

*“Coming Together  
is a beginning*



*Keeping Together  
is progress*



*Working Together  
is success”*



—Henry  
Ford

Class of 2007



# Introduction

Twenty two years ago, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce introduced "Leadership Aurora" as 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 Aurora leaders from diverse backgrounds. During the past twenty-two years, over 680 leaders, committed to shaping Aurora's future, have graduated from the program.

Leadership Aurora begins each September with a class retreat that includes leadership seminars, team-building exercises, and social activities. After the retreat, the class meets once a month over the next nine months. Each

day-long session focuses on an issue facing the city of Aurora. Some of the topics include education, healthcare and the local economy. Community leaders from the field of study that month provide the class with valuable information and insight on the subject. As a result, class members learn about the city's strengths and areas that may need improvement.

In addition to participating in the opening retreat and monthly sessions, each Leadership Aurora class completes a project that addresses a specific need of the community while also enhancing a local organization's ability to meet its community support mission.

Today, Leadership Aurora is one of more than 1,000 community programs in

the nation. We are 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 guides the program, develops the curriculum and oversees its success.

We congratulate all Leadership Aurora graduates dedicated to serving the Aurora community and influencing its on-going progress toward becoming a world-class city.

The Leadership Aurora  
Class of 2007

# Acknowledgements

Our class gratefully acknowledges the individuals, businesses and other organizations which provide invaluable support to one of the most outstanding leadership programs in the United States. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, that developed, implemented and continues to support the Leadership Aurora program in the preparation of leaders committed to Aurora's future. Kudos to the Leadership Aurora Board members and all previous graduates of the program

who contributed their time, energy and enthusiasm to plan and execute each monthly session. And a special thank you to Kimberly Curtis, Leadership Aurora Program Director, whose leadership, can-do attitude and community expertise guaranteed the success of every session – you are awesome!

We also thank the many speakers and personnel who guided us through the monthly sessions while sharing invaluable information and insight.

We deeply appreciate your contributions. And we can't forget the organizations and businesses that provided in-kind services, donations, facilities, equipment, transportation, meals and much more. Thank you all.

Finally, thanks to the citizens of Aurora. We are grateful to live and work in such a dynamic community with so much to offer its residents. We look forward to playing our part in helping to shape its ever-evolving future.





## Board Chair

"I want to extend my sincere congratulations to the Leadership Aurora class of 2007. The purpose of Leadership Aurora is to provide programs that educate and prepare community leaders who are committed to shaping Aurora's future. The ten-month program began last September in Winter Park. The class retreat was attended by 37 strangers who met on a Thursday and left on Saturday as a group banding together to begin their journey.

The journey took them through a wide variety of experiences including a full day of community services, and many different sessions involving the police force, education, healthcare, media, military, economic and infrastructure and the fire



department. This class has come together and been involved in the Aurora community with several small projects throughout the year and also an ambitious project to furnish Excelsior Youth Center with a major renovation of their auditorium.

One of the most satisfying aspects of being Chair of the Leadership Board is the opportunity to work with the great leaders who volunteer to work on the board countless number of hours. I want to personally thank each and every one of these talented individuals. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment help this program to continue to grow and exceed expectations.

As a nationally recognized program, Leadership Aurora could not achieve the great success it enjoys year after year without the outstanding leadership of

Kimberly Curtis, Program Director. Her attention to detail, organizational skills and professionalism are appreciated by everyone who has worked with her over the course of the year.

The challenge for the class of 2007 is to find one or more ways to continue to make a difference in Aurora by using the experiences they had in the program to become even more involved in the community. This is not the end of the journey but the beginning of the next phase of your commitment. Our community is counting on you to continue to make Aurora a great place to live, work and play. I know I had a lot of fun being a part of this and I hope you did too.

Bob Barké  
Leadership Aurora Board Chair  
2006-07

## Leadership Aurora Class President

This class experience has meant more to me than I ever could have imagined or even could have anticipated. Since being brought together at the Retreat (September 2006), our class quickly established that teamwork would be the

core foundation of any task that we set out to accomplish. In fact, most of the successes that our class experienced throughout the Leadership Aurora program can be attributed in large part to our commitment to teamwork.

One such example of how we worked together is in our response to a class member's request for assistance with making gift basket deliveries just before the Christmas holiday. Our class member unselfishly organized donations of food and toys to be boxed for families in need. When he requested that class members assist with making deliveries to families, his call for help did not go unanswered! We came together and were rewarded with smiles and looks of appreciation at each home we delivered to.



Our most notable challenge as a class, however, came in the form of an ambitious community project to refurbish the auditorium and recreation room at the Excelsior Youth Center (EYC) in Aurora. We gladly accepted the responsibility for making the improvements to the facilities after one of our class members, an EYC volunteer, exposed us to the heartfelt requests of two troubled young girls.

As we set out with goals of replacing the auditorium sound system, lighting equipment and refurbishing the stage floor (among other updates to the recreation room); it became apparent that our class had taken on one of the largest projects in the history of the Leadership Aurora program. At a time when competition for charitable donations was fierce, we sought to raise \$15,000 for a youth center comprised of girls (ages 11-18) with behavioral and emotional difficulties. Many thought our desires for the center, although commendable, had exceeded our abilities. With class members again coming together; this time to raise money, organize resources and provide physical labor; we

demonstrated yet again how much power a group of leaders wields when working together. Now the girls of EYC have facilities they can be proud of!

Our class experiences relative to teaming, and the success we realized in doing so, has not been limited to the above mentioned initiatives. Whether comprising monthly newsletters, this yearbook, class socials or preparing for our graduation from the program; we would respond in force as a team! I am proud to have served as class president!

I personally do not believe in taking credit for the hard work of others. So I would like to close by thanking the members of the Class of 2007 for committing to getting the most out of every opportunity to learn about issues facing our city. And I would like to express my gratitude for giving me the opportunity to represent such a remarkable class of leaders! I am in awe at the abilities of each of you! And I look forward to our continued friendships!

Marcus T. Dudley, Jr.  
Class President, 2006-07



# Class Project

# 2007

## Excelsior Youth Center

The Leadership Aurora Class of 2007 completed the largest class project ever! When all was said and done, the combination of in-kind and cash donations exceeded \$40,000. Excelsior now proudly displays a beautiful auditorium with newly refurbished hardwood floors and a new sound and lighting system. Class members spent a Saturday working at Excelsior doing general maintenance such as painting, replacing ceiling tiles, cleaning up grounds, washing vans, cleaning classrooms, and washing windows. As a thank you to the Leadership Class of 2007, the Excelsior girls gave us a fabulous talent show, under the direction of some of our classmates.



### Leadership Aurora Class of 2007 Presents *Conquering Mountains, Conquering Challenges*



Experience the energy and inspiration of **Susan Swimmer**, world class mountain climber and only cancer survivor to scale Mount Everest.

Also, learn what it takes to be a professional athlete in the NBA. **Walter Davis**, ambassador from the Denver Nuggets will share his experience as a professional athlete and the responsibilities of being a community role model.



The morning will be hosted by Pam Davis, News Producer, Aurora 8.

Friday, April 20, 2007, 8am to 10 am  
Aurora Municipal Court Building  
14999 E. Alameda Parkway  
Jury Assembly Room

Tickets are \$20.

For Tickets contact Melodie Suttler at 303.745.1040 ext. 105  
Proceeds will be used to refurbish the Excelsior Youth Center auditorium.  
Excelsior is a residential treatment program for girls, ages 11 to 18, with emotional and behavior difficulties.





# Class Profiles 2007



**Michael E. Ackman**  
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I will be even more appreciative of the truly unique city I reside in and the community of which I am a part. I will apply the leadership skills learned to my everyday life, and I will take the friendships and camaraderie with me always.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Denver, CO  
**EDUCATION:** Aurora Central HS; AA - Applied Fire Science CCD  
**FAMILY:** Wife Cindy, Children Michael 24, Kristen 21  
**HOBBIES:** Reading, travel, golf and family activities

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

*"People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf."  
— George Orwell*

## Class of 2007

**Barbara Atwell**  
Chief, Community Relations  
460th Space Wing  
510 S Aspen Street (Stop 88)  
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barbara.atwell@buckley.af.mil



I've learned so much about the community that I have lived in for most of my life; for this I am thankful. I plan to give back to the community through service and by promoting Aurora for the great city that it is. Because of this experience, I am committed to continually develop personal and professional relationships with other members of the community.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Ellsworth AFB, SD  
**EDUCATION:** Associates in General Studies, Community College of Aurora, 2000; Currently enrolled at Regis University pursuing a Bachelors in Communications  
**FAMILY:** Husband, Tony; Children, Rebekah (18) and Andrew (16)  
**HOBBIES:** Paper crafting

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

*"The purpose of life is to discover your gift. The meaning of life is to give it away."  
— David Viscott*

**Kacee Austin**  
Foundation Development  
Coordinator  
Community College of Aurora  
Foundation  
16000 E CentreTech Parkway  
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Leadership Aurora has provided a tremendous opportunity for me to develop my abilities as a leader, become actively involved in the community and increase my knowledge of Aurora. More importantly I have developed friendships that will last a lifetime.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Bolivar, MO  
**EDUCATION:** MA - International and Intercultural Communication, University of Denver; BS - Communications, Missouri State University  
**FAMILY:** Cat named Eliot  
**HOBBIES:** Practicing and teaching Yoga, reading, traveling, attending concerts

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

*"If you never did, you should. These things are fun and fun is good."  
— Dr. Seuss*

## Leadership Aurora

**Sue Bodis**  
President  
Bodis Group, Inc.  
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bodis@comcast.net



With the resources and information I have received through Leadership Aurora, I will pursue other ways to continue my work as a community activist in service to the Aurora community.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Milwaukee, WI  
**EDUCATION:** BA - Social Studies, Carroll College, Waukesha, WI, 1969; Honors Graduate - Denver Paralegal Institute, 1985; Leadership Arts Certificate - Colorado Business Committee for the Arts, 2000  
**FAMILY:** Husband, Ray; Daughters, Carroll Lyn and Christina Lyn  
**HOBBIES:** Volunteering, reading, traveling, antiques

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

*"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."  
— Albert Schweitzer*



**Mike Brown**  
Executive Vice President  
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Leadership Aurora has taught me many, many things about the community I live in and how the various parts of the city interact as a whole. I have met a lot of great people and gained personal and professional friendships that I will value for years to come.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Colorado Springs, CO  
**EDUCATION:** BS - Business Administration, Colorado State University 1987; Graduate - Graduate School of Banking, Louisiana State University 1995  
**FAMILY:** Married with two teenage daughters  
**HOBBIES:** Travel, reading, spending time with my family, skiing & golf.

*“Coming Together”*  
FAVORITE QUOTE:  
“It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.”  
— Mark Twain

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

“It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.”  
— Mark Twain

**Melanie M. Chatham**  
Ethics and Compliance Officer  
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The Leadership Aurora experience has opened my eyes to the many resources in my own neighborhood, the opportunities to support local business and community leaders, and the ongoing growth challenges of the City. Because of this positive learning experience I will more readily embrace and support local businesses, be a champion of growth projects and encourage others to learn more about what Aurora has to offer. I appreciate the new friends I have met from all sectors of the business community.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Jackson, TN  
**EDUCATION:** BS - Health Information Management, University of Tennessee 1993  
**FAMILY:** Husband - Larry; Children, Alexandra-17, Jake 15, Jessica, 7  
**HOBBIES:** Watching my boys play football; spending time with my family; bootmaking

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”  
— Gandhi

**Cheryl Clark**  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Excelsior Youth Center  
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I plan to continually strive to be a leader not simply a manager and help those around me to do the same. In addition I plan on being a resource to both my classmates and my community as I am grateful for all they have shared with me and my organization. I will continue to embrace as I have throughout the year “small things done consistently in strategic places create major impact.”  
Thanks for an amazing year.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Denver, CO  
**EDUCATION:** BS- Business Management/Human Resources; Colorado Christian University; Life long student of life on a journey to learn and grow  
**FAMILY:** Son VJ (14), world’s greatest big brother to twin brothers Malcolm and Martin age 4  
**HOBBIES:** Traveling, dancing, napping and hanging out with my kids.

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

“Because life is a series of choices, life changes are just a different choice away. Make them with heart and conviction. Today I choose to celebrate life and all the blessing I have received.”  
— Cheryl Clark

*Keeping Together*

**Wendy DeBell**  
School/Community  
Partnership Coordinator  
Cherry Creek School District  
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I plan to use the knowledge I have gained through the highly informative, hands on experiences that Leadership Aurora has provided to promote networking, and facilitate involvement to strengthen the economic and social vitality of the city of Aurora. The wonderful personal and professional relationships developed during the program are invaluable and I look forward to future partnerships.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Denver, CO  
**EDUCATION:** Colorado State University  
**FAMILY:** Husband, Ralph; 2 daughters, Kira (26) and Ali (22)  
**HOBBIES:** Fitness, biking, tennis, (learning golf), travel, reading

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

“What is as important as knowledge?” asked the mind. “Seeing and caring with the heart,” answered the soul.”  
— Author Unknown

**Zelda M. DeBoyes**  
Court Administrator  
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My Leadership Aurora experience has truly crystallized why the City of Aurora is commended for its community spirit. The community outreach in this City is incredible. While Leadership Aurora has exposed me to many community resources that I was not previously aware of, it has also reinforced my commitment to continue to be an individual who is viewed as a resource to this community. Additionally, I shall cherish my new friends and acquaintances.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Vicksburg, MS  
**EDUCATION:** Current Doctoral Student at University of Denver; MBA - University of Colorado - Denver; BS - Metropolitan State College  
**FAMILY:** Daughters: Telia and Ahnjoulie  
**HOBBIES:** Reading, travel, running, dancing

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”  
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Working Together*



## Kirk Downing

Assistant Principal  
Sunrise Elementary  
Cherry Creek Schools  
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### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*  
— Nelson Mandela

Leadership Aurora has provided me a new perspective in regards to how proud and productive the Aurora community can be. I plan to use my experience to foster volunteerism and empowering others to act for the benefit of all citizens.

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: MA - Curriculum and Instruction, University of Colorado, 1997;  
BA - History, University of Colorado, 1993

FAMILY: Wife, three kids

HOBBIES: Music, gardening, skiing, golf

## Marcus Dudley, Jr.

Police Agent, Public Information  
Officer - Media Relations Unit  
Aurora Police Department  
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### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"It is vain that we talk of being men, if we do not do the work of men."*  
— Frederick Douglass

This experience has been invaluable to my personal growth and professional development within the community of Aurora. I intend to utilize the relationships garnered with community leaders to further enhance my uplift of people in our city. As a spokesperson for the police department, the information learned about the various services provided to our citizens will serve to improve the quality of the message I deliver when reporting on matters of great significance.

BIRTHPLACE: Oklahoma City, OK

EDUCATION: BA - Business/Economics, Bethany College 1991

FAMILY: Wife and one child

HOBBIES: Snowboarding, riding motorcycles, running, lifting weights

# Class of 2007

## Michael Dudley

Scheduling/Payroll/Safety Officer  
Rural/Metro Ambulance  
3350 Peoria St., Ste. 100  
Aurora 80010  
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### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"I'm not afraid to die; I just don't want to be there when it happens."*  
— Woody Allen

My goal is to better myself and better the community I serve. The knowledge and experience I gained from Leadership Aurora has been invaluable. The growth I have seen both personally and professionally is tremendous.

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: Currently working on BA

FAMILY: Wife - yes; children -3, all boys

HOBBIES: Playing music; specifically guitar and mandolin.

## Brian Egging

L'Oreal  
19503 E. 34th Dr.  
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### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just."*  
— Abraham Lincoln

Leadership Aurora has been a great chance to experience the various community services in Aurora and receive first hand knowledge of the struggles and achievements of those services. But most importantly Leadership Aurora has been a chance to network and bond with other leaders in the community. I believe that all of us that have served in Leadership Aurora have the unique opportunity to continue to develop those relationships and support each other in future endeavors in the community.

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: MS - Public Administration, Central Michigan University 2000; BA - Political Science, University of Colorado - Boulder 1990

FAMILY: Wife - Melinda; children - Anita (15), Craig (12)

HOBBIES: Hunting, fishing and golf

## Melinda Epp

Area Lead/Captain/  
PIO/Governmental Liaison  
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### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"If you can dream it, you can do it."*  
— Walt Disney

I plan on using my Leadership Aurora experience to help future endeavors, whether it is at work or in volunteering. I also plan on passing on information I learned to those who come after me. The professional and personal relationships that have been developed will last a life time.

BIRTHPLACE: Arcadia, CA

EDUCATION: High School in California, some college in Criminal Justice and just returned to finish in Business Management.

FAMILY: Dog--Sassy

HOBBIES: Photography, anything outdoors, reading and spending time with family

# Leadership Aurora



**Steven Etter**  
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The opportunity to learn about my community in a compact, organized and methodical process has been truly rewarding. I hope to use the experience and my new network of friends to be more involved. I will start by serving on the board of one of the community organizations we visited.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Canton, OH  
**EDUCATION:** MPA Harvard University; BS Brigham Young University  
**FAMILY:** Spouse, Lucinda Lewis -- 3 children, Tashina, Tiffany, Devon.  
**HOBBIES:** Reading, travel, Tae Kwon Do, cycling,

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

"Show me your friends and I'll tell you who you are."

— Mark Twain

# “Coming Together

**Ryan Evans**  
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Leadership Aurora has provided me valuable insight into the community and its workings. I have now formed relationships with leaders in the community that enable us to unite and bond together to form great results! I look forward to expanding these relationships! What a great group!

**BIRTHPLACE:** Littleton, CO  
**EDUCATION:** BA - Business Administration, Fort Lewis College (cum laude) 2003  
**FAMILY:** Father, mother and two sisters all living in Denver as well as a niece!  
**HOBBIES:** Mountain climbing, cars, volunteering, skiing, camping, anything outdoors

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

"You don't need a weather man to know which way the wind blows!"

— Bob Dylan

**Tonya Ewers**  
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University of Colorado at Denver & Health Sciences Center  
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The resources and learning opportunities that have been provided in this program have been amazing. The list of possibilities on where to get involved is so extensive that it's hard to know where to begin. We already have begun to change things around us as we pull together on our project as a class and it becomes a stepping stone to what can be done all around us. The possibilities are endless and the need is there.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Lincoln, NE  
**EDUCATION:** BA, English and Economics, Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin  
**FAMILY:** Husband-to-be: Gus  
**HOBBIES:** Ultimate Frisbee, snowboarding, Bikram yoga, reading, traveling, cooking

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

— Mahatma Gandhi

# Keeping Together

**Julie George**  
Intergovernmental Relations  
Coordinator  
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Leadership Aurora has been a rewarding experience. I have gained valuable insight into the Aurora community and have met many people, all of whom have a wealth of knowledge in their given field. The information I have gained and the people I have met will be invaluable to me as issues and opportunities arise in the future.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Denver, CO  
**EDUCATION:** MPA - University of Colorado, 1995; BA - Columbia University, 1992  
**FAMILY:** Husband, Larry; children, Joshua, age 6; Megan, age 5; Morgan, age 5  
**HOBBIES:** Running, gardening, reading, skiing and hanging at the pool

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

"Assuming either the Left Wing or the Right Wing gained control of the country, it would probably fly around in circles."

— Pat Paulsen

**Rebecca Gervasi**  
Associate Counsel  
Defense Contract  
Management Agency  
Denver Federal Center, Bldg 16  
Denver 80225  
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Knowing more about this great community will enable me to focus my involvement. I want to be part of the improvement of this city.

**BIRTHPLACE:** LaMarque, TX  
**EDUCATION:** JD - University of Denver, 2001; BA - Psychology, Regis University, Magna Cum Laude 1992  
**FAMILY:** Husband, Bill; 3 sons: Brandon (25), Bill III (24), and Jared (15)  
**HOBBIES:** Reading, travel, hanging out with my husband, scrapbooking

**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

"Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you are right!"

— Henry Ford

# Working Together



**Daryl Guill**  
Deputy Commander  
460 Mission Support Group  
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**FAVORITE QUOTE:**  
"A true leader is not the one with the most followers, but one who creates the most leaders."  
— Author Unknown

I'd like to build on the contacts and opportunities offered by this course and stay engaged with the community to improve military and civilian relationships and interaction.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Danville, VA  
**EDUCATION:** BS, Computer Science, Averett College; MAS, Engineering Management, Old Dominion University; MAS, Military Operational Art and Science, Air University  
**FAMILY:** Wife, Beth, 4 trucks, 1981 Camaro Z28, 1956 Chevy and a 1980 Honda Goldwing  
**HOBBIES:** Classic vehicles, running, movies, beer, wine

**Rod Hullinger**  
Club Manager  
Sam's Club  
880 S. Abilene St  
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RHullinger@msn.com



**FAVORITE QUOTE:**  
"Live out your imagination, not your history."  
— Stephen Covey

I plan to build new and nurture existing relationships.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Phoenix, AZ  
**EDUCATION:** BS in Organizational Management  
**FAMILY:** Married with 3 kids  
**HOBBIES:** Biking and working out

## Class of 2007

**Angela Hutton-Howard**  
Executive Director  
Aurora Education Foundation  
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**FAVORITE QUOTE:**  
"What you think about most, you will attract."  
— Author unknown

The Leadership Aurora class experience is truly one of kind. I was certainly impressed by the number of professions represented in the class. The most important thing that I will use from this experience is the ability to work with a diverse group of people to reach a common goal. The community resources and the time spent learning about other professions was invaluable and gave a greater appreciation for what others do on a daily basis.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Denver, CO  
**EDUCATION:** J.D. - University of Denver, College of Law, 1988; BA - English, Clark Atlanta University (cum laude) 1985  
**FAMILY:** Fiancé: Kenneth Thompson; children-two daughters, Natalie (age 20) & Nicole (age 18)  
**HOBBIES:** Running, exercising, reading, spending time with family and traveling

**Dan Lamphere**  
Project Manager  
Adolfson & Peterson Construction  
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**FAVORITE QUOTE:**  
"Luck is when preparation meets opportunity."  
— Author Unknown

The expanded knowledge of our community and how it works has been incredible. I have gained much admiration for the programs that our community has to offer. The friendships and networking opportunities I gained through the Leadership Aurora Program have been wonderful. We will all be able to draw from these resources in the future to better our community and help reach out to others. I hope to continue contributing to the community, and foster the relationships we have developed over the year.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Lincoln, NE.  
**EDUCATION:** BS - Construction Management, University of Nebraska 1994  
**FAMILY:** Wife; children - 2 boys - 8yrs, 7yrs, 1 girl - 4yrs  
**HOBBIES:** Sports, travel, music

## Leadership Aurora

**Beth Lattone**  
Paramedic Supervisor  
Field Instructor  
Rural/Metro Ambulance  
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**FAVORITE QUOTE:**  
"I too am not a bit tamed... I too am untranslatable, I sound my barbaric yawp over the rooftops of the world."  
— Walt Whitman, Leaves of Grass

I plan to use my greater understanding of the different resources of the Aurora community to help me provide better options and plans to people I come into contact with in my course of work.

**BIRTHPLACE:** East Lansing, MI  
**EDUCATION:** BS Cornell University, 1998; Paramedic SUNY Cortland, 1999  
**FAMILY:** Husband, Joseph  
**HOBBIES:** Knitting, gardening, cooking, reading, automatic weaponry



**Bob Leigh**  
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**FAVORITE QUOTE:**  
"Things that don't change remain the same."  
— Author Unknown

I was amazed at all of the opportunities that are available within the City of Aurora. After 27 years of employment with the City, through Leadership Aurora, I have been provided with information that truly demonstrates what the City has to offer both citizens and business partners. I will use this new perspective in promoting the City as a high tech specialized community that has found the ability to also be well rounded and diverse at the same time.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Denver, CO  
**EDUCATION:** B.S. Business Administration-Management (Weber State University)  
**FAMILY:** Wife and two children  
**HOBBIES:** Work, fitness, travel

# "Coming Together

**Julie A. Lundquist**  
Director of Quality and  
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**FAVORITE QUOTE:**  
"God plays every instrument in the orchestra. You get to hold the cow bell!"  
— Dan Allendar

Leadership Aurora has exposed me to such a wide variety of industries, and organizations throughout the city. I feel as though I know enough to understand some of the challenges each area faces. Nothing is as simple as it seems and solutions are not as simple as they first appear. I will take what I've learned with me into each and every situation I deal with. I will also treasure the people I have met through this experience. You guys are the best!

**BIRTHPLACE:** Neligh, NE  
**EDUCATION:** BS - Natural Sciences, Doane College 1984; BS - Physical Therapy, Northwestern University Medical School, 1985; Master of Healthcare Systems, University of Denver, 2000  
**FAMILY:** 2 sisters, 1 brother, 2 nieces, 3 nephews  
**HOBBIES:** Reading, writing poetry, photography, scrap-booking, skiing, golfing

**Roy Minter**  
Police Commander  
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**FAVORITE QUOTE:**  
"Every person carries the seed of success. The ability to find another's seed of success takes commitment, diligence, and a genuine desire to focus on others."  
— John Maxwell

The knowledge I have gained through my exposure to various community resources and organizations has been a tremendous experience for me. I will use my Leadership Aurora experience to motivate and educate others to get involved in our community, and to develop personal and professional relationships to help shape Aurora's future.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Detroit, MI  
**EDUCATION:** M.A - Organizational Management - University of Phoenix 1998; B.A - Business Administration - University of Phoenix 1996  
**FAMILY:** Two children  
**HOBBIES:** Reading, weight lifting, and cooking

# Keeping Together

**Brian Molitoris**  
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Brian Molitoris Photographer  
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**FAVORITE QUOTE:**  
"Never give up. Never, never give up."  
— Winston Churchill

The community is all linked together. Many individuals and organizations help a great deal in our community; the application will be an effort that can ripple onward to other groups.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Kingston, PA  
**EDUCATION:** MBA, Regis University, Denver Colorado 1998; BA, Physics, CU Boulder, 1972  
**FAMILY:** Wife - Karen S; children -Sandra, Allen  
**HOBBIES:** Xeric gardening, economics, history, cosmology, photography, shoveling snow.



**Keith Peterson**  
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**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

*"I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."*  
 — Author Unknown

Leadership Aurora provides an opportunity to build bridges and develop relationships. I intend to leverage those relationships into stronger ties between the University of Colorado Hospital and the Aurora community. On a personal note, I marvel at the wisdom and expertise of my classmates. I will consider this year time well spent if I absorb even a fraction of their spirit and skill.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Frankfurt Germany  
**EDUCATION:** BA Sociology, Regis University  
**FAMILY:** Wife- Michelle, children - two boys, KC 17 and Koa 9  
**HOBBIES:** Reading, sports - mainly basketball and running, movies

**Betsy Rogers, LCSW**  
 Program Director, Early Childhood & Family Center  
 Aurora Mental Health Center  
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**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

*"...radicals, like myself, who think that our survival as a human community may depend as much upon our nurture of love in infancy and childhood as upon the protection of our society from external threats."*  
 — Selma Fraiberg, 1977

I volunteer with the Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council to ensure that young children in our county have a "Safe, Smart and Healthy Start" in life. The Leadership Aurora experience has expanded my understanding of what that really takes from a community perspective. Every aspect of our community strengthens opportunity for families and every family strengthens the resources of our community. This opens the door to much more creative collaborations and solutions for my work.

**BIRTHPLACE:** New York City, NY  
**EDUCATION:** BS in Human Services from Metropolitan State College of Denver; MSW from Smith College School for Social Work  
**FAMILY:** Married for 27 years with two young adult children, Danny and Jaime  
**HOBBIES:** Paddling small boats on vacation; grappling with empty nest opportunities

# Class of 2007

**Dan Sandos**  
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**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

*"Just do the right thing...would ya?"*  
 — Dad

I am grateful for being a part of this organization, the camaraderie of partners, the diversity in the group, the challenges of our project. I am also very thankful for the efforts of many class members at the Christmas Basket Program. Please remember that everyone is always welcome to that event. I hope that these meetings will bring lasting friendships and fellowship. Right on Leadership Aurora Class of 2007!

**BIRTHPLACE:** Denver, CO  
**EDUCATION:** Ongoing; University of Southern Colorado  
**FAMILY:** Wife - Lisa; children - 2, Danielle, Derek  
**HOBBIES:** Golfing, fishing, soccer ref, Little League football coach

**Melodie Sattler**  
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**FAVORITE QUOTE:**

*"It's always too early to quit."*  
 — Scott Tomer, CEO YTB International

This year has been an experience I will always treasure. Not only for the knowledge I have gained in the class field trips and activities, but also for the friendships that have cultivated among all of us in the short time we've spent together. Encountering throughout the year the government and community agencies was such an eye-opening time. Participating in this class made me more prepared and confident to take my leadership knowledge and skills to the next level in our community.

**BIRTHPLACE:** Denver, CO  
**EDUCATION:** BA, Anthropology, Colorado State University 1980; Minors in History and Biology, CSU 1980; Accounting, Rocky Mountain Business & Accounting 2002  
**FAMILY:** Partner and 2 children  
**HOBBIES:** Family outings, traveling, mountain hiking, fishing, sports

# Leadership Aurora



## Jane Shirley

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### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Whatever you can do or dream, begin it."  
— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

I will continue to pursue opportunities for creative, collaborative partnerships within our community where I can support others in their work and expand the resources and possibilities for the students in Aurora Public Schools.

BIRTHPLACE: Norman, OK

EDUCATION: MA - Education, University of Northern Colorado 1990; BS - Education, Oklahoma State University, 1983

FAMILY: Husband, Dave and son, Andrew (age 8)

HOBBIES: Scuba diving, skiing, camping, snow-shoeing, theater

## Geoff Smith

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### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Tell me, I forget. Show me, I remember. Let me try and then I understand."  
— Anonymous*

I hope I can use my experiences and new connections to deepen my understanding of large city systems and how they interact while instilling in myself a greater sense of civic duty and community. Then, I can better develop programs and link resources to share ideas and serve others.

BIRTHPLACE: Schenectady, NY

EDUCATION: Psy. D. - Professional Psychology, Denver University (2001); MA - Counseling Psychology, Denver University (1998); BS - Psychology, Penn State (1994)

FAMILY: Wife, faithful dog, and incredible new-born child

HOBBIES: Snowboarding, hiking, remodeling, reading, movies

# Keeping Together

## Anthony Sturges

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### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Failure to prepare is preparing to fail."  
— John Wooden*

I hope to continue to develop professional partnerships with the terrific people and their organizations whom I have come in contact with through Leadership Aurora.

BIRTHPLACE: Fort Worth, TX

EDUCATION: MA- Education Administration, University of Phoenix (1995); BA - United States History, Fort Lewis College (1987)

FAMILY: Single

HOBBIES: Reading, travel, napping, music, gourmet food and wine

## Bill Worrell

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### FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"We will not waiver; we will not tire; we will not falter; and we will not fail. Peace and freedom will prevail."  
— George W. Bush*

The program gave me a very detailed look at the great things happening in Aurora. From healthcare to the police department, I am proud of Aurora and it is my hope to utilize the awareness I gained from the program to be a better citizen and leader within the community.

BIRTHPLACE: Monticello, IN

EDUCATION: MA Ed University of Phoenix, 1995; BA - Economics, Regis University, 1992

FAMILY: Wife - Pam, child - Nancy 14

HOBBIES: Motorcycle riding, target shooting, and computers

# Working Together



# Opening Retreat 2007

## “Creating an Effective Leadership Team”

Session Coordinators: Bob Barké (Chair), Roger Cloyd, Christine Hoppe, Mark Isenburg, Sheila Martin, Sam McGhee, Cheryl Twesme, Craig Ward, Diana Whye

*“We came together as 37 strangers, but we left with 36 new best friends!”*

The 2006-07 Leadership Aurora class met for the first time in September during a two-day opening retreat and leadership experience at the Iron Horse Resort in Winter Park.

As the weekend began, 37 strangers began a journey seated around a large table at a beautiful resort in the Colorado mountains. Members of the Leadership Aurora board welcomed the participants and shared a little bit about where the weekend’s journey would take them, what experiences lie ahead for them during the upcoming year and participants spent a little time getting to know their



*Leadership Aurora class of 2007*

classmates. The introduction, however, was not enough to prepare the class members for the weekend experience.

The second day of the retreat, participants were treated to a leadership experience led by Sam and Stephen McGhee. Sam is an Aurora Police Officer and Stephen, his brother, is president of Stephen McGhee Leadership. Both individuals shared with the class participants several techniques and guidelines to improve leadership qualities. During this all-day experience, the group also participated in several team building exercises including being led, blind-folded, through the trees and up a hill.

The retreat ended the morning of the third day. After listening to a panel of leaders from Aurora share their experiences and knowledge, the class elected its leadership for the upcoming year. And, as the first mountain snow for the season began to fall, the retreat ended. Many of the class shared that this was one of the best leadership and team building retreats they had ever attended.



*Enjoying a girl's night out*



# “Community Ties and You”

Session Coordinators: Heather Dolan, Randy Patrick (Co-Chairs), Kimberly Armitage, Mary Beth Brunston, Larry Grandison, Su Ryden

Community day began with an overview of some of the community services available to Aurora residents including a virtual tour of the Aurora Senior Center, which is under construction in order to provide even more to the city. Once the introductions were complete, in true Leadership Aurora form, we were divided into groups of 3 or 4. Each group visited two community, mostly non-profit, organizations and learned about their purpose and challenges. Our theatrical talent was severely tested during the afternoon as each small group presented, with varying degrees of talent, the organizations we visited in the morning and what impacted us most.

At the end of the day we met the kids of the Colfax Community Network, most who live in the hotels along Colfax. We had prepared Halloween bags of goodies, toys, and school supplies for them. Mayhem ensued as the bags were passed out and the party began.

Overall, the day was a broad overview of some of the problems facing Aurora and the organizations that exist to help solve those problems. Class member Kacee Austin described it this way, “It was truly inspirational to learn about each of these organizations and their impact on our community and how we as community leaders can help them achieve their goals.”



*Yes, this is the only photo we had of Community Day!*

*“Personally, this session ignited a spark in me to become more involved in volunteer opportunities in my community and to inspire others to do the same.”*

*“Wouldn't it be wonderful if all citizens could have this opportunity to understand our Aurora Police Department? Then they would truly appreciate the work of the APD.”*



*How long has the dog been attached to your arm, Rod?*

## “In the Line of Fire”

Session Coordinators: Div. Chief Roger Cloyd (Chair), Lt. Sam McGhee

The Leadership Aurora session began the day at the District 3 substation in the Tallyn's Reach area. The morning activities included a greeting and discussion with Chief Daniel Oates, followed by a very insightful breakdown of Department Operations, Community Policing, Vice & Narcotics, Victim Services and ended with a tour of the Communication Center.

The group traveled to the Aurora Detention Center for a brief tour of the facility, and a catered lunch in the jail dining pod area, truly a unique dining experience!

The highlight of the day was a tour of the APD shooting range, and many experiences none will soon forget. Group members could see the officers pride, enthusiasm and dedication as they demonstrated SWAT techniques, K-9 handling, automatic weapon operations (Yes we actually were allowed to discharge the weapons!) and a “shoot-don't shoot” video scenario.

It was a wonderful day, and we all left with a greater understanding and respect for the job our Police Department handles on a daily basis.

## “Where Does It Hurt?”

Session Coordinators: Kathy Yeager (Chair), Mary Mulvey, Mitzi Schindler, Bob Waples

The Leadership Aurora Class 2007 was given a unique opportunity to experience first hand some of the aspects that goes into today's healthcare system. The day started at the Medical Center of Aurora (North Campus) with a wonderful breakfast and a twist sponsored by Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital. Each student was “given” a disability for the meal. For all, it meant a new approach to everyday tasks and the loss of some independence and a newfound appreciation for those living with disabilities and those that help them.

From there the class experienced a simulated cardiac arrest situation and the

rapid response of the Emergency Medical Team who then transported us via ambulance to see where future paramedics receive some of their training and advanced simulations they go through before hitting the streets.

After lunch the class was treated to insightful discussions by Dr. Joel Levine, and Dr. Vic Spitzer from the University Of Colorado School of Medicine.

The final presentation was an overview of the new Children's Hospital with its impressive architecture and state of the art medical facilities. What a coup for the City of Aurora to get such an impressive hospital after being in its current location for nearly 100 years!



*Which one's the dummy?*

*“The day turned out to be very educational and each classmate, regardless of their background, was able to take something away from the day.”*



## “School Daze”

Session Coordinators: Angela McCain and Tammy Fernandez (Co-Chairs) Kimberly Armitage, Christine Hoppe, Sheila Martin, Randy Patrick, Craig Ward, Diana Whye

The excitement filled halls of Smoky Hill High School, the quiet lock down drill at Aurora Frontier K-8, a bouncy bus ride around town, school lunch in the cafeteria, and the smell of diesel and hair spray at Pickens Tech....What a day!

Leadership Aurora had a unique opportunity to tour a number of school and educational environments in the Aurora area. The day began at Smoky Hill High School, with a welcome from Cherry Creek Schools Superintendent Dr. Monte Moses. The class was then treated to a talented group of young people and their tales of academic achievement and direction. We boarded a school bus for a trip to Aurora Public Schools new “Aurora Frontier” K-8 school.

We toured the new concept school, experienced a security lock down drill, and proceeded to have lunch with the students.

The afternoon visit to Pickens Technical College provided insight into unique workforce skills available to teens and adults. To end the day, Dr. Linda Bowman, President, Community College of Aurora, led a group discussion of “Tough Choices or Tough Times”. It was an educational and thought provoking session.

It was clear to all Leadership Aurora class members that the education system in Aurora, truly is a lifelong learning experience, and an impressive one at that!



*So, that's how they make horse shoes.*

*“It is great knowing the next generation of Aurora leaders are going to have the skills and background needed for future leadership, and it is being attained here in Aurora!”*



*Not quite ready for 'prime-time' players*

*“Our world truly has evolved into life under the “never blinking eye.”*

## “Lights, Camera, Action!”

Session Coordinators: Mark Isenburg (Chair), Sam McGhee, Mary Mulvey, Su Ryden, Mitzi Schindler, Cheryl Twesme

February found the 2006-07 Leadership Aurora class under the bright lights of the media. Actually, the lights were not all that bright as our day ended with a power outage!! A bit of crisis management was in hand for the Aurora 8 television crew who had to improvise the mock studio session. Rather than studio lights and three cameras bearing down on participants, we had sunlight, a battery operated camera and one hand held microphone. We certainly learned first-hand that keeping your cool when the unexpected happens is a must when working with the media.

Media day offered us a hands-on orientation to the media, particularly television media through our visit to KMGH 7News and

the mock studio work class members enjoyed at Aurora 8. Class members also received helpful information on what to do when being questioned at a news conference. Deputy Police Chief Terry Jones offered wise words about speaking to the press in an appropriate manner. Answering a reporter with, “I don’t answer stupid questions” is not in your best interest (even if it is an appropriate response!). Overall, media day made it crystal clear to class members that the media, both print and video, is a useful tool that organizations should pursue. Don’t wait for the media to contact you. Take the initiative, build relationships and “pitch” the stories you and your organization want the public to know about.

## “Pride and Presence”

Session Coordinators: Col Gregory Parker, John Spann

Wow! What a day we spent on Buckley Air Force Base. This military community on the east side of town is growing by leaps and bounds. We started off the day with mission briefings from Brigadier General Mike Edwards and Colonel Steve Muhs. We then toured several new facilities on base that included the new base Chapel, Fitness Center and Dormitory. We also toured one of the 351 new homes being built on base as part of the Buckley family housing project.

Throughout the day, we discovered that Buckley Air Force Base is home to more than 13,000 men and women who proudly and professionally guard our nation’s high frontier. The 460 Space Wing provides global surveillance and worldwide missile warning, while the 140 Wing Colorado Air National Guard (COANG) patrols our skies maintaining homeland defense and augments the active

force during any type of contingency operation. Buckley is home to more than 37 other units representing every branch of military service and components — Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve — and they deploy day and night to dangerous parts of the world defending our freedom.

Certainly the highlight of the day was our flight on board a KC-135 Stratotanker out of Alaska. This huge tanker aircraft took us out to Eastern Colorado where we refueled two flights of COANG F-16s. Looking out from the tail of the KC-135 as the ‘boom operator’ refueled the fighters in flight was absolutely incredible. Our two hour adventure allowed us to see first hand the tremendous training and professionalism of our men and women in uniform. Our thanks go out to these neighbors who are such a vital part of our community.



*This is the flight to Cabo, right?*

*“Off we go into the wild blue yonder, climbing high into the sun!”*



## “Wheel of Fortune”

Session Coordinators: Sheila Martin (Chair), Rich Allison, Tammy Fernandez, Christine Hoppe, David Maxwell

The Economic and Infrastructure session provided valuable insight into how the City works with all facets of the community to allow projects and developments to come together.

Class members received homework packets and group breakdowns prior to the session, and were ready to roll at the sessions start. The morning consisted of a group of speakers from The Aurora Economic Development Council and from the City of Aurora, sharing insight into the cities infrastructure and economic development.

Armed with this information, we met in groups, and were mentored by facilitators, representing Developers, City Staff, City

Council and Neighborhood Groups. The class experienced how different groups are instrumental in bringing new business to the City and what the impacts are to a community.

The second half of the session was participating in the process for a proposed development in the City, with the culmination of the day being a presentation before our City Council group, with a vote to approve the project.

The day was a great success, with all class members experiencing the complexities of large scale projects, group cooperation, conflict resolution and a renewed commitment to our community.



*Because we're the ones with the hard hats, that's why!*

*“Wow What a day! It was amazing to gain insight into how Aurora decides what businesses to seek and welcome.”*



*We're so hot, we're smokin'!*

## “Where there's Smoke...”

Session Coordinators: Fire Marshal Kevin Hammons, Capt. Hunter Hackbarth, Capt. Mike Ackman

Our last class sure sent us off with a bang. Many thanks to Captain Hunter Hackbarth, Battalion Chief Mark Stephenson, and our own classmates Mike Ackman and Bob Leigh for a wonderful day at the Aurora Fire Department Rocky Mountain Fire Academy. Captain Hackbarth kicked off the day with a department overview that provided some unique insight into how our fire fighting professionals train and what distinguishes them from their counterparts around the world.

After our police brethren, Roy and Marcus, finished their doughnuts, Chief Stephenson presented a very thorough and entertaining “Fireology 101” lesson that provided a much better understanding of combustion principles and the many dangers faced by our firefighters everyday. He highlighted the countless variety of challenges presented at each scene by doing live demonstrations of the unexpected things that can happen when the right conditions come

together to start a fire. Fortunately, Keith survived the entire experience while sitting in the front row!

After lunch and putting on bunker gear, things really heated up as we went through five training scenarios that included a six story ride above the academy grounds in the bucket of the ladder truck. Next, we climbed the five story tower, pulled on our harness, and ‘escaped’ by sliding down a telfer line to the waiting firefighters below. We then formed five man firefighting teams using the pressure hoses to stop a propane fire - “Left for Life” and “Right for Fight!” Following that, we tore open a few cars with the hydraulic extraction tools and rounded out the afternoon with an overview of the department’s HAZMAT response capabilities. Overall, this was a truly exciting day and gave us an even greater appreciation for the skill, knowledge and dedication of our firefighting professionals.



*Julie Lundquist a.k.a "flying baked potato"*

*“What a smokin’ way to wrap up our Leadership Aurora experience!”*



# 2007 Interest Directory

	Visitor Promotion	Youth Services	Transportation	Small Business	Religion	Recreation	Mental Health	Legal	Health Services	Disabled	Government	Education	Econ. Development	Community Planning	Childcare	Child Abuse	Chemical Abuse	Arts / Theater	Aging
Michael E. Ackman						■					■	■		■				■	■
Barbara Atwell	■	■	■	■	■	■			■		■	■		■		■		■	
Kacee Austin							■					■		■		■		■	
Sue Bodis											■	■		■				■	
Mike Brown				■	■							■	■	■					
Melanie M. Chatham				■		■		■	■	■		■	■	■				■	
Cheryl Clark		■	■		■	■			■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Wendy DeBell	■	■				■	■		■			■	■	■				■	
Zelda M. DeBoyes		■						■				■		■		■		■	
Kirk Downing		■				■					■	■			■			■	
Marcus Dudley, Jr.		■	■	■		■		■			■	■	■			■	■	■	
Michael Dudley	■		■	■		■												■	
Brian Egging				■		■					■	■							
Melinda Epp		■	■						■		■	■		■	■	■	■		
Steven Etter				■		■			■		■	■	■	■	■				
Ryan Evans	■	■	■	■		■		■		■			■	■				■	
Tonya Ewers		■		■		■			■		■	■	■	■				■	
Julie George			■			■			■		■	■			■				
Rebecca Gervasi			■			■	■											■	
Daryl Guill			■			■		■	■		■	■							
Rod Hullinger					■	■							■	■	■			■	
Angela Hutton-Howard		■						■				■		■					
Dan Lamphere			■	■		■						■	■						
Beth Lattone						■	■	■	■	■		■				■	■		■
Bob Leigh									■		■	■							
Julie A. Lundquist					■				■			■		■				■	
Roy Minter				■	■						■								
Brian Molitoris				■									■	■				■	
Keith Peterson			■						■			■		■					
Betsy Rogers							■								■	■		■	
Dan Sandos													■	■					
Melodie Sattler				■	■	■					■	■	■	■	■	■		■	
Jane Shirley						■	■						■				■		
Geoff Smith							■		■			■						■	
Anthony Sturges					■						■								
Bill Worrell				■							■		■						



# 2006-2007 Leadership Aurora Board



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# Playing Together



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A black and white photograph of Albert Einstein, looking directly at the camera with a surprised expression. He is wearing his signature wild white hair and thick black-rimmed glasses. He is dressed in a white lab coat over a light blue shirt and a dark tie with a repeating circular pattern. In his right hand, he holds a small glass flask containing a red liquid. The background is dark and out of focus.

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