attended Western State College. Various Certificates in Public safety and defined contributions public pension plans  
**Family:** Two children Kit and Stacie, two stepchildren, Tim and Elizabeth, one granddaughter Gracey and one grandchild yet to be determined.  
**Hobbies:** Politics, travel and genealogy

## Barbara Eaton

Vice President Human Resources  
Citywide Banks  
13741 E. Mississippi Ave. #100  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-365-3820  
eaton @citywidebanks.com

### Favorite Quote:

*Only those who dare to fail greatly can  
ever achieve greatly.*

— Robert F. Kennedy



Leadership Aurora has provided me with a tremendous opportunity to develop many new friendships while learning more about the community I live in. I plan to use what I have learned from my experience to volunteer more of my time and play an active role in Aurora.

**Birthplace:** Lincoln, NE  
**Education:** BSBA University of Denver  
**Family:** Husband, Mike; son, Ryan; daughter, Cassie  
**Hobbies:** Reading, biking, cooking



## Sarah Ellis

Director News Media Relations  
University of Colorado at Denver and Health  
Sciences Centers and University of  
Colorado Hospital  
P.O. Box 6508, Mail Stop F413  
Aurora CO 80045-0508  
303-724-1527  
Sarah.Ellis@uchsc.edu

### Favorite Quote:

*I've always tried to go a step past  
wherever people expected me to end  
up.*

— Beverly Sills



Leadership Aurora has been an amazing and valuable experience that has given me new insight into all aspects of the Aurora community and to my own potential. I plan to continue contributing to the community in new ways. I will especially cherish the personal and professional connections I've made with wonderful classmates.

**Birthplace:** Denver, CO

**Education:** B.A. in Journalism from Metropolitan State College, Accredited in Public Relations by the Public Relations Society of America

**Family:** Two daughters, Kellie and Jessica, son Jamey, granddaughter Kayla and grandson-to-be

**Hobbies:** Spending time with family and friends, reading, movies, theatre, travel and hiking

## Ray Michael García (Mike)

Battalion Chief, Training Division  
Aurora Fire Department  
15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. Suite 400  
Aurora, CO 80015  
303-720-865-4077  
rgarcia@auroragov.org

### Favorite Quote:

*How you think is everything...always  
be positive.*

— Colonel Allen Kirkman



I plan to use my experience in Leadership Aurora by being a more active member in my community. I plan to continue the relationships and contacts I have gained to further enrich my life, along with sharing my new knowledge with my family, co-workers and friends.

**Birthplace:** Victorville, CA, has lived in Aurora since 1978 and been with the Aurora Fire Department for 27 years

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts Degree, Political Science, Emphasis in Public Administration, University of Colorado at Denver Special Academic Certificate: Administration of Public Safety Organizations, University of Colorado at Denver Associate of Arts Degree: Business Marketing, Oskaloosa Walton Junior College, Niceville, Florida: Executive Fire Officer Program, National Fire Academy, Emmetsburg, Maryland

**Family:** Married to Adriene E. Garcia, three children, Michael, Annette, and Matthew, and two-step children Christopher and Brittany.

**Hobbies:** Game of chess, volunteerism and all sports

## David Gruber

Commander, 460 Mission Support Group  
Buckley Air Force Base  
18401 E. A-Basin (Stop 96)  
Buckley AFB, 80011-95524  
303-617-3389  
davidgruber@comcast.net

### Favorite Quote:

*Duty then is the sublimest word in the  
English language. You should do your duty  
in all things. You can never do more. You  
should never wish to do less.*

— Robert E. Lee



I've already taken steps to integrate our base sexual assault response actions with the Aurora South program and link the base training with Pickens Tech. Our base relationship with Aurora Police continues to strengthen, and I now better understand how the media works with us.

**Birthplace:** Cincinnati, OH, but raised in St. Petersburg, FL

**Education:** BSEE, USAF Academy; MS Systems Management, University of Southern CA; MS Strategic Studies, US Air War College

**Family:** Married for 21 years to Kitty, Children Don19 and Rachel 11

**Hobbies:** Skiing, biking, mountain climbing, running and computers

## Allyson Hakala

Executive Director  
Self Improvement Opportunities  
1585 Kingston St. #108  
Aurora, CO 80010  
303-365-9367  
siopp@yahoo.com

### Favorite Quote:

*If your actions inspire others to dream  
more, learn more, do more and  
become more, you are a leader*

— Anonymous



In the future I will try to keep in mind that differing opinions do not necessarily mean that people are trying to prove you wrong. This Leadership Aurora class had a unique mix of students all dedicated to the same goal. For me, Leadership Aurora reinforced that diversity is necessary for a strong community.

**Birthplace:** Born in Kalamath Falls, OR, grew up in Lakewood, CO

**Education:** University of Wyoming, BA Psychology, University of Nevada, MBA

**Family:** My yellow lab, Denali

**Hobbies:** Anything outside, snowboarding, running, climbing biking, reading, volunteering or travel

## Mary Lou Hamaker

Financial Service Officer  
Bank of the West  
10401 E. Colfax Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80010  
303-364-2621  
mhamaker@bankofthewest.com

### Favorite Quote:

*Nothing is a waste of time if you use  
the experience wisely.*

— Auguste Rodin



I will use the experience to enrich the lives of others by being a better leader and advisor to those with whom I come in contact, proactively working with local leaders to help build a better community.

**Birthplace:** Born and raised in Aurora

**Education:** Graduate, Aurora Central High School

**Family:** Children Christine and Dennis; granddaughters Sarah, Morgan, and Bailey

**Hobbies:** Gardening, reading, and country dancing



## David R. Harper

Vice President and General Agent  
Planned Insurance Services, Inc.  
494 Sheridan Blvd. Suite #103-C  
Denver, CO 80226  
303-975-8796  
dharper79@hotmail.com



### Favorite Quote:

*If you think you can; you can. If you think you can't, you're right!*  
— Author Unknown, but it's what my mother always told me

What I gained from Leadership Aurora is immeasurable. I plan to use my experiences gained in this program by volunteering with the city in other areas that I did not know about. I want to use what I learned in Leadership Aurora to help the city of Aurora continue to grow and become a viable place to live in the Rocky Mountain region.

**Birthplace:** Brooklyn, NY  
**Education:** Boston University  
**Family:** Married 15 Years to Lynette, 2 children: Myles, 12 and Paige 7.  
**Hobbies:** Listening to jazz, bike riding, trying to play golf and photography

## Kimberly Harrell

Jeweler/Silversmith & Co-owner  
East End Applied Arts  
Kim Harrell Silversmith & Jewelry Design  
/East End Applied Arts  
1556 Florence  
Aurora, Colorado 80010  
720 203 3575  
kim@EastEndArts.com



### Favorite Quote:

*Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens.*  
— Carl Jung

I will nurture the new friendships that have sprouted from my participation on Leadership Aurora; continue to participate in my community with vigor; spread the good news about Aurora and what she has to offer and is doing to improve her diverse community; rise to the challenge of being a leader.

**Birthplace:** Denver, CO  
**Education:** Colorado College, 1987, BA: Sociology; London Guildhall University (London, UK), 1996, BA: Silversmithing, Jewelry & Allied Crafts  
**Family:** Married to David Drew; three daughters, Beatrice Davina, Isabella Grace, Hannah Ila  
**Hobbies:** Art, architecture, spending time with friends and family, movies, reading, tennis, eating out, politics

## Bob Jamieson

Sales — Registered Representative  
Mutual of Omaha  
2001 S. Lansing Ct.  
Aurora, CO 80014  
720-875-0102 ext. 213  
bjamieson@att.net



### Favorite Quote:

*The great leaders are like the best conductors — they reach beyond the notes to reach the magic in the players.*  
— Blaine Lee

Leadership Aurora has opened my eyes to all that Aurora has to offer. It will help me get plugged into the community; giving me all the opportunity I need to become involved with organizations and people that need help. The best part should be continuing all the friendships I've developed.

**Birthplace:** Denver, CO  
**Education:** BA University of Northern Colorado  
**Family:** Wife, Shannon; daughter, Alexandra  
**Hobbies:** Golf, fishing, camping, biking, sports

## Susan Jensen

Executive Director  
Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)  
1405 Florence Street  
Aurora, CO 80010  
303-367-5886  
davararts@qwest.net



### Favorite Quote:

*Love is metaphysical gravity.*  
— R. Buckminster Fuller

Knowing the city's resources sheds a new light on Aurora as a dynamic unique community. I now have faces to attach to business and government groups, as well as a myriad of new resources. I plan to stay in touch with my class members for their perspectives and help as a remarkable, multi-talented, creative group. I will treasure the memories of having the entire group as co-workers on the DAVA studio renovation, an incredible combination of heart and talent.

**Birthplace:** Fort Benning, Georgia  
**Education:** BA, New College, Sarasota, Fla.; MA, University of Denver.  
**Family:** Lively Mother, Janet Jensen, age 90, a multitude of cousins and extended family of friends.  
**Hobbies:** travel, the arts, reading

## Jeffrey L. Johnson

Engineering Manager; R6Sigma Expert  
Raytheon  
16800 E. CentreTech Pkwy.  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-344-6894  
JLJohnson1@raytheon.com

### Favorite Quote:

*There are two way to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.*  
— Albert Einstein



The experiences and insights gained through the Leadership Aurora program have been invaluable. I have a much deeper and broader perspective of both leadership and the community around me, and I will take that wider point of view forward with me in all that I do.

**Birthplace:** Colorado native, born in Denver

**Education:** University of Denver-Masters; University of Colorado, B.S. (with Honors in Humanities)

**Family:** Married for 11 years to wife, Teresa. Four children, Colton, 9; Kyle 7; identical twins Kristen and Kendal, 5.

**Hobbies:** Spending time with my family, golf, tennis, travel, reading, church activities my kids' extracurricular sports and activities.

## Richard Leyba

Interfacility Supervisor  
Rural/Metro Ambulance  
3350 Peoria St.  
Aurora, CO 80010  
303-343-7098  
rich\_leyba@metro.com

### Favorite Quote:

*Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.*

— Henry Ford



I plan to use my new skills to help the people around me grow and become leaders. The class has provided each student with the knowledge and capabilities to ensure that our community is filled with bright and successful leaders. Passing on my knowledge is the best way to ensure the leaders of tomorrow have the foundation necessary to become strong and insightful leaders of the future.

**Birthplace:** Denver, CO

**Education:** College

**Hobbies:** Diving, motorcycles, golf, camping

## Lynnea Greene Louison

Director of Human Resources  
Tony's Meats & Specialty Foods  
12001 E. Caley Ave.  
Centennial, CO 80112  
303-991-1350, ext. 108  
llouison2000@yahoo.com

### Favorite Quote:

*If you can dream it, you can do it.*

— Walt Disney



I will continue to give back to the community as well as build on new friendships.

**Birthplace:** Grew up in Philadelphia, PA

**Education:** B.A., Penn State University

**Family:** Married to Gerard with a four-year old son, Miles

**Hobbies:** Genealogy, gourmet cooking, and learning to play golf

## Mike Mitchell

Returns Supervisor  
L'Oreal USA  
19503 E. 34<sup>th</sup> Dr.  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-574-4919  
mmitchell@us.loreaf.com

### Favorite Quote:

*Patience, Persistence, and Perspiration make an unbeatable combination of success.*

— Napoleon Hill



Through Leadership Aurora, I've gained many new friendships and a vast knowledge of the community. I plan to use my experiences to inform others of the great things Aurora has to offer, encourage people to get involved and continue to make Aurora a better place to live and work. Overall this has been a wonderful opportunity for me.

**Birthplace:** Denver, CO

**Education:** Graduated Mapleton High School

**Family:** Married 20 years to wife Karla, son, Garrett, 19 and daughter Amanda, 17

**Hobbies:** golf, fishing and a huge Denver Broncos fan



## Kevin Olmstead

Catering & Event Coordinator  
Tony Rosacci's Fine Catering  
12001 E. Caley  
Centennial, CO 80111  
303-662-9353  
kmo123@yahoo.com



I have fostered the principle of guiding children, our future leaders. As a result of Leadership Aurora, I volunteer with children through the Colfax Community Network. I intend to expand my role as a leader with children and the community.

**Birthplace:** Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
**Education:** B.S. & M.S. Colorado State University; Teachers Certification: The School of the Hartford Ballet  
**Family:** Single  
**Hobbies:** Hiking, biking, skiing, reading and cultural activities

### Favorite Quote:

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –  
I took the one less traveled by, and that  
has made all the difference.*

— Robert Frost

## John A. Packer

Owner/Business Development  
Crystal Technologies Inc.  
2953 S. Peoria St., Suite 207  
Aurora, CO 80014  
303-910-3313  
jpacker@crystal-tech.com



I will be using my leadership Aurora experience to get more involved in the community and raise the awareness of all the great things that our city has to offer. I will use the friendships I'm building to further my personal involvement in the community to help people in need. This has been a great experience and I wouldn't trade it for the world. I wish I could do it next year, too! Thanks for the opportunity to grow with the city.

**Birthplace:** Baker, Oregon  
**Education:** Arapahoe Community College, BS in Telecommunication; RCDD accreditation from BICSI International  
**Family:** Father of 3 boys, 3 girls and 4 grandchildren  
**Hobbies:** Skiing, fishing, basketball, networking

### Favorite Quote:

*Become a "WOW" in everything you do.  
Leave no Man behind.  
Don't sweat the small stuff, and it's all  
small stuff.*

## Erika K. Reuer

Escrow Manager  
Town and Country Title Services  
4908 Tower Road, Suite 110  
Denver, CO 80249  
303-486-8970  
cezreuer@comcast.net



Aurora is a great city. What we have seen as a class is a spirit driven by goodwill, and a pursuit of quality from all arenas of the Aurora community. Leadership Aurora has shown that leadership and citizenship occur on many levels every day.

**Birthplace:** Washburn, Wisconsin  
**Education:** B.A. Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
**Family:** Husband, Chuck; son, Zachary  
**Hobbies:** Painting, tennis, reading

### Favorite Quote:

*There are some who lift the age they  
inhabit, till all walk on higher ground in that  
lifetime.*

— Maxwell Anderson, Valley Forge

## Everton C. Sequeira

Investment Representative  
Edward Jones Investments  
15091 B East Mississippi Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-751-1841  
esequeira@yahoo.com



I will be deeply involved in the community—to give more and get more out of the community. I have held district leadership positions in the Optimist Club and leadership positions in the Rotary Club, and I will continue to do that. I will also continue to provide leadership to the youth of the community through the service organizations and Junior Achievement.

**Birthplace:** Pune, India  
**Education:** Bachelor's in Mining Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology; Master's, University of Nevada; MBA, University of Phoenix  
**Family:** Wife Teresa, no children  
**Hobbies:** Golf, bicycling, walking/slow jogging

### Favorite Quote:

*A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore.*

— Yogi Berra

## June Smigel

Chair, Human Resources Committee  
Aurora Mental Health Center Board of Directors

16596 East Wesley Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80013  
303-751-3191  
jsmigel2@comcast.net

### Favorite Quote:

*If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea.*

— Antoine de Saint Exupery



Everything I've learned will help me become a more effective citizen locally and globally. My expanded awareness of the greatness of our city—and of the great needs yet unmet—increases my commitment to our community and allows me to serve it more effectively.

**Birthplace:** Cleveland, Ohio; resident of Aurora since 1981

**Education:** Senior-level certification in Human Resources (SPHR); Certificate in Mediation, Labor and Employment specialty; Attended University of Colorado and Community College of Aurora

**Family:** Celebrating 30 years of marriage to John (the best man I know); proud 'mom' of Kaya, a four-year old Corgi/Sheltie mix (and other canines who preceded her)

**Hobbies:** Reading, listening to music, and playing cards

## Kristen Speck

Chief, Community Relations  
Buckley Air Force Base  
510 S. Aspen  
Aurora, CO 80011-9551

720-847-6869

Kristen.speck@buckley.af.mil

### Favorite Quote:

*I can accept failure, but I can't accept not trying.*

— Michael Jordan



What an incredible experience! Through Leadership Aurora, I have gained a new understanding and admiration for all of the areas that contribute to our growing city. I plan to continue learning about our community and use that knowledge to educate myself, as well as, friends and co-workers. I appreciate the time and friendships that have been made over the past year, and I look forward to continuing to be an active member in the Aurora Community.

**Birthplace:** Dallas, Texas

**Education:** Texas Tech University, B.A. in Public Relations; University of Colorado at Denver, M.A. in Communication Studies

**Family:** Fabulous mom and dad and sister, Allison

**Hobbies:** Traveling, sports, spending time with friends and family.

## E. Dwight Taylor

Partner

Edwards & Taylor, LLC, Attorneys  
2851 South Parker Road, Suite 1200  
Aurora, CO 80014  
dtaylor@et-law.com

### Favorite Quote:

*Good judgment comes from experience, and often experience comes from bad judgment.*

— Rita Mae Brown



I have learned through my experience with Leadership Aurora how our City works. I have learned that people who are interested in the good of the community are always welcome to join in the work. I intend to use that knowledge to become involved in my adopted home town in ways to benefit the community and to apply my interests and abilities to help Aurora prosper.

**Birthplace:** Fort Knox, KY

**Education:** University of Arkansas, BA; University of Arkansas School of Law, JD

**Family:** Sons, Drew and Matt; granddaughter Ashlynn; fiancé Mary Mollicone

**Hobbies:** Photography, hiking, snowshoeing, ballroom dancing, travel

## Paula Wallace

Client Services Manager  
Community College of Aurora - Center for Customized Training and Development  
9202 E. Severn Place  
Building 901, Room 209  
Denver, CO 80230  
303-340-7082E  
paula.wallace@ccaaurora.edu

### Favorite Quote:

*Bloom Where You Are Planted.*

— Author Unknown



There are many needs and wonderful opportunities within our community. I look forward to applying the information, insights, and connections acquired in this leadership class to the tremendous initiatives that the Aurora community has undertaken.

**Birthplace:** Denver, Colorado

**Education:** Bachelor's degree from the University of Denver and Master's in Business from the University of Colorado

**Family:** Married with two children

**Hobbies:** Dancing, walking, hiking, reading



## Kathleen Walsh

Public Information Officer  
Aurora Police Department  
15001 E. Alameda Parkway  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-739-6022  
Kwalsh@auroragov.org

### **Favorite Quote:**

*We make a living by what we get, we  
make a life by what we give.*

— Sir Winston Churchill



The sense of community I have gained through the Leadership Aurora experience is only the beginning. Not only will I participate in all that Aurora has to offer, I will recruit others to join me. Also, I will always cherish the genuine affection and deep found respect I have for my classmates. I know that will just continue to grow in the future.

**Birthplace:** Fayetteville, NC

**Education:** Defense Language Institute, University of Colorado

**Family:** Loving parents who still live in Aurora

**Hobbies:** Walking on the beach barefoot. Watching sunsets. And hoping for world peace.

## F. Craig Ward

President  
Padgett Business Services  
13900 E. Harvard Ave., Suite 120  
Aurora, CO 80015  
craig@e-padgett.com

### **Favorite Quote:**

*Finish each day and be done with it. You  
have done what you could. Some  
blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in;  
forget them as soon as you can.*

*Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and  
serenely and with too high a spirit to be  
encumbered with your old nonsense.*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



Every day of my future will be touched by the many positive experiences in Leadership Aurora. I am especially fond of the many wonderful people I have gotten to know.

**Birthplace:** Carlsbad, NM

**Education:** Columbia College, BS; Regis University, MBA, Finance and Accounting

**Family:** Married 21 years to wife, Kathi; son, David and two daughters, Christina and Taelor

**Hobbies:** Drawing, Camping, Woodworking, Family

## Marcus L. Weathersby

Senior Commercial Lender  
Harlow Capital Corporation  
18655 E. Harvard Drive  
Aurora, CO 80013  
marcus@harlowcapital.com

### **Favorite Quote:**

*Just Do It!*

— Nike



I expect to use my newfound knowledge of issues that relate to my community to become more involved as a citizen of Aurora. In addition, I have developed new personal and business relationships that I would like to continue to cultivate for years to come.

**Birthplace:** Chicago, IL

**Education:** Metropolitan State College of Denver; BS in Finance, Minor in Business Management

**Family:** Married 5 years to wife, Dione; daughter, Jade, born March 23, 2005 (Our Class Baby!)

**Hobbies:** Playing and coaching basketball, losing golf balls, and sleep—whenever possible.

## Kathy Zinter

Accounts Payable Department  
Aurora Public Schools  
82 Airport Boulevard  
Aurora, CO 80011  
303-326-1989 ext 6  
Kathy2@isbs.aps.k12.co.us

### **Favorite Quote:**

*Nothing was ever achieved without  
enthusiasm!*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



This has been such a wonderful experience to watch a group of individuals become a great team. I am looking forward to keeping my learning experience alive.

**Birthplace:** Dallas, TX

**Education:** North Texas State University; numerous classes and workshops related to professional growth

**Family:** Sons, Paul & Ed; granddaughters Randee, Bailee and Aimee

**Hobbies:** Golf, walking, volunteering, dancing



# Opening Retreat

*"Building tomorrow's leaders through trust and communication."*



*2005 Leadership Aurora class*

## *"Inspiring Creative Leaders"*

Iron Horse Resort, Winter Park, CO

**Coordinators:** Christine Hoppe (Chair), Rich Allison, Cindy Kunkel, Greg Moore, Mary Mulvey, Diane Norman, Randy Patrick, Jake Shirk, Bob Steine

If you were to ask anyone of us what we thought of the Opening Class Retreat, you would hear things like awesome, amazing, excellent, incredible, and you might even hear one or two people describe this experience as life-changing. Yup, the opening retreat for Leadership Aurora Class of 2005 was all those, and more.

The goals of the retreat were to help all the class members connect with one another and come together as a team, to discover and overcome what is limiting us from becoming our best, and to learn the skills of being an outstanding leader.

We were able to accomplish these goals through a variety of lectures, class exercises, social activities, and outdoor "challenges". Sam and Stephen McGee led the formal class presentations and walked the class through a series of games and challenges that helped us step outside our comfort zone and discover who we really are, and what type of leader we want to become. They then provided us with the tools and motivation to be the best person and leader we can. We also heard from many of the board members and past class members, who shared with us the things we needed to do in order to get the most out of the next year.

The stuff people will remember most from the retreat were things such as the shouting at the volleyball court, the blind leading the blind, the infamous "Hot Seat", the late night party, trying to determine who in the group used to live in a hippie commune, and so many other experiences. However, one thing that everyone went through on a very real and personal level was the "leadership breakthrough" that we all had. If you want proof, just attend our graduation and see for yourself all the amazing things this powerful group of leaders will have accomplished over the course of the next year.



*The blind leading the mute through a unique obstacle course.*



*All together now!*



## Community Session

*Coordinators:* Randy Patrick (Chair), Heather Dolan, Larry Grandison, Su Ryden, Brent Stark

The day started at the Aurora Municipal Center where we were given an overview of the changing and diverse demographics of the city. It was a real eye opener as Debbie Lynch shared with us the growing needs of an ever-growing population, as well as the different organizations that were available to help those in need.

We then traveled to Aurora Mental Health Center for an introduction into the challenges facing mental health solutions for those people that need help. We toured the facility and were all impressed with the caliber of the people that we met.

Throughout the rest of the day we learned about the programs housed in the First Presbyterian Church for underprivileged

children. We also took a tour of the Colfax Community Network, and were all inspired as we assembled and delivered Halloween baskets to a group of children. The baskets were not only filled with candy, but also art supplies, toys, toiletries, and other items, and you should have seen the smiles on those kids' faces! The day ended with a tour of DAVA (Downtown Aurora Visual Arts) where we found youth busily creating arts and crafts, instead of causing trouble on the streets.

Today we were able to see some of the problems facing Aurora, and most importantly we learned about the wonderful people that are dedicated to solving those problems and helping people that are in need.



*Students getting hands on creative experience at DAVA*



*Kim Harrell aka Annie Oakley of Aurora!*

## Police Session

*Coordinators:* Sam McGhee (Chair), Jake Shirk

The Police Session was an eye-opener for the class. The day started with a discussion of police techniques and organization by Chief Ricky Bennett, and we were interrupted with a dramatization of a "knock and talk". We were all impressed by how smoothly the police officers talked their way into the room and how efficiently and skillfully the police officers handled the notorious outlaw, classmember Bob Jamieson. We were delighted to see someone stay one step ahead of Bob!

The day was capped by our visit to the Police firing range. In the simulation exercise

we experienced the stress a police officer faces when presented with a situation over which he has little control. That gave us an important lesson on preparation and practice. The class had a "blast" on the range with the submachine guns, and was impressed with the K9 training and with the SWAT vehicle. We learned that the Aurora Police Department is a highly trained unit with police officers skilled in many different fields of police work. We were impressed with the high level of professionalism and dedication that our police officers bring to their work in protecting lives and property in Aurora.

## Education Session

*Coordinators:* Greg Moore (Chair), Christine Hoppe, Mark Isenburg, Jeanette Issaef, Sheila Martin, Randy Patrick, Angela Phillips

Education Day was an opportunity for the Leadership Aurora class to gain knowledge about the whole school system, which includes both Aurora and Cherry Creek school districts. We toured Liberty Middle School, a flagship school in Cherry Creek District. We then met at Aurora Community College in an engaging thought provoking seminar on post-secondary education offered in

Aurora. The class broke into groups and visited other schools in the Aurora Public School system. We learned about the many challenges facing the school system and also met extremely committed individuals within the districts. Finally we returned to the Community College and ended with a discussion on federal, state, and local guidelines in the school system.



*Leaders learning about "School Daze" in Aurora.*



## Healthcare Session

Coordinators: Kathy Yeager (Chair), Bob Barké, Brooke Brasher, Cindy Kunkel, Mary Mulvey, Mitzi Schindler

Healthcare was the topic of our January session. The day provided education and insight into the contrast between academic medicine and healthcare delivered in the acute care setting. We began our day at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center at Fitzsimons. Dr. Vic Spitzer, director of the CU Center for Human Simulation, spoke of his project, the "Visible Human" — a non-invasive 3-D tool used to teach anatomy through the use of cross-sectioned images of an actual human's body in one-millimeter sections. Dr. John Cohen introduced us to the Mini Med School which allows those not in the medical field to understand medicine in everyday language.

Rural/Metro Ambulance provided a

memorable ride to The Medical Center of Aurora. At Aurora South we became patients of Spalding Rehab taking on various debilitating health issues such as stroke, post-surgical hip replacement, and West Nile Virus. We quickly realized how difficult simple tasks can be, as well as how difficult it can be to have to ask for assistance.

The afternoon was spent engaged in a thought-provoking conversation led by Chaplain David Reeves about the types of ethical decisions medical providers are faced with on a regular basis. We wrapped up the day with a tour of the Emergency Department, followed by information about the innovative Cardiac and Stroke Alert programs developed and implemented by The Medical Center of Aurora.



Staying alive with a little help from my friends!



Barb and Allyson tell it like it is!

## Economic & Infrastructure Session

Coordinators: Rich Allison (Chair), Grant Barrett, Sheila Martin, Mary Mulvey, Diane Norman, Randy Patrick, Brent Stark

The Economic & Infrastructure session gave our class new insight into how our city works and an historical perspective of growth in Aurora. The day started with speakers including former Mayor Paul Tauer, representatives from the Aurora Utilities Department, Xcel Energy and Fas Tracks. After hearing from the experts, the class had an opportunity to apply the new knowledge in a role playing scenario of developing a neighborhood recreation facility.

We were broken into groups, led by expert facilitators, representing a local developer, a

local neighborhood organization, city staff and city council. The class learned valuable lessons about leadership within these groups, how different groups impact each other, resolving conflicts and gaining consensus.

Overall, we gained a new appreciation and understanding for what makes a city work, and all the different organizations that make this happen. Essentially, Aurora's future success and development depends on vision, long-term planning, managing resources and cooperation.

## Media Session

Coordinators: Mark Isenburg (Chair), Brook Brasher (Co-Chair), Sam McGhee, Su Ryden, Mitzi Schindler, John Spann

Media Day was a fun look into the world of "lights, camera, action!" The class learned about the fast paced world of reporting. We started with a mock press conference where we learned that it is not easy to get a story out of Acting Police Chief Terry Jones. We then visited Channel 4 and heard from the people responsible for getting a story and putting it on the air. A third view of the world of media was presented by Gina Seamans with Accent Public Relations, who told us how to make sure the story gets presented in a light most favorable to the person who is the subject of the news.

The most exciting part of the day for most of

the class was our chance to run the studio, operate the news floor and the cameras, and take the place of the mayor, city officials and citizens discussing the city budget. We had a great time watching our class-mates respond to the Aurora 8 reporters and delighting in the ingenious use of the information we have learned about Aurora in our previous sessions. The Media Session gave the class a better appreciation of how the news is reported and we will be better prepared to understand and interpret what we see and hear in the news media.



Channel 4 says: "We'll tell you what's news!"



# Military Session

Coordinators: Lt. Col. Gregg Parker, John Spann

We reported for unofficial duty at Buckley Air Force Base to learn the importance of the base to the city, state, and our great nation. Class members were proud and humbled to be treated as VIPs by a service group to whom we give our greatest respect and admiration.

B/G Mike Edwards of the Colorado Air National Guard (ANG) reviewed the ANG's role at Buckley and recent missions including those in Iraq. His dedication to and leadership of his troops was clear.

First stop on the base windshield tour was the 460th Wing Operations Center where Colonel David Tobin explained the role of the Space Command Center. Once and for all, the class learned that the golf balls are antennas which are a very important part of missile defense for the Air Force Space Command.

After lunch in the enlisted dining quarters with Col. Allen Kirkman, the class was introduced to the Nebraska ANG KC-135 and its crew for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hitchhike on the tanker as it refueled six F-16s in mid-flight. Once in the air, classmates (as excited as children) jockeyed for position at each of the windows to glimpse the F-16s

and wave to the pilots as they flew around us. Many also viewed the flight from the cockpit and listened in on a headset. The grand finale, however, was clearly the highlight of the day. Two by two, classmates filed into the tail of the KC-135 to lie in the turret below and watch as, one-by-one, the F-16s flew up under the tanker, stabilized, and allowed the boom operator in the tanker to delicately maneuver and couple the boom to the F-16 to complete the refueling process.

"I felt like top gun when the jet pulled up to the fueling arm right under my nose and again was exhilarated when the pilot gave me the thumbs up and burst off with a blink of an eye" said Randy Berner. I think all my classmates would agree that we are grateful to have been able to attend this session and that the knowledge of this strong military presence and their relationship to the community gives us all a satisfying sense of security.



*Aurora's Homeland Security Team!*



*Craig relays to the pilot they were "somewhere over Kansas."*

# Fire Session

Coordinator: Mark Stephenson

The day began at the Rocky Mountain Fire Academy with a warm welcome from Fire Chief Casey Jones. Things then heated up with a humorous and informative power point presentation by Fire Marshal Kevin Hammons with 'fire-fighter' facts and amazing statistics i.e. 'a fire happens every 16 seconds in the United States!' Adding fuel to the fire was Battalion Chief Mark Stephenson. He schooled us on the 'facts of fire' further emphasized by his live scientific demonstrations using household substances, gases, matches and torches. Did you know your coffee creamer can be extremely flammable when air borne?

After a hot BBQ lunch prepared by the chiefs and marshals, the class was led through searing drill ground activities by our class member Battalion Chief Mike Garcia. 'Bunkered up' in heavy fire fighting jackets, trousers and steel toed boots, class members swung down a 5

story building; climbed a 60 foot ladder; entered a smoke filled room with a heat sensor device; cut cars apart and enjoyed the Red Cross's complimentary snacks and review of resuscitation equipment. The grand finale took us to the front line of putting out a fire with a pressure water hose.

Many of us overcame our fears of height or claustrophobia to take advantage of this unique opportunity. As the class felt the heat of live fire and sweltered in our gear, we were charmed and humbled by the kindness, dedication, knowledge and skills of these men and women fire fighters who save lives, property and even pets on a daily basis. As our final formal Leadership session, it will burn in our memories as educational, physically challenging and fun!



*Putting out fires is fun!*



# 2005 Class Projects

Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA) dream of a new art space for kids was realized when **Leadership Aurora's class of 2004-05** decided to renovate and update the OASIS Open studio as their class project. At the fall meeting, classmates deliberated on ways to make a difference for our community long term. The DAVA Open Studio, a neighborhood fixture for over 10 years, had been the home to hundreds of young artists and needed restoration.

Early planning resulted in a 100% commitment from the entire group, who joined teams in demolition, cleanup, painting, repair, fundraising, PR, and refreshments. In January, class members brushed the creative dust from their lapels and got to work. Pickens Tech students (thanks to Art Bogardus) fixed electrical outlets that did not work, added track lighting, and filled in the fluorescents. Drywallers and plumbers came in thanks to Randy Berner, LA class member from Adolfson and Peterson Construction. Leadership Aurora team members spent three weeks on and off at the site, cleaning, fixing, sanding, painting, and toting away trash.

Special thanks goes to committee chairs Lynnea Louison, Craig Ward, our LA president, Randy Berner, Kevin Olmstead, Bob Jamieson—and so many others. Because of everyone's commitment, this is a transformation that will last for many years and many art projects to come.



*Mopping up ten years of accumulated clay dust.*

## OTHER CLASS PROJECTS

The Leadership Aurora class decided to do one major project, but also several smaller ones to benefit the community. The class donated Halloween candy and gifts for the kids at Colfax Community Network in October. Many of the class members were involved in putting together Thanksgiving baskets in which over \$14,000 was donated for the project. They also helped in assembling food and gifts for over 1,200 Aurora families. In addition, the class collected toiletries for Aurora citizens in Care Centers.



*Spirits were high during the Grand Opening of the "new" DAVA Studio.*

## CLASS SOCIALS

The Leadership Aurora Class of 2005 began the class year with a party during our Leadership Retreat. For the survivors of the hot seat, there was much dancing and merriment. In order to introduce our loved ones to our classmates, we had a picnic in Utah Park in October. We played several rounds of volleyball and bocci in addition to sharing a multitude of yummy dishes. It was a beautiful day, and what was supposed to last for a couple of hours, evolved into a sundowner. At each class meeting, Paula Wallace gathered the social committee members to sing a monthly birthday song to those of us who celebrated a birthday during that month. Senior Rick's and Patrick's became favorite post-class debriefing headquarters. As graduation draws near we have begun planning an end of class year celebration.



*The Social Committee celebrated classmembers' birthdays each month by presenting balloons and their own rendition of "Happy Birthday to you."*



# 2005 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 |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------------|-------|---------------|------------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Jennifer Alderfer     |       |                |                |             | X         |                    |                   | X         |            |          | X               |       | X             |            | X        |                |                | X              |                   |
| Randy Berner          |       |                | X              |             |           |                    |                   | X         | X          |          |                 |       |               | X          | X        |                |                | X              |                   |
| Art Bogardus          |       |                |                |             |           |                    | X                 | X         |            |          |                 |       |               |            |          |                |                |                |                   |
| Bob Bowsher           | X     |                |                |             |           | X                  | X                 | X         | X          |          | X               |       |               |            |          |                | X              |                |                   |
| Maggie Byrnes         |       |                |                | X           |           |                    |                   |           |            |          | X               |       | X             |            |          |                |                | X              |                   |
| Lawrence "LC" Chavers |       |                |                | X           | X         |                    |                   | X         |            |          |                 |       |               |            |          | X              |                | X              |                   |
| Garren Christensen    |       | X              |                |             |           |                    |                   |           | X          |          | X               |       |               | X          |          | X              | X              |                |                   |
| Barb Cleland          |       |                | X              |             |           |                    | X                 |           | X          |          | X               |       | X             |            |          |                |                |                |                   |
| Barbara Eaton         |       |                |                | X           |           | X                  |                   | X         |            |          |                 |       |               |            |          |                |                | X              |                   |
| Sarah Ellis           |       | X              |                | X           |           | X                  |                   | X         | X          |          | X               |       |               |            |          |                |                |                | X                 |
| Mike Garcia           |       |                |                |             |           |                    |                   | X         | X          |          |                 |       |               | X          |          | X              |                |                |                   |
| David Gruber          |       |                |                |             |           | X                  |                   |           | X          |          |                 |       |               | X          |          |                |                |                | X                 |
| Allyson Hakala        | X     | X              |                |             |           |                    |                   | X         |            |          |                 | X     | X             | X          |          |                |                |                |                   |
| Mary Lou Hamaker      |       | X              |                |             |           | X                  | X                 | X         | X          |          |                 | X     |               |            |          | X              | X              |                | X                 |
| David Harper          |       | X              |                |             |           | X                  |                   | X         |            |          |                 |       |               | X          |          |                |                | X              |                   |
| Kim Harrell           |       | X              |                | X           | X         | X                  |                   | X         | X          |          | X               |       |               | X          |          | X              |                | X              | X                 |
| Bob Jamieson          |       |                |                |             | X         | X                  | X                 | X         | X          |          | X               | X     |               | X          |          | X              | X              | X              |                   |
| Susan Jenson          |       | X              |                |             |           |                    | X                 | X         | X          |          |                 |       |               |            | X        |                |                |                |                   |
| Jeff Johnson          | X     | X              | X              | X           | X         | X                  | X                 | X         | X          | X        | X               | X     | X             | X          | X        |                | X              | X              |                   |
| Rich Leyba            |       |                |                |             |           | X                  |                   |           |            |          | X               | X     |               | X          |          |                |                |                |                   |
| Lynnea Louison        |       | X              |                |             | X         | X                  | X                 | X         | X          |          |                 |       |               | X          |          |                | X              |                | X                 |
| Mike Mitchell         |       |                |                | X           | X         | X                  |                   | X         |            |          | X               |       |               |            | X        |                |                | X              | X                 |
| Kevin Olmstead        | X     | X              |                |             | X         | X                  | X                 | X         | X          |          |                 |       |               | X          |          |                | X              | X              | X                 |
| John Packer           |       |                |                | X           |           | X                  | X                 | X         | X          |          | X               |       |               |            |          |                | X              | X              | X                 |
| Erika Reuer           |       | X              |                |             |           | X                  | X                 | X         | X          |          |                 |       |               | X          |          |                | X              | X              |                   |
| Ev Sequeira           | X     |                |                |             |           |                    | X                 | X         |            |          |                 |       | X             |            |          |                | X              | X              |                   |
| June Smigel           | X     |                |                | X           |           | X                  | X                 | X         |            |          |                 |       | X             |            |          |                | X              |                |                   |
| Kristen Speck         |       | X              |                |             |           | X                  |                   | X         | X          |          |                 |       |               | X          | X        |                | X              | X              | X                 |
| Dwight Taylor         |       | X              |                |             |           |                    | X                 |           |            |          |                 | X     |               |            |          |                | X              |                |                   |
| Paula Wallace         |       |                |                |             |           | X                  | X                 | X         |            |          |                 |       |               |            |          |                | X              | X              | X                 |
| Kathleen Walsh        | X     | X              |                |             |           | X                  |                   |           | X          |          |                 |       |               |            |          |                |                |                |                   |
| Craig Ward            |       | X              |                |             |           | X                  |                   |           | X          |          |                 |       |               |            |          |                | X              |                |                   |
| Marcus Weathersby     |       |                |                |             | X         | X                  | X                 |           |            |          |                 |       |               | X          |          |                | X              |                |                   |
| Kathy Zinter          | X     | X              |                | X           |           | X                  |                   | X         |            | X        | X               |       |               | X          |          |                |                | X              |                   |



# 2004-2005 Leadership Aurora Board

## Rich Allison

Adolfson & Peterson  
797 Ventura Street  
Aurora, CO 80011  
Ph.: 303-363-7101  
Fax: 303-363-9251  
Email: rallison@a-p.com

## Bob Barké

BAR-K INS. SOLUTIONS, INC.  
2140 S. Ivanhoe St., Ste 100  
Denver, CO 80222  
Ph.: 303-795-2158  
Fax: 303-795-0885  
Email: bobbarked@yahoo.com

## Grant Barrett

Abilene Awards & Logos  
1730 S. Abilene St.  
Aurora, CO 80012  
Ph.: 303-755-0337  
Fax: 303-745-3546  
Email: grant@yarnups.com

## Brooke Brasher

Rural/Metro Ambulance  
3350 S. Peoria St., Ste 100  
Aurora, CO 80010  
Ph.: 303-343-7098 X 323  
Fax: 303-343-7195  
Email: brooke\_brasher@rmetro.com

## Kimberly Curtis, Program Director

Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
562 Sable Blvd., Ste 200  
Aurora, CO 80011  
Ph.: 303-344-1500  
Fax: 303-344-1564  
Email: kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org

## Heather Dolan

Aurora Mental Health Center  
11059 E. Bethany Dr., Ste 200  
Aurora, CO 80014  
Ph.: 303-617-2313  
Fax: 303-617-2397  
Email: heathercdolan@aumhc.org

## Larry Grandison

Denver Federal Executive Board  
6760 E. Irvington Place  
Denver, CO 80279-8000  
Ph.: 303-676-7009  
Fax: 303-676-6666  
Email: larry.grandison@dfas.mil

## Christine Hoppe, Chair

Aurora Public Schools  
15701 E. 1st Ave., #109  
Aurora, CO 80011  
Ph.: 303-365-7816, Ext. 3  
Fax: 303-326-1984  
Email: christh@hline.aps.k12.co.us



## Mark Isenburg

City of Aurora/KACT-TV8  
15151 E. Alameda Pkwy.  
Aurora, CO 80012  
Ph. 303-739-6606  
Fax 303-739-6582  
Email: misenbur@auroragov.org

## Jeanette Issaef

1790 Kearney Street  
Denver, CO 80220  
E-mail: igjeanette@qwest.net

## Cindy Kunkel

PacificCare of Colorado  
6455 S. Yosemite, #206  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111  
Ph.: 303-714-3457  
Fax: 303-714-3999  
Email: cindy.kunkel@PHS.com

## Sheila Martin

Redi-Print, Inc.  
378 S. Chambers Road  
Aurora, CO 80017  
Ph.: 303-745-0010  
Fax: 303-745-0005  
Email: dsmart695303@cs.com

## Lt. Sam McGhee

Aurora Police Department  
13347 E. Montview Blvd.  
Aurora, CO 80010  
Ph.: 303-739-1813  
Fax: 303-739-1849  
Email: SMCghee@auroragov.org

## Greg Moore

Aurora Public Schools  
1085 Peoria Street  
Aurora, CO 80011  
Ph.: 303-344-8060 X-28024  
Fax: 303-326-1945  
Email: gregm@admin.aps.k12.co.us

## Mary Mulvey

Right Management Consultants  
8450 E. Crescent Pkwy. Ste 150  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111  
Ph.: 303-221-2239  
Fax: 303-221-2636  
Email: mary.haskins@right.com

## Diane Norman

AIMCO / Denver ROC  
4582 S. Ulster Street Pkwy, #1100  
Denver, CO 80237  
Ph.: 303-224-7925  
Fax: 303-224-7932  
Email: dn277037@yahoo.com

## Col. Gregory Parker

140th Wing MSG/CV  
140 Aspen Street, Stop 37  
Buckley AFB, CO 80011-9525  
Ph.: 720-847-9702  
Fax: 720-847-9718  
Email: Gregory.parker@cobuck.af.mil

## Randy Patrick

Crum Electric Supply  
6260 N. Washington, Unit 22  
Denver, CO 80216  
Ph.: 303-429-1842  
Email: rpatrick@crum.com

## Angela Phillips

Cherry Creek School District  
4700 S. Yosemite, #250  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111  
Ph.: 720-554-4453  
Fax: 720-554-4477  
Email: aphillips@cherrycreekschools.org

## Su Ryden

Ryden & Associates  
2101 S. Clermont  
Denver, CO 80222  
Ph.: 303-832-4600  
Fax: 303-832-8218  
Email: su@ryden.com

## Mitzi Schindler

Univ of Colo Health Sciences Ctr  
Mail Stop F-413, PO Box 6508  
Aurora, CO 80045-0508  
Ph.: 303-724-0224  
Fax: 303-724-1356  
Email: mitzi.schindler@uch.edu

## Capt. Jacob Shirk

Aurora Police Department  
15001 E. Alameda Drive  
Aurora, CO 80012  
Ph.: 303-739-1811  
email: jshirk@auroragov.org

## John Spann

460th Air Base Wing  
18401 E. A-Basin - Stop 88  
Buckley AFB, CO 80011-9509  
Ph.: 303-677-9480  
Fax: 303-677-6887

Email: John.Spann@Buckley.af.mil

## W. Brent Stark

Citywide Banks  
6500 E. Hampden Ave.  
Denver, CO 80224  
Ph.: 303-365-3772  
Fax: 303-365-3771  
email: stark@citywidebanks.com

## Bob Steine

Law Offices of Robert O. Steine  
2620 S. Parker Rd., #170  
Aurora, CO 80014  
Ph.: 303-755-5856  
Fax: 303-368-7407  
Email: bobsteine@excaliburtile.com

## Mark Stephenson

Aurora Fire Dept. Headquarters  
15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. #4100  
Aurora, CO 80012  
Ph.: 303-326-8970  
Fax: 303-326-8986  
Email: mstephen@auroragov.org

## Craig Ward, Class President

Padgett Business Services  
13900 E. Harvard Ave., #120  
Aurora, CO 80014  
Ph.: 303-745-1040 X-106  
Fax: 303-745-1188  
Email: craig@e-padgett.com

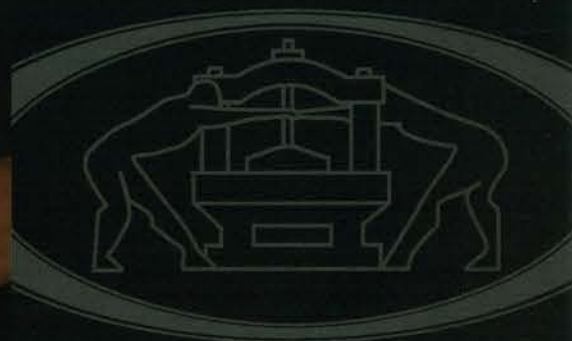
## Kathy Yeager

The Medical Center of Aurora  
1501 S. Potomac Street  
Aurora, CO 80012  
Ph.: 303-873-5945  
Email: Kathy.yeager@healthonecares.com





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