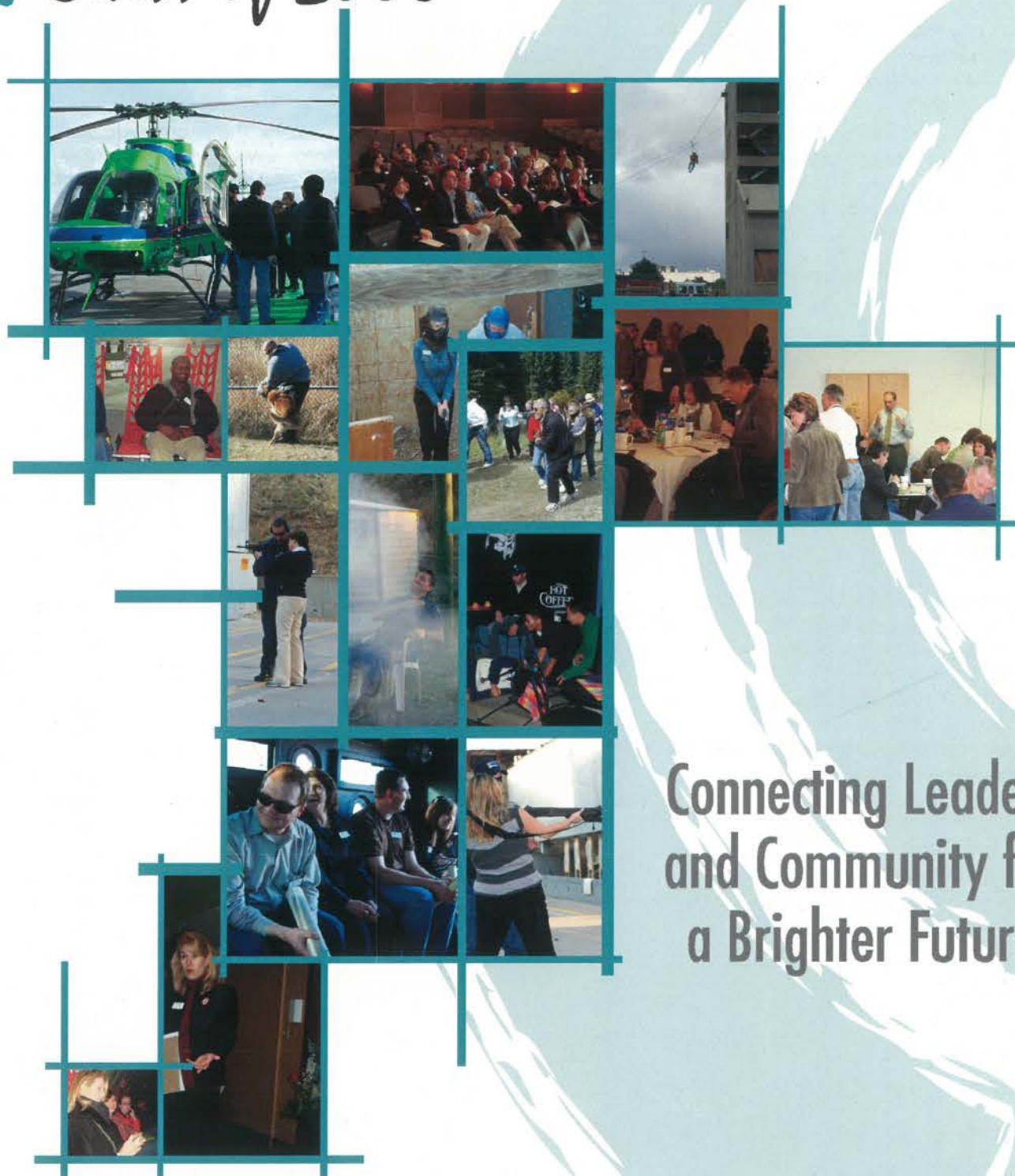


Leadership A U R O R A Class of 2008



Connecting Leaders
and Community for
a Brighter Future

Introduction

In 1984 the Aurora Chamber of Commerce introduced the "Leadership Aurora" program in an effort to promote and foster the development of leadership in our community. The program educates local leaders from diverse backgrounds about our city and prepares them for greater community involvement. Since its inception, over 700 people committed to shaping the future of Aurora have graduated from the program.

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

daylong session is centered on a community theme such as education, healthcare, or a facet of our urban infrastructure. Community leaders conduct each session and provide information through presentations, activities that involve class participation, and open dialogue with class members. Class members learn about the city's strengths and challenges. In addition to the monthly sessions, each Leadership Aurora class chooses a project (or projects) and endeavors to 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. 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 steers the program, develops the curriculum and oversees its success.

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

The Leadership Aurora
Class of 2008

Acknowledgements

The Leadership Aurora Class of 2008 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 also 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 graduates of the program who have contributed their time, energy, and enthusiasm to plan and deliver each monthly session. Very special thanks to Kimberly Curtis whose positive attitude, community insights, and leadership skills contributed to the success of each session and the once-in-a-lifetime learning experience for each class member.

Thank you also to the many speakers and personnel who led us through our monthly sessions while 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 making our contribution to the city's future.



Board Chair

An act or instance of leading; guidance; direction. Capacity or ability to lead: These are but a few of the dictionary definitions of the term leadership. It seems simple and clear yet we all have our understanding of the phrase, defined by our own experience over time.



We throw the expression around like an old football in the back yard during a childhood game. And like a trusted childhood pastime, we hold onto the image, protecting it even when faced with a new experience that may be an improvement over the old, trusted idea.

The concept of leadership is the cornerstone of our Leadership Aurora Program. It offers many and varied experiences over a nine month period where participants are challenged to face the status quo mind set in themselves as well as within the environments they operate from. You began as 36 individuals or strangers, you transformed into a cohesive group of colleagues, which through team work and cooperation, was able to produce results no individual could alone.

I am inspired as I witness the changes each class goes through; trying newly acquired skills, checking for results and creating outcomes aimed at serving their community. I feel very fortunate to be involved with people like those of you in class 2007/08 who take on life with a level of energy and commitment all too often missing in our society.

My thanks to the Leadership Aurora Board for your willingness to tackle new initiatives and your flexibility with unforeseen stumbling blocks throughout the year.

This acknowledgement is not complete without expressing my deep sense of appreciation for Kimberly Curtis without whom I could not have stayed on task throughout this year.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as this year's Board Chair. I look forward to contributing to this program for some time to come.

Sam McGhee
Leadership Board Chair
2007-08

Class President

I want to begin by saying thank you. It has been wonderful to be with such a great class over the past year and I look forward to the many more opportunities we will have to work together in the future. It's been such an honor and privilege to work with each of you. My job as President would have been much more difficult if it were not for the support and advice of many classmates and the enthusiasm shown by everyone along the way. You do so much for our communities, and I'm grateful for your friendship. I'll always be proud to have been a part of this Leadership Aurora class.



I wish to thank all of my classmates for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President. I truly feel that these last few months have been fulfilling and have given me the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the workings of our community. We've had the unique and happy opportunity to work on issues we really care about and have left a lasting legacy in the City of Aurora with the assistance we provided to Dr. Waterman in achieving her vision, the Aurora Community Connection. The citizens of Aurora have truly benefited because of our dedication and enthusiasm for this project.

The 2008 Leadership Aurora class has been exceptional every step of the way. Together we've done a lot to change the city for the better, in small ways and in large.

Wherever I go, and whatever I do, I'll remember this class. Know that as you embark on your journeys, you carry my heart and our community's hopes with you.

Lastly, I would like to leave you with a quote from President John F. Kennedy, "With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love."

Deanne Criswell
President
Leadership Aurora Class 2008

2008 CLASS PROJECTS

The class chose to do two major projects and seeing additional needs three social action projects. In all, a record setting \$91,600 in cash and inkind donations was raised.

From Inspiration to Reality

Aurora Community Connection

Vision: *Sharing Strengths, Enriching Lives, Building Communities*

The 2008 Leadership Aurora Class choose Dr. Robin Waterman's inspiration for a community center to reach out to families, build in individual strengths, enrich lives, and build strong communities, based on the belief that everyone has something to offer, regardless of formal education level or economic status.

Aurora Community Connection was chosen as the main project. Dr. Robin Waterman the director of the Aurora Community Connection Center persuaded us to partner with her in making a reality of a lasting Family Resource Center

where families can go to meet, learn and assist others. After accepting this challenge five committees were formed to assist Dr. Waterman. Our mission was to help Dr. Waterman find a location, choose a lasting name, help her form a board and help her raise funds.

The PR committee established the name, vision statement, logo design, web site and e-mail addresses, and established signage. The Organization committee assisted with the development of Articles of Organization, By-Laws, formed an interim Board of Directors established a bank account, obtained an EIN, and began the application for 501 (c) (3). The Facility committee located a permanent location, painted and decorated the offices. The Fundraising committee organized a special event featuring Tim Schurr of Shurr Success and raised over \$10,000.

AURORA COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Grand Opening of the center was May 29, 2008. As we close out our year, ACC is pending acceptance into full membership by the Family Resource Center Association and is poised to provide invaluable support to the community for years to come. Total money raised inkind donation and cash was \$44,258.



RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

While the class was figuring out which project to focus most of our energy on, it came to our attention that Ronald McDonald House needed a van to provide transportation to the families that were visiting the house. Through the connections of our classmates a van was donated on behalf of Metro Toyota Dealers and presented to the Ronald McDonald House during the grand opening. The van was filled with supplies, household items and many needed items, total value of \$46,700. Special Thanks to Jacqueline Palisi and Brice Moomaw!



SOCIAL ACTIONS



"Community Day"

It was a great start for the Leadership Class 2008. We gathered many goodies to overfill the Halloween gift bags that were distributed to the children in the Head Start Program at Lowry. To our delight we were able to hand deliver the goodie bags and enjoyed the excitement of the children.

"Holiday Project Hope"

The Leadership Class brought bags of groceries for the Holiday Project Hope at the November Class. Then class members, along with family and friends, met at Providers Resource Clearinghouse to help fill 2,500 baskets of food for families to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

"Toys for Tots"

Class members donated boxes and boxes of toys to "Toys for Tots".

"Extremely Happy Hours"

After an exciting day in class it was time to cultivate friendships, have a few laughs and unwind from the day so...off to Happy Hour we went. We visited different places such as BJ's Bar and Grill, Old Chicago, Chili's and other establishments.



2008 CLASS PROFILES

Marsha Berzins

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Birch Electric & Lighting Company
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BIRTHPLACE: Hopkinsville, KY

EDUCATION: B.S. Degree in Economics/Business
Administration Graduated Magna Cum Laude

FAMILY: Married to Andris Berzins,
Children: Monica, Andris T. Michelle, Carrie, Victoria

HOBBIES: Traveling, being a soccer and hockey
mom, watching chick flicks, cooking

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Work hard and become a leader, be lazy and never succeed."

~Proverbs 12:24

The Leadership Aurora class of 2008 has given me access to outstanding information and resources. I plan to use these and continue to serve my community and fellow citizens. I have a better understanding of Aurora's service providers and my classmates. I will always cherish this as time well-spent.

Chris Bray

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BIRTHPLACE: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

EDUCATION: Expensive MBA from Street University

FAMILY: Wife Karen of 20 years and
16 year old son, Tyler

HOBBIES: Fishing, Photography, Baseball, Traveling

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"It's not about doing a million things right. It's about doing one thing right, and repeating the process a million times."

~Saw it on a BofA commercial. Sorry, Mark.

As a private investigator in Denver metro area for 17 years, I've been fortunate to have already been introduced to the community, its services, its people and its neighborhoods. What I'll take away from this class are the connections I made with some truly impressive people who were my classmates.

Autumn Bueno

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BIRTHPLACE: Englewood, CO

EDUCATION: Completed Business Seminar
University of Southern Colorado Attended Front
Range Community College for Business Law and
Business Administration

FAMILY: Getting married September 20, 2008 to
Matthew McKennon

HOBBIES: World Wrestling Entertainment WWE,
live music, boating and shopping

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Where there is love there is life."

~Indira Gandhi

Leadership Aurora has been remarkable! I plan to contribute to the city of Aurora in part through the various agencies I've been exposed to. I sincerely value the personal and professional friendships found by being a part of Leadership Aurora 2008.

Rebecca Carter

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BIRTHPLACE: Centralia, IL

EDUCATION: Criminal Justice - Santa Fe Community
College, FL, Emergency Medical Technician-
HealthOne - CO

FAMILY: Married to an amazing man with three
beautiful children

HOBBIES: Sports, especially watching the Denver
Broncos and Nuggets

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Too much of a good thing is too much."

~unknown

Interacting with such quality people in such a personal way has been remarkable to me. I hope to continue building many of these relationships. I am very thankful for the exposure I have had within the community and look forward to growing my involvement within the community.

Joan Chandler

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Citywide Banks
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BIRTHPLACE: Korea

EDUCATION: Associates Degree - Community College of Aurora

FAMILY: Husband, a Tae Kwondo Princess, and a big puppy

HOBBIES: Reading, travel, watching Tae Kwondo, and playing with my puppy

FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"We must become the change we want to see."
~Mahatma Gandhi*

Julia Cowan

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BIRTHPLACE: Wheatridge, CO

EDUCATION: BS - Physical Therapy, University of Colorado Health Sciences Ctr. 1991

FAMILY: Husband, Chris and two children, Katelynn (14) and Ethan (4)

HOBBIES: Family, outdoor activities, health and wellness, cooking and wine

FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Don't be too timid or squeamish about your actions. All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better."
~Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Deanne Criswell

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BIRTHPLACE: Ludington, MI

EDUCATION: MPA - University of Colorado Denver
BS - Fire Service Management, Colorado State University

FAMILY: Husband, Jack and three children, RJ, Kate and Eddie

HOBBIES: Running and good wine

FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier."
~Colin Powell*

Peter Cukale

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BIRTHPLACE: Rock Springs, WY

EDUCATION: BS - Business Administration, Graceland University 2005

FAMILY: Wife, Lynda and daughters, Heather and Natalie; granddaughter, Rachel, son-in-law, Eric

HOBBIES: Traveling, baseball, softball, race-walking, anything to do with my family

FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"You are only as good or bad as your last twenty-four hours.
Use them wisely."
~John Cody*

Cheryle Derman

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BIRTHPLACE: Los Angeles, CA

EDUCATION: Certified Legal Secretary
Two years business college

FAMILY: Husband, Nate and three children, two grandchildren

HOBBIES: Travel, wine tasting, gardening, reading, spending time with family

FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"You are only young once, but you can be immature forever."
~Anonymous*

The experience earned from Leadership Aurora has been invaluable. Leadership Aurora has opened my eyes to the great need within our community and has shown me many ways an individual can contribute and make a difference. Leadership Aurora has placed me on the path to not only go into our community and make a difference, but also to be a good example for my daughter.

After working for several years in Aurora, yet not really knowing Aurora, Leadership Aurora has been amazing in providing insight into the community I work in. The opportunity to understand the challenges and successes of other businesses has been invaluable. This knowledge and the friendships developed will benefit me for many years.

Leadership Aurora has given me an incredible opportunity to develop friendships and partnerships with other community leaders. These partnerships have already been beneficial and I hope they will last long into the future. It is through these partnerships that we will all be successful community leaders.

The community resources we've been exposed to have been remarkable: business, charities, government agencies, along with the variety of field of interest and the leaders who represent them. Perhaps most important, the personal and professional friendships we have developed as a class are to be treasured.

Leadership Aurora will help me become a better leader at my business and help me utilize the knowledge I have gained from visiting the various organizations in the community. In the future I may pursue politics and volunteer on the board of one of the community outreach organizations or as a victim's advocate. I will take with me the friendships and knowledge I have gained from my classmates.

Sharlene Fairbanks-Kyte

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FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Ask big, get little; ask little, get nothing."
~Unknown

BIRTHPLACE: Wheatridge, CO

EDUCATION: BA - Speech Communication (emphasis in Broadcasting) Metro State College of Denver, 1999

FAMILY: Married with blended family - three children

HOBBIES: Snow skiing, water sports, gardening (pulling weeds) and family BBQ's

Being relatively new to Aurora, I realized this is truly a city with endless possibilities. I have never been more inspired, excited and appreciative of all that Aurora has to offer, with the biggest take away being the people who live and love their community. I plan to continue volunteering through the many opportunities here in Aurora and look forward to spreading the word to others on what this city is really about!

Kevin J. Flynn

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FAVORITE QUOTE:

"In matters of style swim with the current; in matters of principle stand like a rock."
~Thomas Jefferson

BIRTHPLACE: Davenport, IA

EDUCATION: MA - Political Science, University of Colorado 2006, BS - Business Management, Regis University 2001

FAMILY: Wife, Kathy and children, Kolleen and Kyle

HOBBIES: Reading, travel, camping, fishing

The community resources and contacts that the class was exposed to have been very informative. As leaders in the community we will face many challenges and opportunities for change. Some of these challenges will best be handled with a multi-disciplinary approach, similar to the Leadership Aurora format each of us has experienced. I will remember the personal and professional friendships that were forged through the hard work and commitment of Leadership Aurora 2008.

Mark Gouin

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FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important any one thing. Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt."
~Abraham Lincoln

BIRTHPLACE: Weymouth, MA

EDUCATION: BS - Business, University of Colorado, 1982

FAMILY: Wife, Kathe and sons, Andrew (15) and Timmy (12)

HOBBIES: Skiing, climbing 14'ers, tennis, cycling, watching live and televised sports

With new insights about Aurora, and the opportunity to develop a number of new relationships with key leaders in the community, my goal is to build upon these to become a more influential and impactful leader. I hope to ultimately do more to benefit Aurora and the surrounding community.

Jean Griego-Incitti

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FAVORITE QUOTE:

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

BIRTHPLACE: Trinidad, CO

EDUCATION: MA - Administration, Supervision and Curriculum Development, University of Colorado 1999, BA - Mathematics, University of Colorado 1990

FAMILY: Husband and one daughter

HOBBIES: Travel, cooking, watching CU football

I plan to use my knowledge of the community resources to inform and educate our school community about all that the city of Aurora has to offer. I hope to encourage them to give back to the community in which they live.

Bart Hedley

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Chief, Emergency Services
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FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Never tell a lie, that way you won't have to remember what you said"
~Father

BIRTHPLACE: Headland, AL

EDUCATION: MS - Aeronautical Management, Embry-Riddle University, DB FL, BS - Civil Engineering, University of Florida

FAMILY: Wife and daughters

HOBBIES: SCCA auto-crossing, skiing (snow/water), bass fishing, car restoration

I plan to use what I've learned mostly with emergency management contacts and support to AFSPC. I have gained considerable insight into business, education and economical support to the community.

Christopher Henderson

Battalion Chief, Aurora Fire
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City of Aurora
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BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: BS -Technology Education, Colorado State University

FAMILY: Two Children

HOBBIES: Travel, reading, cooking, sports

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"What's remarkable is...how many were able to make a way out of no way for those like me who would come after them."

~Barack Obama

Josh Hensley

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BIRTHPLACE: Troy, MO

EDUCATION: MA - Environmental Studies, University of Illinois 2000, BA - Environmental Studies, University of Kansas 1997

FAMILY: Wife, no children

HOBBIES: Reading, travel, skiing, hiking, camping, gardening, work around the house

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Even if what you're working on doesn't go anywhere, it will help you with the next thing you're doing. Make yourself available for something to happen. Give it a shot."

~Cormac McCarthy

Margo Jamieson

Senior Operations Director Medical
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BIRTHPLACE: Greenville, MI

EDUCATION: MS - Health Care Systems, University of Denver, BS - Education / Psychology, Central Michigan University

FAMILY: Husband, Gary and children, Logan and Lindsey; dogs Dexter and Abby

HOBBIES: Boating (all kinds), skiing, biking, gardening, entertaining

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Discovering the truth about ourselves is a lifetime's work, but it's worth the effort."

~Fred Rogers

Dianne Jordan

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BIRTHPLACE: Clark AFB, Philippines

EDUCATION: Metropolitan State College and Colorado Women's College Denver University - Business Communication

FAMILY: Daughter, two granddaughters

HOBBIES: Reading, travel, golf, gourmet food and wine, classic movies, musicals

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything they have."

~Unknown

Randy Kehn

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BIRTHPLACE: La Junta, CO

EDUCATION: BS - Business, Columbia College 1997
AS - Community College of Aurora 1994
AS - Finance, Community College of the Air Force

FAMILY: Single with three daughters at home

HOBBIES: School, reading, home improvement

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"The pure and simple truth is rarely pure and never simple."

~Oscar Wilde

I plan to continue to unite with my fellow class members, realizing that together we've already accomplished so much more than any one of us could have individually. This core value of "village" has proven, time and again, to overcome the greatest of obstacles.

The many experiences I have been exposed to through Leadership Aurora have provided me with a greater understanding and appreciation of the community I serve. I have also met so many brilliant and caring people through the program. I look forward to continuing these relationships for many years.

The community resources we've been exposed to have been remarkable: businesses, charities, government agencies, such a wide variety of field 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. I hope to keep these relationships going and to share business knowledge. Leadership Aurora has been an incredible opportunity.

My experience with Leadership Aurora has been "Life-Changing"! I have gained a confidence in myself that I have never had in my 50-plus years. I have met people in my class and community that have inspired me to reach for the stars. I have developed life long personal relationships. I have also developed opportunities. I only wish that I had this experience twenty years ago. Bill Gates and Oprah might be calling me for advice and request for introductions!

As I progress in my career, the opportunities to interact with the community will likely increase. Now I can approach those interactions with an increased understanding of the community. I better understand what the community has to offer and the challenges it faces.

Lori MacKenzie

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BIRTHPLACE: Pontiac, MI

EDUCATION: BA - Journalism and Mass Communications, University of Northern Colorado 1988

FAMILY: Husband, son and daughter, four stepsons

HOBBIES: Reading, travel, walking, the arts

I truly appreciate learning about all aspects of my community and the numerous resources that exist in Aurora. I will use the knowledge I have gained and the networks I have formed to continue investing in the community and giving back to this city, both on-the-job and through volunteer efforts.

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."
~Gandhi

Stephanie McDonnell

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BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: Arapahoe Community College

FAMILY: Husband, Matt and three boys - Patrick (18), Nick (16) and Joey (15)

HOBBIES: Hanging out with my family, sports of all kinds, reading and quiet time

Leadership Aurora has given me valuable insight into the community in which I work and a deep respect for the people who serve this community. I will use this experience to help guide and motivate others into being involved in their respective communities. I especially value the friendships -- personal and professional -- that have come from Leadership Aurora and look forward to long and lasting relationships.

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Love your life."
~Henry David Thoreau

Brice Moomaw

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BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: BS - Organizational Management

FAMILY: Wife, Debra and two daughters Audra (24), Kaitlin (21), son-in-law, Mike

HOBBIES: Fishing, golf, outdoors, family and volunteering

This opportunity has provided us all with new skills, attitudes and knowledge which can effectively be used in each of our leadership roles.

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can."
~George Bernard Shaw

Courtney Morehouse

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BIRTHPLACE: Doylestown, PA

EDUCATION: Graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Central Florida with a BSBA in Marketing, Minor in Psychology

FAMILY: Only child of two loving parents -- born and raised on the East coast

HOBBIES: Dancing, spending time with friends, watching football and reality TV

The knowledge I've gained about my newly adopted city is invaluable. With it, I hope to better perform my job and serve my community. In addition, the relationships I have built with my classmates will hopefully last beyond Graduation Day.

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"We are the company we keep."
~Unknown

Jacquie Palisi

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BIRTHPLACE: Englewood, CO

EDUCATION: BA - Broadcast Journalism, Metro State College 1996

FAMILY: Husband, Kurt and twin boys Max and Vince (3 1/2)

HOBBIES: Travel, shopping, dining, spending time with family and friends

The experience I've gained from Leadership Aurora has been invaluable -- meeting new people, learning about issues that affect the community I work in, and gaining a better understanding of what I can do as a leader to make a difference in the lives of others. I have been honored to be a part of such an elite group of individuals with such talent and passion. I hope to stay connected with those that I have formed friendships with.

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Work like you don't need the money, love like you've never been hurt, and dance like no one's watching."
~Unknown

Tony Poole

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BIRTHPLACE: Englewood, CO

EDUCATION: Ed.D - Educational Leadership, Nova Southeastern University 2004, MAED - Educational Administration, University of Phoenix 1999, BA - Social Sciences, University of Northern Colorado 1989

FAMILY: Wife, Jen and children Dakota, Savannah, Zoe

HOBBIES: Red wine, cooking, travel reading

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"I need more cowbell!"

~Bruce Dickinson

The connections with people will be the most important thing for me. Whether it is through the group or through the community agencies we visit, those connections will provide the foundation for effective networking and change.

Marijo Rymer

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BIRTHPLACE: Albuquerque, NM

EDUCATION: BA - Political Science, University of New Mexico, MPA - Public Administration, University of New Mexico

FAMILY: Daughters: Amy McCarty, Pam Read, and Becky Thomas—sons-in-law: Newt McCarty, Bob Read, Chuck Thomas. Grandchildren: Samantha Read (13), Lilly McCarty (9) Karina McCarty (7) Rhett Mc Carty (4) Aidan Thomas (2) Bryan Thomas (1)

HOBBIES: Politics, sewing, cooking, reading, running, playing with my grandchildren

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Only really smart people can be really funny."

~My mother - Marimae Rymer

Learning about the wide diversity—socially, politically, economically and culturally—of the city of Aurora has been fascinating and will contribute to what I need to know in order to affect public policy that provides for a full and inclusive community life for persons with developmental disabilities.

Frances Scott

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BIRTHPLACE: Montgomery, AL

EDUCATION: MBA - Operations, MBA - E-Commerce, Regis University Alpha Sigma Nu Honors 2001, BS - Textiles, Virginia Tech 1976, ISO 9001:2000 Lead Auditor, Project Management Certificate

FAMILY: Married, to Galen Amerson two adult children, Morgan and Maggie

HOBBIES: Inventing, designing, reading, writing, baking, gardening

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Only the trusting can afford honesty, for only they can see its value."

~A Course in Miracles

I am so grateful for the opportunity to have this experience and to be a part of this dynamic group of community leadership. I am not sure where this exquisite experience will ultimately lead me. It has had a profound impact on my life already.

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BIRTHPLACE: Detroit, MI

EDUCATION: MSW - Social Work, University of Denver 1992, BA - Social Work, Michigan State University 1990

FAMILY: Wife and two children, Langston (8) and Ellington (5)

HOBBIES: Cooking, golf, travel

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"We must combine the toughness of the serpent and the softness of the dove, a tough mind and a tender heart . . ."

~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Through conversation and interaction with my classmates, I walk away with new lessons on life and leadership. I will integrate these lessons into both my personal and professional life.

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BIRTHPLACE: Colorado Springs, CO

EDUCATION: MA - Counseling Psychology, University of Colorado at Denver 1989, BA - Music Therapy, Colorado State University 1982

FAMILY: Married to husband, Steve with two lively and talented sons, Grant (13), Chase (10)

HOBBIES: I enjoy the outdoors, including hiking, backpacking, skiing and walking around the lake in my neighborhood. I also love music and spend much of my "free" time in musical endeavors.

FAVORITE QUOTE:

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

~Margaret Mead

I have found the connections I have made with other individuals in the class invaluable already, and I'm sure they will continue to be. With my deepened understanding of the community, I believe that I will be better able to make decisions every day that will positively impact the Aurora citizens I serve.

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BIRTHPLACE: Gary, IN

EDUCATION: MBA - Regis University 2001
BS - Business, Indiana University 1992

FAMILY: Wife, Juli and three boys, Benjamin (5),
Brandon (3), Zachary (6 mo.)

HOBBIES: Bowling, golf, sports of any kind, family
time.

FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to
excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor."*

~Vince Lombardi

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BIRTHPLACE: Portland, OR

EDUCATION: PHD - Administrative and Policy
Studies, University of Pittsburgh 1988,
MDIV - San Francisco Theological Seminary 1973,
BA - English and Biology, Concordia College 1970

FAMILY: Wife, Peggy and son, Calvin (15)

HOBBIES: Reading, films

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"All we have to fear is fear itself."

~Franklin Roosevelt

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BIRTHPLACE: Albuquerque, NM

EDUCATION: BS - Finance, Metro State College 2000

FAMILY: Husband, Brian

HOBBIES: Travel, hiking, camping

FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"Knowledge comes by eyes always open and working hands;
there is no knowledge that is not power."*

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

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BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: Metro State College 1990-93

FAMILY: Single, no children, too many pets

HOBBIES: Fishing, muscle cars, motorcycles, sports

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Father forgive them, they know not what they do."

~Jesus

Shannon Youngquist-Lucy

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BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: BA - English Literature, University of
Northern Colorado

FAMILY: Husband, Patrick Youngquist

HOBBIES: Bicycle racing/riding, sea kayaking,
traveling, reading

FAVORITE QUOTE:

*"We can concentrate on that which unites us and secure the future for all our
children; or we can concentrate on that which divides us, and fail our duty
through argument and resentment and waste."*

~Robert F. Kennedy

I know that my experience in Leadership Aurora will give me the tools that I need to become a better leader in both my career and my personal life. The relationships that I have already forged with our group has been invaluable.

The Leadership Aurora experience has given me understanding about many aspects of life in Aurora and the people who work in the city. This understanding and the relationships with these people will help me greatly in my work, which spans a wide range of disciplines and programs at the college. I've also gained some ideas that will be useful in my teaching.

The opportunity to learn in such an in-depth way about the community has been invaluable. As an Aurora resident, the program has allowed me to view the community through new eyes and has changed my perspective. The knowledge I have gained and the relationships with the people in my class will last beyond this year.

Leadership Aurora has exposed me to our community in ways that could not be imagined in such a short period of time. The opportunities that have been presented have urged me to be involved and make an impact in the community that I work and live in, forging future relationships with fellow leaders.

People without basic life skills and the ability to read and write proficiently often end up at the bottom of the economic and social ladder. I want to help others improve their skills in those areas, so they might significantly improve their chances of living a successful life.

2008 "Creating an Effective Leadership Team" OPENING RETREAT

Session Coordinators: Sam McGhee (Chair), Bob Barké, Marcus Dudley, Mark Isenburg, Sheila Martin, Randy Patrick, Cheryl Twesme

A perfect fall weekend was ours as we began our journey into Leadership Aurora at the Iron Horse Inn in Winter Park. Sam McGhee welcomed us and started things off by asking each of us to reveal who we are through our names, what we do, and more deeply by naming a greatest hope and greatest fear. A presentation by Marcus Dudley, class President of the LA class of '07 introduced us to our year ahead. And dinner was preceded by all of us matching lists of "unique" experiences, achievements, and strengths to the person who held them, as we began to really get to know one another.

Sam and Stephen McGhee, inspired and led us through "Creating Powerful Leaders" and several exercises that revealed opportunities to learn about ourselves and to build on our strengths. The afternoon was filled with exercises that built our trust in each other, deepened our creativity, challenged our ability to communicate – without words, and revealed our team building skills.

We learned that there are many styles of leadership. Leadership encompasses all kinds of people, those who are the thinkers, those who are the doers, those who work quietly and those who are more out front. The lesson being that leadership isn't one person alone, rather it requires, collaboration and cooperation with others to get from concept to goal.



Class of 08'

We were also inspired by Aurora Police Chief Daniel Oates, Dale Mingilton, VP/Community Development of FirstBank Holding Company, and Michael Peterson, CEO of Adolfson & Peterson Construction.

Carefully calculated grouping and re-grouping of both the tables and of the class members allowed, yeah, forced us to get to know each other, so by Saturday, those brave souls willing to take on even more responsibility, stepped forward to be considered for the elected position of class president. Deanne Criswell was chosen as our mighty leader, and as her first action as president, Sharlene Fairbanks-Kyte was appointed as vice-president.

Rounding out the weekend were water guns, trips to town for libations, a well worn Yahtzee game, a few cigars, a lot of laughter, and two unfortunate emergency calls and trips down the mountain, that saw us all praying for two class members and their sons and families. We laughed, we learned, we were inspired, and we all made 35+ new friends for life.

Great thanks to everyone on the board for all your preparation and attention to every detail!



Learning about ourselves and each other.



Building a team with trust

"COMMUNITY TIES AND YOU"

Session Coordinators: Kimberly Armitage (Chair), Mary Beth Brunston, Heather Dolan-Jackson, Marcus Dudley, Randy Patrick, Su Ryden, Diana Whye

We started our exploration of the community at the newly renovated, Aurora Center for Active Adults. Susan Everett, from the Aurora Volunteer Center, gave us an overview of volunteer opportunities, available to us in service to the most vulnerable and needy citizen's of Aurora. We broke into groups of four, and with maps in hand, set out to meet with passionate leaders who reach out to the community through, historical preservation, the arts, wellness, abuse victim advocates, after school programs, charities, and outreach programs.

We learned about the many difficult issues of the people they serve and

how they support their clientele's needs on shoe string budgets, with grants, donations and fund raisers.

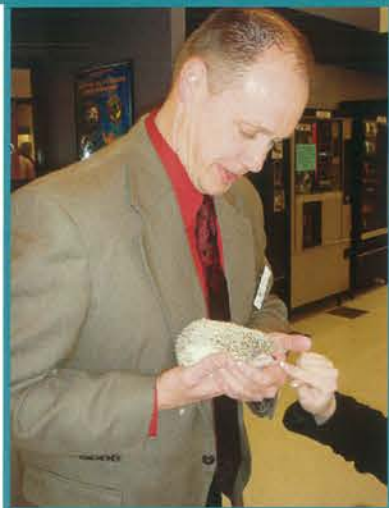
The afternoon saw us doing skits for our classmates, as a way to talk about the services offered by the two community organizations our own group visited. We ended our day on Lowry visiting with some future leaders now enrolled in the Head Start Program. We worked with them on a craft project, and then gave a Halloween bag to each of the children that was filled with stuffed animals, toothbrushes and other goodies, as our first social project of the year.



Acting— nobody said anything about acting!

EDUCATION DAY "SCHOOL DAZE"

Session Coordinators: Tammy Fernandez (Chair), Kimberly Armitage, Angela Hutton-Howard, Angela McCain, Sheila Martin, Randy Patrick, Craig Ward, Diana Whye



Hedgehogs win, hands down!

Both Aurora and Cherry Creek schools are deeply committed to the young people of our community. We were privileged to meet dedicated administrators in touch with current and future trends in technology and committed to engage and educate today's students. We heard from teachers, who daily address the diversity, and mobility of up to 55% of the student body from one school district to another each school year, and from principals who creatively and effectively solved the issues of a large student body, filled with students from all over the world, who speak dozens of languages. Immersion programs have been designed to make sure our future leaders are English literate, so they are able to advance in school and in life. Young people, challenged in some cases by financial strain at home, are

encouraged by volunteer teachers to come to school and remain engaged until they graduate.

We also learned that all students are given the opportunity to graduate from high school with college credit from Community College of Aurora, and/or Pickens Technical College. While CCA offers the more traditional advancement of higher education, Pickens Tech, one of the few vocational schools in the country, offers a wide variety of vocational education from graphic design, to auto repair and EMT training, each also teaching science, language and math in conjunction with the vocation.

Who knew dipping your hands into wax, auto body work, small engines or a visit to the doctor, could inspire such humor?

"IN THE LINE OF FIRE"

Session Coordinators: Roger Cloyd (Chair), Marcus Dudley, Sam McGhee

"In the Line of Fire" was a well organized day, jam packed with information. The session gave a broad overview of the various programs and activities in the Aurora Police Department and a glimpse into the world of law enforcement. The day began with Chief Dan Oates sharing his thoughts, strategies, plans and struggles of managing a police force of over 600 officers and trying to meet community expectations. There were also presentations on the gang culture and recruitment of new officers. The first half of the day ended

with a tour of the Communications Center. After lunch, the class traveled to the APD shooting range where the real "hands-on" learning began. The class watched demonstrations from the K-9 unit, shot automatic weapons and got an up close and personal tour of the Black Bear from the SWAT team. This was a wonderful experience for the entire class and everyone ended the day with a greater understanding and respect for the Aurora Police Department and all they do to keep the citizens of Aurora safe.



What a beautiful day to play with guns!

"WHERE DOES IT HURT?"

HEALTHCARE SESSION

Session Coordinators: Kathy Yeager (Co-Chair), Cindy Kreutz (Co-Chair), Bob Barké, Mary Mulvey, Bob Waples

The healthcare session provided a healthy dose of information on the healthcare industry. The day began with breakfast, but we found out quickly it wouldn't be an ordinary continental breakfast. The staff from Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital gave a "breakfast with disabilities" demonstration and each class member acted the part of a patient with a long-term disability navigating their way through an every day activity. It was a very eye-opening experience for all of us and it gave a newfound appreciation for the caregivers and provided a deeper sense of empathy for the individual requiring long-term rehabilitation. The bio-ethics presentation, activity and discussion that

followed was just as eye-opening.

What followed next was a Rural/Metro Ambulance ride to the Community College of Aurora emergency responders training center. Once there, the class toured the facility and watched a mock traffic accident scene training scenario. It was obvious the program does a great job implementing practical experience into their curriculum.

The day ended with a tour of University Hospital and a history lesson on the redevelopment of Fitzsimons. After a long day of demonstrations, presentations and tours the class felt very fortunate to have the caliber of medical facilities and personnel that it has in its community.



Experiencing what it is like to have physical challenges

MEDIA SESSION

"LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION"

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



Today's weather is clear and green.

Media Day found the class spending their time between press conferences, tours of the News4 helicopter and studio, and hands-on experiences at Aurora's public TV station, KACT-8. The day started with Deputy Police Chief Terry Jones answering questions from the class in a mock press conference. We left with a better understanding of the challenges facing communication officers when balancing the needs of reporters to inform the public and protecting the integrity of information for criminal investigations.

Next, we had the opportunity to speak with pilot John Mulvey and get an up-close look at the News4 helicopter. This was followed by a tour of the News4 studio and a discussion

with noon anchor Tom Mustin. The class got the chance to sit in the studio during the noon news broadcast. It was a fascinating behind the scenes look at how news stories are selected, produced, and delivered to the public. The afternoon included discussions with journalists Bill Clarke and John Temple and a hands-on opportunity to be both in front of and behind the cameras at KACT-8.

The day provided the class the opportunity to improve their understanding of news production and delivery. The lessons learned will assist class members in how media may be utilized to promote organizational goals and reach a broad audience for their message.

ECONOMIC & INFRASTRUCTURE SESSION

"WHEEL OF FORTUNE"

Session Coordinators: Rich Allison (Chair), Tammy Fernandez, Sheila Martin, David Maxwell, Mitzi Schindler, Cheryl Twesme, Bob Waples

A rousing day of role playing allowed us to experience the rigors of local government. With a redevelopment project involving a run down hotel adjacent to the Fitzsimons Medical Campus as our focus, we broke into groups and role-played the developer, local "Juicy" and other affected neighbors, city employees making sure codes were met and the review process went smoothly, and City Council following formal procedures attempting to render a fair and final decision.

Seriously though, the importance of local government can be easily overlooked because it rarely receives the press coverage that national government does, even though local government decisions touch our lives

everyday. One need only understand the process to see that getting involved is actually vital.

We witnessed that Aurora's elected government leaders, and civil servants care deeply about Aurora, and that volunteers from neighborhood groups offer critical input into decisions about development and growth. City Council meetings are open to anyone who desires to attend, and citizens are invited to speak up and speak out about pressing issues.

Go ahead and get involved -- you never know, something about you may be revealed you didn't know you were capable of.



"Juicy" Jacquie presents the colorful side of neighbors

"PRIDE AND PRESENCE"

Session Coordinators: Gregory Parker (Chair), Barbara Atwell, John Spann

OK, so the really exciting part of the day was the flight aboard a KC-135 Stratotanker while it refueled midair eight Colorado Air National Guard F-16's over the southern Colorado Mountains. I'm not going to pretend it wasn't, but there were so many other aspects to the day that were just as appealing. The class of 2008 learned about all Buckley has to offer and the impact it has on the city of Aurora and its residents. Buckley Air Force base is home to over 13,000 men and women who serve our country proudly. It is a hub of activity that involves local and national objectives that most of us will never be aware of and there is so much that goes on "inside the fence" that most of us don't take notice of the gigantic "golf balls" as we drive by and go about our busy lives. We look

towards the sky when we hear the roar of the jets as they fly in formation, all the while thousands of men and women representing all branches of the military are hard at work serving and protecting our country.

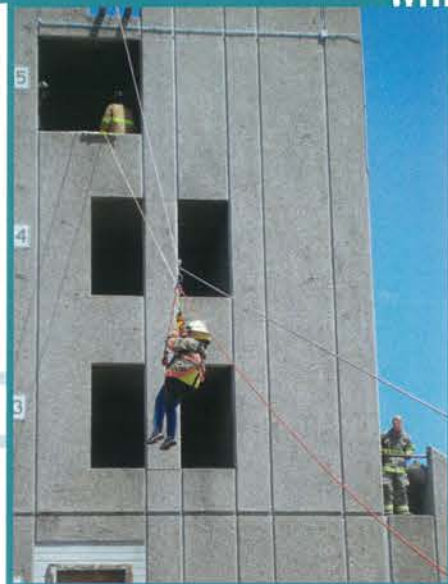
We learned that Buckley is more than just a place to work, it is home to hundreds of military families who play, shop and worship inside its fences. The improvements Buckley has made are more apparent everyday, from the five-star recreation facility to the beautiful new church and car wash; it really can be called a city within a city. It was a day filled with excitement and awe at the incredible amount of training, professionalism and sense of honor that is instilled in the men and women of Buckley, who are such a vital part of this community.



Passing gas at 400mph!

FIRE DAY SESSION "WHERE THERE'S SMOKE"

Session Coordinator: Mark Ricard



Jump we'll catch you!

Little things are important. Aurora Fire Chief Mike Garcia shared this thought with the Leadership Aurora Class as we started our day at the Rocky Mountain Fire Academy. Although Chief Garcia's discussion was about little things, he and the other members of the Aurora Fire Department had a "big" day planned for the class.

First, the class received some training regarding fire behavior. Battalion Chief Mark Stephenson demonstrated different characteristics of fire. These "experiments" combined with slide pictures of fire or other hazards were an eye opener regarding the many situations faced by the men and women of the Aurora Fire Department. Next, Deputy Chief Mark Ricard provided a department overview as well as a presentation of the new video

to be used for recruiting purposes. Afterward, the class was treated to a fire demonstration by the current recruits.

With bellies full from a BBQ lunch prepared by the Chief and others of the AFD Executive staff, the class began their "hands-on training" in the afternoon. Each class member "bunkered up" in fire protection suits and visited several drill stations. These included putting out a liquid propane gas fire, taking a telfer line out of a five story building, riding in the bucket of a ladder truck, search and rescue in a "lights out" maze, and some hazardous materials training. All these experiences really shed a light on the daily hard work, expertise, and dedication of the men and women who choose to uphold the motto that "life counts"!

2007-08

	Visitor Promotion	Youth Services	Transportation	Small Business	Religion	Recreation	Mental Health	Legal	Health Service	Disabled	Government	Education	Econ. Development	Community	Childcare	Child Abuse	Chemical Abuse	Arts / Theater	Aging
Marsha Berzins	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■		■	■	■	■					■
Chris Bray	■							■			■	■				■			
Autumn Bueno	■		■	■	■	■		■					■	■					
Rebecca Carter									■					■					
Joan Chandler	■			■		■			■		■	■	■	■					■
Julie Cowan						■			■	■	■			■			■		■
Deanne Criswell						■			■		■			■				■	
Peter Cukale	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Cheryle Derman	■	■		■					■		■		■	■		■		■	
Sharlene Fairbanks-Kyte	■			■		■			■	■	■		■	■				■	
Kevin Flynn		■				■	■		■			■	■	■		■		■	
Mark Gouin				■	■	■				■			■	■				■	
Jean Griego-Incitti		■				■						■			■	■		■	
Bart Hedley		■	■			■						■							
Chris Henderson	■	■			■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■		■		■	■
Josh Hensley	■	■				■					■	■	■	■					■
Margo Jamieson						■			■			■				■			
Dianne Jordan	■			■												■	■	■	
Randy Kehn			■								■			■				■	
Lori MacKenzie											■	■						■	
Stephanie McDonnell							■		■							■			■
Brice Moomaw		■				■		■			■	■		■		■			■
Courtney Morehouse									■				■	■			■	■	
Jacqueline Palisi	■	■				■			■		■	■	■	■	■	■		■	
Tony Poole	■	■		■			■	■	■	■		■							■
Marijo Rymer								■		■	■					■			
Frances Scott				■						■	■	■	■	■		■			■
Damon Smith						■	■	■				■			■	■		■	
Kathie Snell		■					■		■			■		■		■		■	
William Voloch									■				■						
Chris Ward	■			■	■				■		■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■
Terri Whitley												■		■					
Bryan Wyatt				■		■							■	■					
Shannon Youngquist-Lucy												■		■		■			

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