



Aurora Unite

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

— Winston Churchill

Leadership
A U R O R A

Class of 2006

Introduction

Twenty one years ago, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce introduced "Leadership Aurora" in an effort to inform and educate local community leaders about issues facing our city and to encourage greater community involvement. Each class includes 30-35 leaders of Aurora from diverse backgrounds. During the past twenty one years, over 650 leaders, committed to shaping Aurora's future, have graduated from the program.

Leadership Aurora begins each September with a class retreat. After the retreat, the Leadership Aurora class meets once a month for nine months. Each 8-hour session focuses on an issue facing the city of Aurora. Issues include

education, healthcare and the local economy. Each session is conducted by community leaders in the field who provide the Leadership Aurora class with valuable information on each topic. As a result of these sessions, class members learn about the city's strengths and areas which may need improvement.

In addition to participating in the opening retreat and monthly sessions, each Leadership Aurora class chooses a class project (or projects) in an effort to address the needs of the community, and help local organizations in their efforts as they address the needs of the community.

Leadership Aurora is one of more than 1,000 community 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 Aurora Chamber of Commerce, 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 influencing its destiny as a world-class city.

The Leadership Aurora
Class of 2006

Acknowledgements

The Leadership Aurora Class of 2006 gratefully acknowledges 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 continues to support Leadership Aurora as it prepares 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, Leadership Aurora Program Director, whose leadership, positive attitude and organizational expertise insured that all sessions were successful.

Thank you also to the many speakers and personnel who led us through our monthly sessions sharing

invaluable information and insights. We deeply appreciate your contributions. We would also like to thank the organizations and businesses that provided in-kind services and donations such as facilities, equipment, transportation, meals and much more.

And lastly, we would like to thank the people of Aurora. We are grateful to live and work in such a dynamic community with so much to offer its citizens. We look forward to continuing to help shape its future.



Board Chair

"Leadership Aurora Educates and Prepares Community Leaders Who are Committed to Shaping Aurora's Future". To that end, congratulations Leadership Aurora Class of 2006!

We all hope your participation in Leadership Aurora is just the beginning of a life long commitment to the betterment of our community. May your leadership journey never end!

Throughout the year you have had opportunities to learn, experience and develop a keen insight into our community. The journey began at Iron Horse Resort in Winter Park. Here a group of 35 individuals made the transformation into a class. You experienced "What would people be surprised to know about you?", "Ice breakers", "Leadership Awakening", "Wine Down", "Dinner for 6", "Elect a President", "Community Exploration", "Class Projects", and the leadership experiences of Aurora's distinguished leaders, Dr. Linda Bowman, Cindy Kreutz, and Michael Peterson.

Every month a new class session gave you a full day's immersion into a special area of our community. Topics included Police, Education, Health Care, Community, Media Economic and Infrastructure, Military, and Fire. We hope a passion for our community has been ignited in your heart through these special experiences. The friendships you've developed, your new experiences, and your new network of "can do" leaders are the basic tools for you to use to make a positive impact on our community. What type of legacy will you leave?

I want to give a special thanks to Kimberly Curtis, our Program Director for Leadership Aurora. Her continued commitment, never ending enthusiasm, and truly outstanding leadership have made our program the finest in our region! And thanks to our dedicated board of directors who have spent endless hours making our leadership program the experience of a lifetime for our future leaders!

Good luck Class of 2006 – may you always "Strive to be the best of the best"!

Richard B. Allison

Leadership Aurora Board Chair
2005-2006



Class President

As our year together comes to a close, I can honestly say that Leadership Aurora has been one of the best experiences of my life.

Many times over the last year I have asked myself, "What does it mean to be a good leader?" Commitment and dedication are the first things that come to mind. The willingness to give 100% no matter what the circumstance will make a significant difference in the outcome of any situation.

Our ability to pull together our collective resources contributed to the success of the projects we chose to participate in this year. We facilitated the acquisition of new uniforms for the boy's basketball team at the Denver Street School. We volunteered our time to assist Comitis Crisis Center in preparing the organization for their transition to the Fitzsimons campus. We also coordinated the presentation



of Six Keys to Success, a humorous and motivational program by Karl Mecklenburg.

Our proudest moment came on May 13th, when we called upon the citizens of Aurora to observe the day by volunteering their time and participating in activities that give back to their community. Our signature class project, penned Aurora Unite! A Day of Giving, was a huge success due to the leadership of outstanding class members and the participation of our community volunteers.

These examples are the kind of civic involvement in which we have created a network of informed leaders and encouraged greater involvement in the community. Through participation in the class sessions we gained a better understanding of the strengths, the challenges and the opportunities facing our community. I am proud to have served as class president.

I want to take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the time, passion, dedication and personal contributions the entire class has made throughout our leadership experience. I have had the pleasure of working closely with some of the most talented and dedicated individuals that I have ever met. I would like to express my sincere thanks and congratulations to the class on a most successful journey.

All my best,

Cheryl B. Twesme

Class President, 2005/2006

Aurora Unite!

A Day of Giving

May 13, 2006 was an absolutely outstanding example of what can be accomplished when 160 community leaders, volunteers and business people work together for the betterment of "our" community.



Self Improvement Opportunities



Habitat for Humanity



Coal Creek School



Gateway Battered Women's Shelter



Cherry Creek State Park Cleanup



Delaney Farm



Aurora Public Library



Colfax Cleanup

2006 Class Profiles

Jason Altshuler

AVP of Branches
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Favorite Quote:

Every man must decide whether he will walk in the creative light of altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. This is the judgment. Life's persistent and most urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'
— Martin Luther King, Jr.



Birthplace: Pasadena, CA
Education: B.A. University of Colorado Boulder Campus - Economics
Family: Wife - Christina; children - Sarah (7)
Hobbies: Tennis, golf, home improvements, bike riding and some travel

As a group of 35 leaders, the sum of all our strengths far exceeds any one individual's greatest ability. By learning more about the community and its needs we can focus our strengths and pull from the group our best talent to make a real difference in peoples lives.

Tony Antista

President
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Favorite Quote:

...the man who really counts in the world is the doer, not the mere critic-the man who actually does the work, even if roughly and imperfectly, not the man who only talks or writes about how it ought to be done.
— Theodore Roosevelt



Birthplace: Denver, CO
Education: BS - Business Administration, University of Colorado at Denver (Cum Laude)1986
Family: Wife - Kira , children - Hannah (15), Elyse (8), Anthony (6), and Tessa (4)
Hobbies: Running, golf, and travel.

I have gained knowledge and contacts. Often times the greatest accomplishments are achieved by applying what you know with who you know. I hope to leverage both of these assets as I move forward with my goals of growing FirstBank of Aurora and bettering our community.

Linda Ashburn

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Favorite Quote:

Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.
— Ralph Waldo Emerson



Birthplace: Morristown, NJ
Education: University of Colorado; RN License, Teaching License, Career Education Credential
Family: Husband - Tom; children - Scott and Amy
Hobbies: Spending time with family and friends, traveling and shopping,

The community resources that I have experienced have been very enlightening. I have become more aware of businesses, charities, government agencies and the leaders who represent them in Aurora. The personal and professional relationships that I have developed are very special.

Susan Burke

Director of Marketing & Communications
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Favorite Quote:

To find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.
— Ralph Waldo Emerson



Birthplace: Chicago, IL
Education: MS - Marketing, University of Colorado 1997; MBA - Management, University of Colorado 1994;BA - English, St. Mary's College 1987
Family: Single
Hobbies: Scuba diving, motorcycle riding, tennis, and wine-tasting

I have been profoundly impacted from the privilege of learning about all facets of the community. I look forward to working with all the professional leaders in my Leadership Aurora class to make a positive impact in the community for years to come.

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



Birthplace: South Amboy, NJ
Education: Sayreville, NJ High School
Family: Wife - Sharon children - Rick, Kira, Owen.
Hobbies: Softball, music, scootering.

My experience as a leader has allowed me to help others succeed in attaining their goals as well as making sure that the day to day business is carried out in a safe, productive and accurate manner. Having the chance to speak to and learn from other leaders facing the same obstacles will allow me to serve better those who report directly to me and hopefully prepare them for their future.

John (Jack) Daluz
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Favorite Quote:
One of the privileges of public
service is the ability to work in the
presence of heroes on a daily basis.
— John McCain



Birthplace: Fall River, MA
Education: MA- Management, Webster University, Distinguished Graduate; BS - Liberal Studies, Charter Oak State College; AA- Pre-Professional Studies, Bristol Community College
Family: Wife - Kathryn, grown family, 3 cats still living at home!
Hobbies: Harley Davidson motorcycles, travel, classic muscle cars, Adjunct Professor at CTU.

There are many people in our community working diligently to improve the quality of life for all citizens. Unfortunately, most receive little recognition for their good deeds and work. As a graduate of Leadership Aurora, I promise to make their efforts known to others.

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Favorite Quote:
Managers do it right...Leaders
do the right thing.
— Heard at Leadership Retreat



Birthplace: Rochester, MN
Education: James Madison Memorial H.S.; Cardinal Stritch College
Family: Husband - Roe
Hobbies: Golfing, watching movies, traveling and spending time with friends

Through the monthly leadership experiences we have had, I will come away with a better understanding and appreciation of the community I live and work in and all that it offers. Along with this I hope to increase and expand my current involvement within Aurora.

Tammy Fernandez
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Favorite Quote:
So often in time it happens, we all live
our life in chains, and we never even
know we have the key.
— The Eagles (Already Gone)



Birthplace: Tucson, AZ
Education: MBA -University of Phoenix 1999; BS/Management -University of Phoenix 1996
Family: Husband - Joe; children - Justin(19), Kelsey (15)
Hobbies: Teaching, skiing, golf, running (anything competitive)

This has been such a rich experience. I have learned so much about the community that will continue to have an impact on my future thinking, business planning, and relationship formation. My participation has lead to more active participation in the community.

Romita Gandhi
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Favorite Quote:
Do not think that you are the best and that
you can do every thing all by your self —
only teamwork brings the best results.
— Hans-Ulrich Schuer



Birthplace: India
Education: Masters in History and Sociology
Family: Husband - Paul Gandhi, children - Bindiya (25) Triveni (17)
Hobbies: Travel, cooking and partying

It's been a unique experience to know how different organizations work together to give us what we have. I have learned the value of team building and to work with people from all walks of life and having fun while achieving your goal.

Harry Glidden
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Birthplace: Lawton, OK
Education: Associate Degree - Criminal Justice, Arapahoe Community College, 1991; BS - Applied Management, National American University, 1998 (Valedictorian)
Family: Wife - Kim; son - Caleb (16); step-daughter - Rosa (27)
Hobbies: Golf, skiing, wood working

The friendships I am forming will last long after the class is over. I know the information I am getting and the contacts I am making will help me in all my future endeavors; whether in my problem solving capacity at work, or in running my own business.

Favorite Quote:
A dog is just a dog until he's standing on your chest growling in your face, then he's mister dog.
— Unknown Author (African Proverb)

Wendy Grugle
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Birthplace: West Point, NY
Education: JD - University of Denver College of Law; LLM (Taxation) - University of Denver College of Law; AB - Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, cum laude
Family: Husband - Shane; newborn daughter Caroline
Hobbies: Travel, skiing, spending time in the mountains

Through Leadership Aurora, I have gained a new understanding of the City of Aurora and all that it offers. I plan to use my experience to inform others of Aurora's strengths and endless opportunities. Additionally, I plan to become more involved in the community making it an even better place to live and work. I cannot say enough about what Leadership Aurora has given me both professionally and personally.

Favorite Quote:
To the world you might be one person, but to one person you just might be the world.
— Anonymous

Jake Harkins
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Birthplace: West Hartford, CT
Education: BS - Journalism, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2002
Family: Single
Hobbies: Skiing, cycling, reading, backpacking

The best I can say is I'll continue to work on being a leader. This class has given me more skills than I could imagine, and it has also helped me branch out beyond just my office life. There are so many organizations and people who need help in Aurora, and the connections gained through this class will continue to help me branch out to them.

Favorite Quote:
I'm kinda like vodka, I mix well with everything
— Unknown

Gene Jackson
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Birthplace: Higginsville, MO
Education: Attended Drake University as well as; Area 11 Junior College in Des Moines, Iowa (no degree)
Family: Single, 2 daughters - Lia and LaRae; 3 grandchildren - Tylar, Cameron, and Sydney
Hobbies: Bowling, musician (drummer), martial arts (Tae Kwon Do), photography and enjoying life

Our youth continue to be my number one concern and I plan to be involved at a much higher level. I'd like to become what you might call a "Dream Merchant" - one who delivers dreams. It has been said that "children are the living messages that we send to the time that we will never see". Let me deliver our children with their dreams.

Favorite Quote:
Don't forget where you've come from or those who contributed to your success.
— my friend, Walter Hooke

Susan Johnston
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Birthplace: St. Marys, KS
Education: Graduate - St. Marys High School, St. Marys, KS
Family: Husband - Clark; 1 son; 4 stepchildren; 6 grandchildren
Hobbies: Travel, camping, scrapbooking, decorative painting

I have lived in Aurora for 32 years and learned more about my community during my time with Leadership Aurora than in all those years. I have also learned a lot about myself and I'm committed to take the next step toward a more active role in my community. The very best thing is the people I have gotten to know through our projects, monthly sessions and social events. What a wonderful experience!

Favorite Quote:
Just trust yourself, then you will know how to live.
— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Jeff Longo
Program Director and Training
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Favorite Quote:
What's so funny 'bout peace, love and understanding?
— Elvis Costello



Birthplace: Los Angeles, CA
Education: Ph.D. - Clinical Psychology, University of Virginia 1991; M.Ed. - Education, University of Virginia, 1984; B.A. - Psychology, University of California at Santa Cruz, 1981
Family: Partner - Rich Kadinger and dog, Shasta
Hobbies: Music, travel, hiking and biking

I have been touched and inspired by the kindness, dedication and talents of the people in our leadership class and those that work in the community organizations we have visited. Building from this experience, I would like to continue developing personal and professional relationships that focus on community service.

Jeff Martinez
Public Relations Supervisor
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Favorite Quote:
As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. -
Proverbs 23:7
— King Solomon



Birthplace: Denver, CO
Education: BA - Journalism/Public Relations, Metropolitan State College of Denver, 1995
Family: Fiancé - Lisa Raigoza
Hobbies: Reading, writing, hiking & going to Broncos/Nuggets/Bufs games with younger brother, Matthew

Leadership Aurora has given me new perspective on the many facets of this growing city. I'm amazed at Aurora's many assets—and what they offer to the city's residents, businesses and stakeholders.

Marci Maxwell
Membership Director
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Favorite Quote:
Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there!
— Will Rogers



Birthplace: Joliet, IL
Education: Currently earning certificate through Institute of Management by the US Chamber of Commerce
Family: Husband - Jason
Hobbies: Horseback riding, motorcycles, quilting, gourmet food

I have learned an incredible amount about the area and have met so many talented people in the Aurora community. Leadership Aurora has opened my eyes to the needs of the community and given me insight to what it means to be a member of the community. My plan is to widen my involvement in the community and encourage others to be involved as well.

Kriss Mills
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Favorite Quote:
It is what it is.
— Unknown



Birthplace: Tulsa, OK
Education: Graduate East Central High School, Tulsa, Okla.; 18 years in retail industry
Family: Wife - Heidi, 4 children (1 on the way) - Dylan (13), Chase (10), Tiffani (7), Tanner (2)
Hobbies: Reading, Nascar, cars

We have been given the tremendous opportunity to network and build great new relationships. I plan to continue with those relationships and build a network that can truly make a difference.

Mary Mollicone
Project Manager, Market & Planning Strategy
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Favorite Quote:
This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.
— Hamlet, William Shakespeare



Birthplace: Denver, CO
Education: BA - English, University of Northern Colorado (1971); Paralegal Degree - Denver Paralegal Institute (1986)
Family: Partner - Dwight, sons - Matt and Nick, daughter-in-law Corie, granddaughter Emilia
Hobbies: Hiking and snowshoeing in Colorado, reading, ballroom dancing

Learning about the many faces that make up the Aurora community will be a lifelong learning experience for me. I will maintain an awareness of community leaders and resources they provide. I am pleased to have worked along side Leadership Aurora classmates who demonstrate commitment to fostering a high quality of life for Aurora residents.

Scott Mueller

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Favorite Quote:

Proactive people can carry their own weather with them.
— Stephen Covey



Birthplace: Valparaiso, IN
Education: BS - Business Management, Arizona State University 1981
Family: Wife - Debbie; children - Jennifer (25), Heather (22), and Brian (18)
Hobbies: My family, classic cars

I plan on contributing to the community by becoming active in various volunteer projects.

Steven Muhs

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Favorite Quote:

Don't let better be the enemy of good.
— Unknown



Birthplace: Valley City, ND
Education: B.S., Computer Science, USAF Academy 1981; M.S., Space Operations, Air Force Institute of Technology 1986
Family: Wife - Meredith; children - Andrew (21), Scott (20), Allison (18), Tyler (16)
Hobbies: Hunting, golf, basketball, softball

Leadership Aurora has been an eye opening experience for me. Having moved around a lot in the military, I have not had the opportunity to experience the community atmosphere that is present here in Aurora. Having the opportunity to see how the civilian sector operates has been educational and will greatly help me improve the relationships between Buckley AFB and the City of Aurora. In addition, the opportunity to give back to the local community has been very rewarding and the friendships I have made will be treasured forever.

Scott Nelson

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Favorite Quote:

Being in charge means that you make decisions no matter how unpleasant.
— Former Secretary of State / General Colin Powell



Birthplace: Okinawa, Japan
Education: AS- Community College of Aurora, 2004; Paramedic- Humana Hospital- Aurora, 1992; Currently enrolled at University of Phoenix for Bachelors in Business Admin
Family: Wife- Stacy; children - Daniel (7), Katie (5)
Hobbies: Flying, hiking, photography, Tae Kwon Do

I have learned more about the diversity within the City of Aurora. I expect to be able to take what I have learned about non-profit organizations, education, city services (i.e. Police and Fire), the military, etc. and expand where I work to try to encompass various aspects of each. Each had a unique way of handling some areas that can rollover to other work environments.

Connie O'Murray

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Favorite Quote:

We must be the change we wish to see in the world.
— Mahatma Gandhi



Birthplace: New Castle, PA
Education: University of Colorado – Denver
Family: Children - Morgan (25), and Audra (23)
Hobbies: Hiking, writing poetry, painting, skiing, theatre, gourmet food and wine

Leadership Aurora has provided me with a solid foundation on which to build a future in the community. Since I am new to the area, the experience has allowed me to quickly and thoroughly immerse myself in the inner-workings of the city, as well as make contacts and develop relationships with leaders in all disciplines. In addition, I have grown as a leader by utilizing newfound leadership skills while addressing unique and rewarding challenges.

Vera Lavon Parker

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Favorite Quote:

When one door closes, another opens. But we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.
— Alexander Graham Bell



Birthplace: Richland, GA
Education: Associates – Accounting; Pursuing Bachelors - Business Administration
Family: Son - John Carter IV (J.C.) - 20
Hobbies: Reading, travel, shopping, and me time!

I have had the pleasure of being exposed to many community organizations. Each experience has been one that I will never forget. The time that we spent learning about each business/non-profit organization has helped me realize that we as a community need to get more involved. I thank Leadership Aurora for the personal and professional friendships that I have developed with my 2006 classmates.

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Birthplace: Los Angeles, CA
Education: MSW - Applied Communications, University of Denver, 1990; BS - Recreation, University of Colorado, Boulder, 1974
Family: Mother-Delilah, Father-Clifford, Sisters-Barbara & Ivy, nephews & nieces
Hobbies: Boating, skiing, reading, travel, cooking, piano

Leadership Aurora has increased my knowledge of the depth of services, programs and resources our community has to offer. I will use my knowledge to promote the wonderful aspects of our city as well as be a proactive member to continue to support and strengthen our community.

Favorite Quote:
You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses.
— Tom Wilson, Ziggy

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Birthplace: Pittsburgh, PA
Education: BS - Business Administration, Clarion University of PA 1993
Family: Husband - Mike; children - Ainsley (2 yrs)
Hobbies: Exercising, shopping, and traveling

The personal and professional friendships I have developed in the class will be treasured forever. In addition, I hope to continue to gain knowledge and understanding of the various community resources for which I can contribute my resources.

Favorite Quote:
It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference.
— Tom Brokaw

John Anthony Reid
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Birthplace: Palo Alto, CA
Education: Cert. Paralegal - Denver Career College - 2004; MA - Public Affairs (not completed) 1995-UC Denver School of Pub. Affairs; BA - Economics Degree, minor in Third World Studies-1979 Univ. of Calif.
Family: Cute Puppy- "Peety" 16 month old Pomeranian Toy
Hobbies: Rugby player for many years, art: painting acrylics & oil, cooking

I hope to apply my acquired leadership knowledge and skills toward making a difference in the Aurora community. There remain countless worthwhile organizations who need our support and help, and I will remain dedicated to supporting the needs of these groups. I hope to one day run for public office. I really feel the political sphere calling to me, especially in Aurora. Look out Mayor Tauer!

Favorite Quote:
Once you compromise your values, you become a candidate for mediocrity.
— Neil Simon,
New Brighton Beach Memoirs

Rick Stanzyk
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Birthplace: Carroll, IA
Education: BS - Construction Management University of Northern Iowa 1995
Family: Wife - Karen, daughter - Zoe (6 mo)
Hobbies: Fishing, hunting, remodeling, astronomy

The Leadership Aurora experience, to me, is interaction with people outside the normal daily group. This interaction can be that of common conversation or it can be an investigation into personality. I choose the latter. To understand how people with a different perspective analyze, understand, respond and act in situations is the beginning of understanding the community. This understanding is what I strive to achieve.

Favorite Quote:
Greater love than this no man hath, that a man lay down his life for his friends
— Bible - John 15:13

Cheryl B. Twesme
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ALMC Mortgage
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Birthplace: Buffalo, NY
Education: BS - Fine Arts, Colorado State University
Family: Husband - Eric
Hobbies: Golf, skiing, scrapbooking and traveling

The experiences I have had since beginning my Leadership Aurora adventure have been so personally rewarding. I am thankful for the knowledge I have gained and the relationships that I have built this year. I intend to stay active and involved in the hope that I can contribute to the success of my entire community in the future.

Favorite Quote:
*THOUGHTS become WORDS,
WORDS become ACTIONS,
ACTIONS become CHARACTER
and CHARACTER is
EVERYTHING*
— Unknown

Kathi Ward

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Favorite Quote:

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
— Bible



Birthplace: Carlsbad, NM
Education: Some college, realtor, mother, wife, and lots of life experiences
Family: Husband-Craig; 3 children — David (18), Christina (15), Taelor (6)
Hobbies: Camping, traveling, children, reading, I am also a big sister at our church

The community resources we've been exposed to have been remarkable: businesses, charities, government agencies, such a wide variety of fields of interest and the leaders who represent them. Perhaps most importantly, the personal and professional friendships we have developed as a class are to be treasured.

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Favorite Quote:

Life is one big adventure, when you stop having adventures you should die, but never die while having an adventure.
— Joyce Webber



Birthplace: Escanaba, MI
Education: B.A. - Business Administration (accounting), Andrews University, MI
Family: Divorced, no children
Hobbies: Travel, golf, Italian language, piano

I have had great exposure to various facets of the Aurora community. I spend a lot of time in my job working with both the Colorado and Federal legislators educating them on the impact their legislation has on the healthcare industry. This year has helped me to understand the impact that their decisions have on the community, and not just in the healthcare field. I think I now can speak to these individuals about more global community issues.

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Favorite Quote:

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened. The same goes for opportunities.
— Helen Keller



Birthplace: San Jose, CA
Education: D.O.M. - Denver Automotive & Diesel College; A.S.E. - Master Automotive Technician; AAM - Automotive Management Institute
Family: Wife- Beverly, Son - PJ (senior at CU Boulder)
Hobbies: Reading, travel, racing, computers and wine tasting and collecting

I intend to use my new knowledge and friendships to serve this community to promote Aurora, helping those who need it and serving in a leadership role to make that happen.

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Favorite Quote:

Forgiveness is the fragrance of the flower left on the heel of the crushed it.
— Unknown, but brilliant!



Birthplace: Brooklyn, NY
Education: B.S. Business Administration, Regis University
Family: Partner - Ed; Children - Litisha (grown), Justin (20), and Malcolm (12)
Hobbies: Reading, gardening, vacationing, shopping, dancing

Learning of the myriad of unmet needs in the community has challenged me to not only personally want to do more to make this community a better place, but also to encourage others to step up and become involved.

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Favorite Quote:

If it's and butts were candy and nuts we would all have a merry Christmas. (This quote was a response to people who had excuses for various items).
— High School Wrestling Coach, Mike Huffman



Birthplace: Denver, CO
Education: BS Regis University
Family: Wife - Beth, daughters - Jaime (27) Alexis (22), son - Danny (18)
Hobbies: Fitness, boating, water skiing, golf, travel

Leadership Aurora has been a great experience. Through watching members of our class apply themselves in all different situations, it has enabled me to be more open with people in different settings. I have always been quite an introvert and being involved and open was very uncomfortable. It is now much easier to be more involved. I also now look at the city of Aurora in a different light. Due to our experiences, I can see that this city is truly a great place to live and has great people.

Opening Retreat



Leadership Aurora Class of 2006

Creating an Effective Leadership Team

Iron Horse Resort, Winter Park, CO

Coordinators: Rich Allison (Chair), Bob Barké, Roger Cloyd, Christine Hoppe, Sam McGhee, Kristen Speck, Craig Ward

In September, the 2005-06 Leadership Aurora class began exploring their leadership experience with a two-day opening retreat at the Iron Horse Resort in Winter Park. As the weekend began, thirty-four strangers began a journey seated around a large table at a resort in the mountains. We were told what Leadership Aurora was all about by several Board members, but it was not enough to prepare us for what were about to experience. After the introductions were completed by our new classmates we took a journey down memory lane by sharing a leadership experience from our past.



Building a framework for leadership



Learning to trust our classmates

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

Our class was able to accomplish these goals through a variety of lectures, class exercises, social activities, and some outdoor "challenges". Sam and Stephen McGhee transformed us as they presented "Leadership Breakthroughs" and taught us that we could create a major impact by doing small things consistently. They used class participation, role playing and physical challenges to provide the framework for leadership and taught us how to discover the leader in each of us.

There was so much to do and learn in only a weekend. The class of 2005-06 will remember how as individuals we came together to form one big team. We will not forget the late night party, the blind leading the blind, the wonderful restaurants and much more. We have accomplished a lot in one year. Our graduation will not be the end but the beginning of Aurora Unite!

Community Day Session

Coordinators: Randy Patrick (Chair), Heather Dolan, Larry Grandison, Christine Hoppe, Su Ryden

"Ignorance is Bliss." We surround ourselves in a bubble of comfort going about our lives thinking "I am sure there are some problems in Aurora, every city has a few." We did not realize that Community Day would be an in your face, hands on experience, to actually meet the people who need our help and learn about the shortfalls in budgets and cut programs due to the economy. So the questions come up...what can we do to make the lives of these people better? How can we help, how can we as a class make a difference?

Our class assembled Halloween bags for children at the Colfax Community Network and when we sat with those children while they opened their bags, enjoying the riches now before them... a bottle of shampoo, a stuffed animal, and someone talking with them who cared, it somehow changes you.

Ignorance may be Bliss, but knowing you helped one person in need from your community is more powerful and rewarding than bliss. The quote from the opening retreat now has new meaning – "Small things done consistently in strategic places have major impact".



Trying not to eat the candy while assembling Halloween bags for Colfax Community Network kids.

Police Session

Coordinators: Sam McGhee (Chair), Roger Cloyd

The Leadership Aurora Police Session started out with a bang. Acting Police Chief Terry Jones provided an insightful overview of the Aurora Police Department. He discussed where the Police Department has been and where he sees it going in the future. The Vice and Narcotics presentation quickly turned into a spirited discussion on the increased presence of meth labs in the city. We learned about Community Policing and SARA (scan, analyze, react, and assess), the problem solving method used by the department that has proven very successful in helping reduce crime rates.

We were bused to the Detention Center for a tour and for what we hoped was everyone's first and only opportunity to eat lunch in jail. After lunch, we traveled to the APD Shooting Range where one of our classmates was searched and arrested for possession of a controlled substance. Fortunately for Jake, they couldn't make the charges stick! While at the range we were treated to some outstanding demonstrations from the department's K-9 and SWAT teams. We were also given the opportunity to discharge the department's primary assault weapon in both semi and full automatic settings. This was truly the highlight of the day and provided us first hand insight into the weapons the department uses.



Run! Run! Marci has a gun!

Education Session

Coordinators: Greg Moore (Chair), Mark Isenburg, Jeanette Issaef, Sheila Martin, Angela Phillips, Leanne Wheeler

We started the day with a bus ride to Aspen Crossing Elementary School, a Cherry Creek school that opened in the fall of 2005. Student guides led us down brightly painted hallways and into classrooms equipped with cordless teacher microphones that give children in all parts of the room a better chance to hear instructions. We learned that ACE principal and staff build curriculum around six pillars of character: Respect, Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Caring, Citizenship and Fairness. We were treated to lunch in the cafeteria at Sky Vista Middle School. Luckily, the adults were already seated when a whirlwind of busy adolescents spilled into the cafeteria. A proud team of science teachers told about their work with students to preserve the ecosystem surrounding the school and nearby neighborhood. Students are experiencing lessons in making a contribution to their community.

We then traveled north to the Aurora Public Schools T.H. Pickens Technical Center and visited William Smith High School, where we learned about a curriculum that supports alternative learning styles. No school day is complete without a test. The finale was taking a high school level CSAP math test. Oops! Should have studied harder!



While visiting science class we were asked what an agrarian prairie is. Ask Harry...he knows!

Healthcare Session

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

The day began at the Medical Center of Aurora where we were immediately given a simulated disability with which to cope, but only long enough to hobble, shuffle and wheel ourselves through the breakfast buffet and dine on the delicious meal. Though joking and laughter were shared (some classmates took their roles more seriously than others) it was an exercise in patience and a realistic lesson on how it feels to cope with a disability.

After breakfast we broke into groups and were given a fictitious case study that we, as a mock biomedical ethics committee, discussed and made a difficult decision for a "patient" based on four key ethical principles. We learned about programs at the Medical Center of Aurora, such as Sexual Abuse Nurse Examiner (SANE), and that the hospital's cardiovascular department was given the designation of "Center of Excellence" for its advanced system for rapidly diagnosing and treating heart attack victims.

We all piled into ambulances provided by Rural/Metro Ambulance and were driven to the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center Fitzsimons campus where we toured the Eisenhower Suite, learned about the construction of the new Children's Hospital, were given an amazing presentation of the Virtual Human, and toured the beautiful CeDAR (Center for Dependency, Addiction and Rehabilitation) facility.



Vera Parker is in good hands with the ambulance crew of Jake Harkins, Tony Antista and Kriss Mills.

Economic & Infrastructure Session

Coordinators: Sheila Martin (Chair), Rich Allison, Grant Barrett, Christine Hoppe, David Maxwell

Economy and Infrastructure was the topic for March's session. The session provided education and insight into sustaining Aurora's economy as well as its infrastructure. The day began with several speakers including Kevin Hougen, President, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, who spoke about retaining Aurora's economy and the issues involved with keeping the business climate in Aurora moving in the right direction. Peter Binney and Rick Hunter, both representatives from the city, as well as Tom Ashburn, Xcel Energy, and Wendy Mitchell, Aurora Economic Development Council, provided additional insight into economic factors facing the city of Aurora.

After hearing from the experts, the class had an opportunity to participate in a role playing exercise of bringing a neighborhood recreational facility to an Aurora neighborhood. The class was divided into four groups: developer, neighborhood organization, city staff and city council. While divided in these groups, the class examined how different groups affect the city's ability to bring new businesses to Aurora, as well as the economic ramifications involved in each decision. Additionally, the class experienced how different groups affect each other, resolve conflicts and gain consensus within the community.



Jack Daluz with "dead" bird in hand, pleads his case to protect the agrarian prairie.

Media Session

Coordinators: Brooke Brasher (Chair), Mark Isenburg, Jeanette Issaeff, Sam McGhee, Mary Mulvey, Greg Moore, Su Ryden, Mitzi Schindler, Leanne Wheeler

It's snowing outside, it must be a Leadership Aurora day!

We ride a bus downtown to visit Channel 7 studios. At first, a bit under-whelmed, and then impressed. Is the news broadcast room really that small? Where are the camera operators? (Answer: there aren't any, they are operated remotely.) Bertha Lynn has a nice smile and seems like a sincerely kind person. The anchors speak fluidly, even in person we can't tell that they are reading the prompter. How does the weather guy read a green wall as if he is really pointing to a map showing the gusty winds in Chicago? Bill Clark, the station's consumer affairs reporter entertains and educates us. He reminds us that TV is a visual medium. If you want to pitch a story, have some pictures to go with it.

For many, the most exciting part of the day was participating in the on-camera panel interview at Aurora Channel 8, learning to operate the cameras, and run the studio.



Harry Glidden and Cheryl Twesme as temporary anchors on the Channel 7 set.

Military Session

Coordinators: Lt. Col. Gregory Parker, John Spann

Many thanks go out to classmate, Steve Muhs, "the Mayor of Buckley" and his staff for making the day a memorable educational experience. What an incredible "city" Buckley Air Force Base has become! A new chapel, health center, and modern living accommodations make this base one of the very best in the world. Buckley is a magnificent tribute to the heroic men and women who dedicate themselves to keeping our nation safe.

We learned that Buckley AFB has the best tracking technology available to deter acts of terrorism. While we're sleeping, highly trained personnel are deployed from the base at night to many dangerous parts of the world, making countless sacrifices on our behalf. Visiting Buckley reminded us to appreciate what we have...homes, jobs, families, and a sense of security. So, whenever you hear the roar of a fighter jet overhead...during the day or in the middle of the night...it's not just noise...it's the sound of freedom!



One of these lucky classmates will win this F-16. NOT!



Leadership Aurora Class of 2006. We are SMOKIN' HOT!



Jeff, John, Romita, Linda and Rolf ready for a Hazmat challenge.

Fire Session

Coordinator: Kevin Hammons

They say you can't understand someone else's life unless you've walked a mile in their shoes. So during the fire session, we took that a step further. To get an idea of what it's like to be an Aurora firefighter, our class put on their bunker gear and participated in numerous activities to learn the trade. And it was hot! With the temps hitting close to 90 degrees, those thick, fire-protection suits, gloves and helmets were sweltering. Add in the fact that we were constantly active, either dragging a high-pressure hose toward a propane fire, using heavy machinery to pry open a beat up car or trudging up the stairs of the five story fire tower for the zip line drill, and you can bet we drank a whole lot of water.

Despite the difficulties of the day, it was a wonderful and fun look at what these men and women go through during their training. It also gave us an appreciation for what a difficult job it is to be always prepared for the next emergency. At the end of the day, I think all of us now have a new-found respect for the dedication and high level of expertise that permeates our fire department.

2006 Class Projects

Leadership Aurora Comes to the Aid of Comitis

Early on two Saturday mornings, a hearty crew of Leadership Aurora volunteers marched into the Comitis Fitzsimons facility eager to organize food, clothing, diapers and other items stored there for the Comitis Crisis Center.

Some folks organized donated food and hygiene supplies, and others removed unusable furniture, appliances, lawn mowers and more. Kudos to the brave folks who climbed up ladders and removed ceiling panels in the hallways where an updated sprinkler system will soon be installed. In a total of eight hours of concentrated effort, the teams sorted and shelved donated canned food from hundreds of grocery bags and organized a room for baby supplies, a room with personal hygiene supplies, and a clothing room.



Joan, Suzanne, Linda A., Celeste, and Linda R. collect coats for Gateway Battered Women's Shelter.



Class members help with spring cleaning at Comitis Crisis Center.

Karl Mecklenburg's football career inspired us to greatness, even though he stands head and shoulders above the class.



2006 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
Jason Altshuler		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Tony Antista							✓								✓	✓			
Linda Ashburn		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		✓		✓						
Susan Burke		✓						✓						✓		✓			
Michael Corage		✓															✓		
John Daluz	✓			✓				✓	✓			✓	✓						
Celeste Delahanty-Sherbert		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓		✓	✓
Tammy Fernandez							✓	✓			✓			✓					
Romita Gandhi		✓		✓				✓						✓		✓			
Harry Glidden			✓						✓							✓			
Wendy Grugle		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓		✓		✓	
Jake Harkins		✓						✓					✓	✓				✓	
Gene Jackson	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	
Susan Johnston		✓			✓									✓		✓		✓	✓
Jeff Longo								✓		✓	✓		✓	✓					
Jeff Martinez		✓					✓								✓				✓
Marci Maxwell				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓	✓	✓
Kriss Mills						✓		✓								✓			
Mary Mollicone		✓	✓								✓		✓			✓			
Scott Mueller						✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓		✓	✓
Steve Muhs						✓		✓	✓					✓			✓	✓	
Scott Nelson				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓								
Connie O'Murray		✓				✓	✓		✓									✓	
Vera Parker		✓		✓					✓			✓							✓
Joan Peterson		✓				✓		✓	✓					✓				✓	
Suzanne Pitrusu				✓	✓			✓	✓					✓		✓	✓		
John Reid	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rick Stanzyk						✓	✓	✓						✓		✓		✓	
Cheryl Twesme		✓				✓		✓								✓		✓	✓
Kathi Ward				✓	✓			✓		✓						✓			
Joyce Webber						✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	
Rolf Werner							✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓		✓
Diana Whye				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	
Danny Willcox						✓	✓	✓	✓		✓							✓	

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