

Leadership A U R O R A CLASS OF 2012



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Class of 2011



David J. Barber

Broker Associate

303-671-3037

www.DaveSellsMetroDenver.com

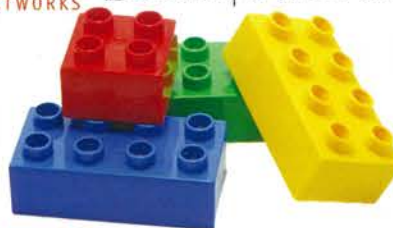
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INTRODUCTION

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

The Class of 2012 brought together 36 future leaders, all with diverse backgrounds, and in ten months, created a group of united leaders to build a stronger Aurora for tomorrow. In the end, all 36 are committed to continuing to shape Aurora's future.

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. Topics are presented by prominent individuals from the public and private sectors. Additional activities include case studies, site visits, interactive and "hands-on" experience.

Participants also work in teams on projects of their own design to provide tangible solutions to various community challenges. The community actually becomes the classroom. In addition to the monthly session, each Leadership Aurora class chooses a project (or projects) designed to help local organizations address their needs or the needs of the community.

Leadership Aurora is one of more than 1,000 community programs in the nation, and a member of the Association of

Leadership Professionals, 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 and commend their dedication to serving Aurora and influencing its ongoing progress toward becoming a world-class city.

The Leadership Aurora
Class of 2012

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Leadership Aurora Class of 2012 is very grateful for having been taught by fine Aurora leaders.

Our deepest gratitude and thanks to the Leadership Aurora Board. The board took their time to enrich our professional and personal lives by providing unique opportunities. They started with an impactful class retreat, filled with funny and memorable activities to bond the group and encouraged us to move forward in our newest adventure. They organized monthly class sessions and helped us get a taste of our community through dozens of unique activities. Thank you for your dedication to the leaders of Aurora!

Through contact with a wide range of professionals, Leadership Aurora participants have the opportunity to expand their influence on the community.

The sessions were varied: community programs, non-profits, police, fire, EMS, healthcare, education, military presence, media and communications, economic, and infrastructure awareness.

We could not have been successful without the Leadership Aurora Program Director, Kimberly Curtis. She kept us on task as a class and ensured the sub-committees had all the support they needed to execute each month's session. Thank you for your leadership, your passion, and most of all your patience!

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to those organizations and companies that opened their doors, their

staff, and their training to our class this year. Without you, the program would be lifeless. Thank you for sharing your time, expertise, and energy with our class.

Leadership Aurora provided the Class of 2012 the opportunity to broaden our knowledge of the community, enhance leadership skills, and the privilege of giving back to those most in need. The experiences and friendships developed through this program will be everlasting. Thank you again for supporting this extraordinary program.



BOARD CHAIR

Dear Class of 2011-12

It's been very rewarding to see your group come together. When we started the class most of you didn't know each other at all. From the retreat on, the group seemed to gel well, and I hope you will remain friends for years to come and make an effort to stay in touch and work together now and in the future.

The goal is to create a group of people who will move forward and foster a greater sense of community. My hope is that I will see many of you involved in the community and continue the legacy of the leadership program. I hope the experience of the retreat and the sessions has helped you develop an area of passion. Use this passion and excitement to strike while the iron is hot and get involved. Perhaps in the future, I might even see some of you on the



Leadership Aurora Board.

I would like to thank the group for making my role as the Chair an easy one. You were a delight to work with.

A special thanks to the Leadership Aurora Board. The board works very hard to make sure that each session runs well. Every year we have challenges and the board does a great job. They listen to

the classes and make changes as needed to improve the experience. A special thanks to Kimberly Armitage and Mary Beth Brunston who are leaving the board after their term ends in May. They are irreplaceable and the contributions they have made will be missed.

In closing, I hope that Ryan Evans has a great class next year as he is the new incoming chair. We are always recruiting for the next class; so please help us to find the next great class.

Last, but most importantly, the program wouldn't be what it is without all the hard work and leadership of Kimberly Curtis.

Regards,

Bob Jamieson
Leadership Aurora Board Chair
2011-12

CLASS PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow leaders,

I'd like to start this letter with a question. How often are you given the opportunity to make a change? Some will say that the opportunity presents itself every day, but the change I'm referring to is the deep and lasting sort. Leadership Aurora has given each and every one of us the unique privilege of making this kind of change not only in our community but in ourselves.

As early as our retreat in September, I was able to recognize the amazing group of individuals that our Director Kimberly Curtis and the Leadership Aurora board had assembled. We all come from different professional, social and ethnic backgrounds but despite our differences we quickly came together to form a team. Our team lives by the motto "Uniting today's leaders to build a stronger Aurora for tomorrow" and unite we did! Throughout our time together the Leadership Aurora program allowed us to see our city in a different light and exposed us to people and situations most of us



would never see. Sharing these experiences together not only allowed us to open our eyes to our community but also forge lasting relationships.

Our class project was no small feat! We decided to partner with the Aurora Salvation Army. As our project got underway we quickly realized that there was a lot we could do for the Army. At the end of our project we were able to give many rooms in the building a fresh coat of paint, we were

also able to get new chairs and counter tops donated for a new computer lab, and last but not least, we put a system in place for the Salvation Army to manage their annual toy drive. This part of the project will have a long lasting effect on their ability to manage the intake of toys throughout the year and keep an inventory of on-hand toys for children and families when the holiday season comes. This work not only touched the lives of many people, but it also helped a great organization.

In closing I would like to thank my classmates. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president. I will forever remember the great responsibility you placed in my hands and will be forever indebted to you for the changes I had to make personally and professionally to be that person.

All my best,

Daniel Rodriguez
Class President 2012

2012 CLASS PROFILES



ELIZABETH R. AGRESTI



140th Wing Executive Officer /
Community Manager
140th Wing, Colorado Air National Guard
140 South Aspen Street
Stop#37, Buckley AFB
Aurora, CO 80011
720-847-9558
elizabeth.agresti@ang.af.mil

I will cherish the connections I have made through this experience and value the new awareness I have of the numerous and amazing community organizations that surround us in the City of Aurora. I'm grateful that Leadership Aurora has provided me an exciting opportunity to promote solid partnerships between the 140th Wing and the local community.

BIRTHPLACE: Colorado Springs, CO
EDUCATION: BS-Computer Information Systems, Colorado Christian University (2001)
M.Ed. – Education & Human Resource Studies (2009)
FAMILY: Husband - Dan; Daughter - Lauren Grace (7); Son - Ryan David (3)
HOBBIES: Taking and editing photos, reading, doing crafts with my children, exercising with my very personal trainer...my husband.

FAVORITE QUOTE "Whatever you are, BE A GOOD ONE!"
— Abraham Lincoln...my favorite president!

BIRTHPLACE: Salt Lake City, UT
EDUCATION: BS: Science Education (magna cum laude) Weber State University, 1997
FAMILY: Married to Brenda; seven incomparable kids.
HOBBIES: Hunting, fishing, reading, gardening, beekeeping.

This experience will allow me to become a stronger advocate for our community. I have made some great friendships through this program and will continue to nurture them. Aurora has been good to me; I will continue to do my part to make this a great place for my children to live and work.

FAVORITE QUOTE "You can be wise and happy or stupid and miserable; the choice is yours."
—Gordon Hinckley

Account Manager/Corporate Trainer
Advantage Security
13693 E. Iliff Ave. Suite 200
Aurora, CO 80014
303-755-4407janderson@
advantagesecurityinc.com

JEFF ANDERSON



GREG BAKER



Manager, Aurora Water
Public Relations
Aurora Water
15151 E. Alameda Pkwy., STE. 3600
Aurora, CO 80012
303-739-7081
gbaker@auroragov.org

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

BIRTHPLACE: Santa Monica, CA
EDUCATION: BA – Communication Arts, University of Wisconsin
FAMILY: Wife – Jan; Child – Cody
HOBBIES: Camping, snowshoeing, astronomy

FAVORITE QUOTE "Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing."
— Abraham Lincoln

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO
EDUCATION: Oakwood University
Business Admin - Huntsville, AL
Emily Griffith Opportunity School
Interior Design - Denver, CO
National Career Development Association
Facilitator - Denver, CO
Front Range Community College
Business Ethics - Denver, CO
FAMILY: Husband of 25 years- Earsul II,
Son- Earsul III Grandson- Earsul IV and
Granddaughter- Harmonie
HOBBIES: Singing, Travel, Reading, Cooking
and Entertaining

Participating in Leadership Aurora, has allowed me to gain a better understanding and a deeper appreciation for the Aurora community. I have become more involved with the community and am thankful for the new avenues available to me. The fellowship with the 2012 classmates was wonderful and I look forward to future endeavors.

FAVORITE QUOTE "Life is like a box of chocolate, you never know what you're going to get."
— Forrest Gump

Lead Worker/ Career Center Specialist III
Aurora Adams County Workforce and Business
Center
3538 Peoria St Ste 511
Aurora, CO 80011
303-363-9382
rbanks@adcogov.org

RACHEL BANKS



JON BARBER



Owner / Partner
Artistic Apparel
15801 East Centretech Circle, Unit B
Aurora, CO 80011-9004
303-363-4020
jonbarber@forpromos.com

Leadership Aurora has given me insights into how the city of Aurora is governed as well as how city services and agencies work together with the private sector. I have a deep appreciation for the quality of leadership in this community. The relationships I have developed will last a lifetime.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

— Abraham Lincoln

BIRTHPLACE: Englewood, CO

EDUCATION: BS – Business Management, Metro State College of Denver (1997)

MBA—Healthcare, Regis University (2011)

FAMILY: Husband—Anthony; daughters Angelina 10; Adriana 6

HOBBIES: Reading, Camping, Scrapbooking, Cooking

I've learned so much about our community! It has created a new sense of belonging and being part of something bigger with purpose. One way I plan to apply this experience is by leaning on the resources within our community who have the expertise and knowledge to make a difference.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Just show up and be real because there is more power in "We" than in "Me"

— Unknown

STEPHANIE BENINTENDI

Director, Patient Access
Children's Hospital Colorado
13123 E 16th Ave B185
Aurora, CO 80045
720-777-8021

Stephanie.benintendi@childrenscolorado.org



KINDER BLACKE



Public Affairs Officer
140th Wing, Colorado Air National Guard
18860 E. Breckenridge Ave
Buckley AFB, Aurora, CO 80011
720-847-6164
kinder.black@ang.af.mil

I will cherish the friendships and professional connections I have made through Leadership Aurora and hope to continue to work with this high-caliber group of people to benefit the Aurora community. I also hope to continue to develop the mutually beneficial relationships between the 140th Wing and the surrounding community.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"I just like to smile, smiling's my favorite."

— Buddy the Elf

BIRTHPLACE: Kansas City, MO

EDUCATION: BS – Criminal Justice, University of Central Missouri (2002)

Pursing Masters in Nonprofit Management, Regis

HOBBIES: Sports (playing and watching), outdoors (camping, hiking), traveling

I have a new found respect for Aurora. This experience has really opened my eyes to what a great city Aurora is and all it has to offer. After working the streets as a police officer for the last nine years and dealing with at times the less desirable side of Aurora, this experience was very refreshing.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"I am not concerned with your liking or disliking me... All I ask is that you respect me as a human being."

— Jackie Robinson

CASSIDEE CARLSON

Sergeant / Public Information Officer
Aurora Police Department
15001 E Alameda Pkwy
Aurora, CO 80012
303-739-6616
ccarlson@auroragov.org



STEVE CLAGG



Chief Information Officer
Aurora Public Schools
82 Airport Blvd.
Aurora, CO 80011
303-326-1985
sdclagg@aps.k12.co.us

I have learned so much about Aurora and the many resources available to and for the community. I hope to continue to build partnerships with the people I have met through Leadership Aurora to improve the student experience at Aurora Public Schools and the community as a whole.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"You can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant (excepting Alice)."

— Arlo Guthrie (1947-)

BIRTHPLACE: Terre Haute, Indiana

EDUCATION: BSBA – Accounting, University of Nebraska

MBA – University of Denver

FAMILY: Son Dillon, Dogs Mocha and Bailey

HOBBIES: Reading, Golf, Snowboarding, Diving, Cycling, Baseball, Wine Tasting

TOM HENLEY



Area Manager, Community and
Government Relations
Xcel Energy
2070 S. Valentia St.
Denver, CO 80231
303-671-3901
tom.henley@xcelenergy.com

I am looking for new and different ways for myself and my company to become involved and engrained in the community even more than we are now. I believe the opportunities I have gotten through Leadership Aurora to learn more about our city will enable me to do that.

BIRTHPLACE: Kearney, Nebraska

EDUCATION: BA in Journalism, Colorado State University, Minor in Political Science

FAMILY: Son, Colton

HOBBIES: Football, Basketball, Golf, Soccer, Hiking and camping and hanging out with my son.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Live life to the fullest!"
— Robert Louis Stevenson

BIRTHPLACE: Lincoln, NE

EDUCATION: BSBA – Finance, University of Nebraska

FAMILY: Wife Leigh, Daughter Carolyn, Son Richie

HOBBIES: Golf, Fishing, Hunting and Travel

To be a steward for the City of Aurora and help those involved in promoting the City of Aurora by making it a great place to work and live.

Business Banking Team Leader
Senior Vice President
KeyBank
1675 Broadway, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80202
720-904-4263
James_L_Hitz@keybank.com



FAVORITE QUOTE

"We spend too much time thinking of our next response rather than listening."
— Clint Eastwood (thanks to Dom at Mix 100!)

KAREN HOOKSTADT



Occupational Therapy Supervisor
Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital
900 Potomac Street
Aurora, CO 80011
303-363-5399
Karen.hookstadt@healthonecares.com

I have learned so much about our community and am so thankful for the access granted to us to learn about our community leaders. My newly gained knowledge and insight has restored the importance of volunteerism and I will continue to stay active in our community. I am thankful for the friendships that developed over the year.

BIRTHPLACE: Harvard, Illinois

EDUCATION: BS – Occupational Therapy (University of Illinois at Chicago); 1989
CEES—Certified Ergonomic Evaluation Specialist; 2000

FAMILY: Four Fantastic Brothers, very close friends and my four legged best friend: Aspen

HOBBIES: Traveling, Hiking, Snowshoeing, Skiing, Reading

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Whether you think you can, or you think you can't- you're right."
— Henry Ford

BIRTHPLACE: Los Angeles, CA

EDUCATION: BS, Finance, University of Colorado at Boulder

FAMILY: Father, Bill. Mother, Juliet. Sisters, Kristen, Elaina, Rachelle, Lilli. Brother, Joel.

HOBBIES: Sports, Reading, Traveling, Attending Nuggets Games, Trying New Restaurants

Leadership Aurora has enabled us to further understand the obstacles Aurora faces on a daily basis. The program has emboldened its members with a desire and basis for furthering our community. We have also made friendships that will last well after the program has concluded.

Assistant Vice President
FirstBank
2300 S Havana St
Aurora, CO 80014
303-696-2904
Brent.Hubbell@efirstbank.com



FAVORITE QUOTE

"We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars."
— Oscar Wilde

BRENT HUBBELL

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, Colorado
EDUCATION: MA. Lesley University, 1988
 BA. Regis University 1970
FAMILY: Husband, Robert, Children: Jeff, Jenna, Loren and three grandchildren
HOBBIES: Family outings, travel, music, excellent wines, walking the dogs in the woods

I hope to work with many public and private agencies to increase the awareness of how an understanding of mental health "wellness" can be a strengthening force for any community. With knowledge of this ever growing City and an interest in the overall welfare of its government, public and private agencies, I hope to work in partnership with many entities in order to continue to make Aurora a truly dynamic City.

MARLENE A. HUSSON

6207 N. Elbert Place
 Parker, CO 80134
 720-256-6500
 marleneannhusson@gmail.com



FAVORITE QUOTE

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."
 — Maya Angelou

CELESTE JOHNSON, PHR



Human Resource Manager
 RTL Networks, Inc.
 2460 W. 26th Ave., Suite 250-C
 Denver, CO 80211
 303-757-3100
 cjohnson@rtl-networks.com

It has been great to see what I have actually missed while living in Aurora for 20+ years. This has been exciting opportunity to meet a great group of leaders within our community and network with them.

BIRTHPLACE: San Jose, CA
EDUCATION: PHR – Professional in Human Resources (2011)
FAMILY: Husband – Terry, Children – Anthony -21, Shawn-18, Dakota-14
HOBBIES: Reading, Baking, Camping, Hiking

FAVORITE QUOTE

"All great achievements require time."
 — Maya Angelou

BIRTHPLACE: Madison, WI
EDUCATION: Psy.D. Rutgers University 2004
 Psy.M. Rutgers University 2002
 BA- Psychology and Spanish, Wesleyan University 1996
FAMILY: Husband and two children
HOBBIES: Travel, hiking, reading, swimming

I have enjoyed learning so much about our great community! I am excited and inspired by the professionals I have met through Leadership Aurora and I look forward to furthering those relationships in the years to come.

MARA KAILIN

Program Director, Child and Family North and School-based Teams
 Aurora Mental Health Center
 1504 Galena St.
 Aurora, CO 80010
 303-617-2635
 Marakailin@aumhc.org



FAVORITE QUOTE "Life is full of cactus, but you don't have to sit on it."
 — Lorin Guadagnoli

RALPH KASPER



Chief Estimator
 Adolfson & Peterson
 Construction, Inc.
 797 Ventura Street
 Aurora, CO 80011
 303-363-7101
 rkasper@a-p.com

Leadership Aurora has opened my eyes to the many great things that Aurora has to offer and continues to improve upon as well as the struggles it deals with. I intend to make Aurora a better place to live by using my skills, interests and relationships to focus my attention to areas within the community where I can make a difference. Specifically I plan becoming involved in education through the Aurora Public Schools and the Downtown Aurora area through Restoration Outreach Programs. The relationships that have been developed within the class have been tremendous and I look forward to getting to continuing them for many years.

BIRTHPLACE: South Lake Tahoe, CA
EDUCATION: BS – Construction Management, University of Nevada Las Vegas
FAMILY: Wife - Stacey; daughters Bayleigh 13; Genevieve 11
HOBBIES: Fly Fishing, Camping, Hiking, Skiing, Gardening

FAVORITE QUOTE

"The grass is greenest where it is watered. When crossing over fences, carry water with you and tend the grass wherever you may be."
 — Robert Fulghum

MARENA LERTCH



Senior Supervisor
Aurora Public Safety Communications
Department
23911 E. Arapahoe Rd
Aurora, CO 80016
303-627-3103
mlertch@auroragov.org

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Life is like photography-you use the negatives to develop."

— Unknown

I appreciated the opportunity to become exposed again to the need for community involvement and the volunteer spirit that is easily put on the backburner when life becomes busy. I realized just how important the volunteer spirit is for fulfillment in my life- Thank you for bringing my life back to center!

BIRTHPLACE: Aurora, Colorado

EDUCATION: BA - Exercise Physiology Metro State 1994

FAMILY: Husband-Christian; Children- Brandon 18, Connor 18, Lauren 3 and Caiden 1

HOBBIES: Sports, reading, hiking and family

BIRTHPLACE: Tallahassee, Fla.

EDUCATION: BA, Creative Writing, The Florida State University

JD, The University of Denver College of Law

LL.M. (Taxation), The University of Denver College of Law

FAMILY: Spouse: Michelle; Children: Riley, Bailey, Andrew and Noelle

HOBBIES: Reading, Outdoor Activities, Aviation

Aurora is an amazing community. My LA experience has given me a better understanding of the challenges we face and, at the same time, confidence in the community to continue moving forward. I plan to continue working with other community leaders to help keep Aurora moving forward.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"It is not the critic who counts. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena."

— Theodore Roosevelt

OREN VON LIMBAUGH



Attorney
The Limbaugh Law Firm
6551 S. Revere Pkwy., Ste. 290
Centennial, CO 80111
303-662-9922
von@thelimbaughlawfirm.com

CHRISTOPHER LOCKWOOD



EMT-Paramedic, EMS Operations Supervisor
Rural/Metro Ambulance of Colorado
3350 Peoria Street
Aurora, CO 80010
303-343-7098 Ext. 340
christopher.lockwood@rmetro.com

FAVORITE QUOTE

"We, the unwilling, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much, for so long, with so little, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing."

— Konstantin Josef Jirek

As a person that lives and works in the city of Aurora, the future of our community is of great importance to me. I grew up here, and have seen HUGE changes just in my few years! Using the experiences, friends, and contacts that I've gained through this program, I hope to continue to assist in the growth and prosperity of this city and the people who call Aurora "home"!

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, Colorado

EDUCATION: EMT-Paramedic Certificate, Community College of Aurora

Fine Woodworking Program, Red Rocks Community College

FAMILY: Wife - Jennifer

HOBBIES: Golf, fishing, and woodworking

BIRTHPLACE: Los Angeles, CA

EDUCATION: BA- Linguistics, University of California, San Diego (1998)

1st Level Sommelier - International Sommelier Guild, Metro State College of Denver (2004)

FAMILY: Husband- Gregorio "Benji" Macias; Dogs- Lucky "Chones" Macias 6; Peyton "Panini" Macias 1

HOBBIES: Food and Beverage, Sports, Reading

This experience has taught me so much more about the city in which I live and work than I ever would have learned on my own. I have already begun to apply my new knowledge to my everyday work and home lives. I will continue to share my new inside knowledge to help build Aurora.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"True champions aren't always the ones that win, but those with the most guts."

— Mia Hamm

Catering Sales Manager
Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que
45 Inverness Dr. East
Englewood, CO 80112
303-861-2397 x. 22
rachel@fdcatering.com

RACHEL MACIAS



RICHARD MAESTAS



Vice President of Administration/CFO
Community College of Aurora
16000 E Centertech Pkwy
Aurora, CO 80011
303-360-4751
richard.maestas@ccaaurora.edu

FAVORITE QUOTE

"If you think education is expensive - try ignorance."

— Derek Bok

First of all, my classmates are some of the most dedicated and wonderful people I have met. I plan to promote access to education as a stepping stone to success not only at a personal level but at a community level.

BIRTHPLACE: San Luis, Colorado

EDUCATION: MBA - Colorado State University - Pueblo

BSBA - Accounting, Colorado State University - Pueblo

FAMILY: Children - Amanda and Daniel

HOBBIES: Travel, Sports, Arts and Theatre

SCOTT D. MILLS



Shift Commander,
Chief of Special Operations
Aurora Fire Department
15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Suite 4100
Aurora, CO 80012
303-326-8999
smills@auroragov.org

The increased exposure to other facets of the Aurora community will enhance my knowledge of challenges and resources available in the city, as well as expand my networking possibilities with members of the class.

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO
EDUCATION: AS - Fire Science Technology
- Red Rock community College
BS - Fire Service Administration and Training, Colorado State University
FAMILY: Wife - Michelle; Daughter - Ciera
HOBBIES: Home improvement, guitar, golf, travel

FAVORITE QUOTE

"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."

— Bill Cosby

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, Colorado
EDUCATION: BA - Speech Communications, Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA
FAMILY: Wife: Grace, Children: Caitlin, Matthew, Erin, Mollie & Cara
HOBBIES: Biking, Outdoors, Fishing

Being in Leadership Aurora has been a great experience! Being out in the community has giving me a sense of what needs to be done and I feel I can contribute to making Aurora a better place to live and work.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"A hug is a great gift - one size fits all, and it's easy to exchange."

— Unknown

BILL MORAN



Business Relationship Manager
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
1740 Broadway
Denver, CO 80274
303-863-6966
william.j.moran@wellsfargo.com or
williamjmoran@yahoo.com

BRILEY PETERS



Director of Marketing
Visit Aurora
15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. Ste. 5200
Aurora, CO 80012
303-326-8696
brileypeters@visitaaurora.com

Leadership Aurora has been a great avenue for me to not only get to know the community better, but to meet some key people who are advocates for the City. They will be a great asset moving forward for me to pass on to community members and visitors alike.

BIRTHPLACE: Waterloo, IA
EDUCATION: BA Leisure, Youth & Human Services, University of Northern Iowa
HOBBIES: Tennis, baking, listening to live music

FAVORITE QUOTE

"It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."

— Albus Dumbledore

BIRTHPLACE: Albuquerque, NM
EDUCATION: BS - Business Administration Regis University
FAMILY: Son - London
HOBBIES: Music, Golf, Biking

I'll be more involved with volunteering in the community. My time with Leadership Aurora has made me more aware of the large number of people in our community that are in need, and aware of the great programs that work to help them. I also hope to maintain the excellent friendships I've made long after our class is done!

FAVORITE QUOTE

"It's never too late!"

— Unknown

Director of Information Technology
City of Aurora
15151 E Alameda Pkwy
Aurora, CO 80012
303-739-7369
mpray@auroragov.org

MARK PRAY



LISA REDDEL



Director of Health, Wellness and Facility Support Services
Cherry Creek School District
Educational Services Center
4700 South Yosemite Street
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
720-554-4444
lreddel@cherrycreekschools.org

Leadership Aurora has been a terrific community exploration and networking experience. I hope to connect and collaborate with community members to help enhance education, health and wellness in Aurora.

BIRTHPLACE: Colorado
EDUCATION: MA - Virginia Tech
BS - Mary Washington College
FAMILY: Married
HOBBIES: Exercise, Reading, Travel, Movies

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Life isn't a matter of milestones, but of moments."

— Rose Kennedy

ELLEN REHMAR



Director, Talent Management
University of Colorado Hospital
12401 E 17th Avenue
Aurora, CO 80045
720-848-6818
ellen.rehmar@uch.edu

The community of Aurora is dynamic, diverse, and complex. There is a tremendous energy in Aurora that manifests itself in the public and private arenas. I am excited to learn about the city and I look forward to continued opportunities to contribute to its success.

BIRTHPLACE: Munich, Germany
EDUCATION: MPA, The Ohio State University
BA, The Ohio State University
FAMILY: Husband-Jeff, Son-Adam
HOBBIES: Travel, skiing, reading, cooking

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."

— Martin Luther King

BIRTHPLACE: Monrovia, Liberia
EDUCATION: MBA- Executive Programs,
University of Colorado- Denver
BS- Accounting, Metropolitan State College
of Denver
FAMILY: Children: Neffie E. Lockley
HOBBIES: Traveling, Reading, Gardening,
Singing and Praise Dancing

I will continue to serve the Aurora community through service on Boards, charities, and non-profit organizations. This program has given us incredible exposure to businesses, government agencies, and to a wide field of interest and leaders. I cherish the personal and professional relationships that we have developed.

NAQUETTA RICKS



President/ CEO
The Ricks Group
D/B/A Network Financial Group, LLC
3000 Clayton Street
Denver, CO 80205
720-628-7534
netfingroup@gmail.com

FAVORITE QUOTE

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

— Philippians 4:13

JOYCE ROCHA-BROWN



Director of Marketing
Southlands Shopping Center
6155 S. Main Street
Aurora, CO 80016
(303) 627-5000
joycerocha-brown@forestcity.net

This experience has confirmed what I already knew – that Aurora is a great city! I feel that by immersing myself into the community and all that is has to offer, I have new avenues to search for ways to use my resources for benefit and betterment of the community.

BIRTHPLACE: Arvada, CO
EDUCATION: BBA- Bachelor of Business
Administration, University of New Mexico
(1986)
HOBBIES: Distance running, hiking, skiing,
cooking

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

— Einstein

BIRTHPLACE: Nuremburg, Germany
EDUCATION: School of Hard Knocks
FAMILY: Wife-Heather, Children-Brenden and
Bailey, Dog-Dax
HOBBIES: Coaching youth sports, fishing,
hunting, golf

The bonds that have been formed between myself and my classmates have been invaluable. As a class I'm certain we'll continue to make an impact in our community in many ways.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"It is what it is."

— Unknown

DANIEL RODRIGUEZ



Owner
Allstate-The Rodriguez Agency
4272 S. Chambers Rd
Aurora, CO 80014
303-690-2124
Daniel.Rodriguez@allstate.com

JULIEMARIE A. SHEPHERD



Board Member and Treasurer
Aurora Public Schools Board of Education
Educational Services Center #1 15701 E.
First Ave. Suite 206
Aurora, CO 80011
720.207.7556
julie.shepherd@colorado.edu

Participating in the program has been an informative and rewarding experience! I will apply the insights I've learned about my community as I continue my work as an APS Board member—helping to provide the best educational opportunities and access to sustain Aurora's youth into the future.

BIRTHPLACE: Calcutta, India
EDUCATION: PhD, Political Science,
University of Colorado Excepted Dec 2012
MA, Political Science, University of
Colorado 2009
BA, Political Science, Certificate in
Leadership Studies, University of Colorado,
2007
HOBBIES: Photography, international
travel, raising Guide Dog puppies for
the Blind

FAVORITE QUOTE

"If you're content, chances are you're settling."

— Unknown

MARILEE ROYBAL VERDUN



Outreach Manager
JDRF, Improving Lives. Curing Type 1 Diabetes.
8055 E. Tufts Avenue
Aurora, CO 80237
303-319-8236
MVerdun@jdrf.org

I've gained a greater awareness of my community! 2012 classmates are energetic, kind and giving people. I plan to apply what I've gained by sharing resources and hopefully "handing over the torch" to a future Leadership Aurora participant. My experience reaffirms my purpose to continue giving back - it takes many to make a difference!

BIRTHPLACE: Leadville, CO

EDUCATION: BS - Business Administration, University of Northern Colorado (1996); Minor in French

FAMILY: Daughters Naomi 18; Chloe 13, Hannah 8

HOBBIES: Craft making, traveling, spending time with family

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."

— Mother Teresa

BIRTHPLACE: Omaha, NE

EDUCATION: BS- Criminal Justice/Sociology, University of Nebraska at Lincoln (2000)

FAMILY: Single with two amazing dogs

HOBBIES: Seeing Live Music, Cooking, Volunteering with Rescue Dogs, Running, Snowboarding, Yoga, Hiking, Camping

I have been amazed at how truly little I knew of what this wonderful city has to offer to its citizens. The relationships I am building with classmates provide a unique networking opportunity that allows all of us to personally and professionally make a real difference in the community.

KIRA SUURVARIK

Executive Director
18th Judicial District
Juvenile Assessment Center
7375 South Potomac Street, Pod 5
Centennial, CO 80011
303-468-4604
ksuurvarik@co.arapahoe.co.us



FAVORITE QUOTE

"If you don't make mistakes you're not really trying"

— Coleman Hawking

PATRICIA WELLS



Marketing Director
The Aurora Fox
9900 East Colfax Avenue
Aurora, CO 80010
303-739-1971
pwells@auroragov.org

This experience has opened my eyes to the vast variety of small and large businesses serving Aurora's citizens, and has given me additional tools and resources with which to reach out to other business partners to create a cohesive, goal-oriented roadmap to make sure those businesses not only survive, but grow. The power of our combined efforts can make a major impact in keeping our community strong and healthy well into future decades.

BIRTHPLACE: Sabetha, Kansas

EDUCATION: MA - Corporate Management/Marketing, University of Phoenix

BS - Computer Science, Metropolitan State College - Presidential Scholar

FAMILY: A loving miniature beagle named Blue.

HOBBIES: Writing, photography, crocheting, reading, martial arts

FAVORITE QUOTE

"Most men lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them."

— Henry David Thoreau

BIRTHPLACE: Maryville, MO

EDUCATION: BS, Construction Science and Management - Kansas State University

FAMILY: Wife- Kristen Daughter- Kourtnei (11yrs) Sons- Brayton (9 yrs) & Cooper (3 yrs)

HOBBIES: Golf, Basketball, Home Improvement, Fishing, Biking

I plan to continue to build on the personal relationships that have been started. The class experiences and community resources that have been exhibited during this class have been great; and in the future I will be able to rely on this network of friends, businesses, charities, and government agencies.

FAVORITE QUOTE

"A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work."

— Colin Powell

Estimator
Colorado First Construction Company
14062 Denver West Parkway, Suite 110,
Building 52
Golden, CO 80401
303-362-3241
thate.wilmes@gmail.com

THATE WILMES



2011-12 OPENING RETREAT

Building a Stronger Aurora

The Leadership Aurora Retreat was set at the beautiful Iron Horse Resort, just outside of Winter Park, Colorado. It was a perfect location to get away for a couple of days and focus on our class and the legacy that we would like to leave behind. The retreat began with an ice breaker activity that allowed us to obtain some insight into the 36 people we would be spending the next couple of days and months with and allowed us the opportunity to really get dialed in for Leadership Aurora 2012. We all entered the room with different ideas. Our speakers were enlightening and motivating at the same time.



Leadership Aurora Class of 2012

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce provided us with an excellent facilitator and definitely made the weekend a great one. The class was able to think outside the box and shared new practices that we were able to take back and implement in our daily lives right away. The thought of resetting to a "zero" has helped the class a great deal already. It's amazing how you can put strangers in a room for a couple of days and they can walk out with the beginnings of a meaningful friendship! We are certainly excited to see what the next nine months have to offer!



It takes a lot of effort to pull up a team



Learning the ropes of leadership

COMMUNITY

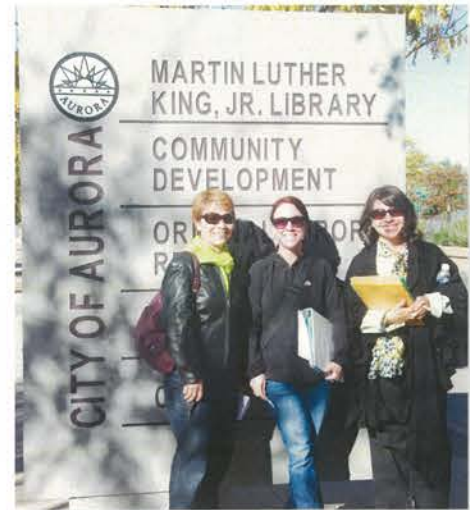
"Community Ties and You"

As business leaders in Aurora, class members thought we knew everything there was to know about our city. Community Day really proved us wrong. It was an opportunity to really experience the breadth and depth of Aurora, from "Original Aurora" to the newest developments. Our experiences on this day gave us many new insights into our community and made us even prouder to work in such an interesting, diverse, and vibrant place.

The day started out at the Salvation Army. We learned about their mission; serving the most people, meeting the most needs, doing the most good. Next we learned about the collaboration that has become Live Well Colorado, and then

boarded the bus with our guide, Mary Beth Brunston, for a tour of Aurora. We started in Original Aurora, where we learned about its history and culture. From there we visited the Morrison Nature Center and Delaney Farm, and had lunch at the YMCA's Lakehouse at Southshore. During the entire day we learned about the missions of several of Aurora's non-profit organizations. The morning's exploration provided us a view of how diverse Aurora really is.

Our afternoon was spent at Aurora Mental Health. We learned about all the positive things they are doing for our community. We also learned about the ways Visit Aurora is marketing our city to tourists and other visitors. Our day ended with a surprise yoga



class; we learned positions that we can use to relieve stress in the office. It was a very fun way to end the day, and we all left with greater appreciation for our wonderful city.

ECONOMIC & INFRASTRUCTURE

"The Making Of An All-America City"



Tom and Brent saving the city

One of the primary drivers behind the success of Aurora, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, is economic development. Part of that is based on infrastructure required to serve those businesses that want to build in the city or even expand. Kevin

Hougen, Aurora Chamber President & CEO, gave us an overview of Aurora's diversified economy and growth in Agriculture, Tourism, Aerospace, Bio-Science, Financial Services and Air Transport. He also talked about new initiatives that include the Gaylord Hotel development, The National Western Stock Show's interest in property near Aurora and the Horizon Uptown development.

Dave Chambers, Aurora's Director of Public Works, discussed that with growth comes the need for a sound infrastructure that includes IT services, schools, power, water, sewer, and roads. Aurora City Manager George "Skip" Noe discussed municipal government structure over the last century and as always, class members were quick to

ask very challenging questions. The group's insights were put to use in a mock city council session held after the presentations. The impact of the pretend meeting left Assistant City Attorney, Mike Hyman, stating it was "easily the funniest, yet oddly the most realistic council meeting" he'd seen. Leave it to us to be comically accurate.

We ended our day playing with life-sized Tonka trucks at Wagner Equipment after learning about Wagner's local and worldwide business presence. During our second session day, we learned how truly unique and wonderful the city of Aurora is and how the community benefits from economic growth and services that the City provides.

MEDIA

Communication, Communication, Communication!

Media Day began at the Aurora Municipal Building and featured Kim Stuart, Director of Aurora's Communications Department. It was very interesting to learn how the City handles various media situations. We learned that media relations today are different than they were even five years ago. For example, anything you say can end up on Twitter or Facebook in minutes.

Next we headed to CBS 4 Denver where we met enigmatic reporter Gloria Neal, Assignment Editor Tim Montgomery,

who keeps the newsroom on track, and Weather Anchor Lauren Whitney, who was preparing for the noon weather report. Before leaving the studio, class members got to sit in the studio during a live broadcast by News Anchor Brooke Wagner.

In the afternoon we spent some time at the Aurora Cable 8 Studio and were able to experience a TV broadcast from behind the scenes. We also shot some interviews and, as usual, the humor of the group was on full display. In addition, we heard from



The forecast calls for leadership

Denver radio personality Dom Testa about the problems that can arise from miscommunication and how communicating properly is an art form.

"21st Century Teaching and Learning"

What an amazing day to learn about 21st Century education at its best in Aurora. We discovered all the amazing things the Cherry Creek School District has achieved over the years from Dr. Mary Chesley, Superintendent. Enthusiastic principals and staff members greeted us at the facilities we visited, including Vista Peak's new campus-oriented school.

Innovative educational opportunities that promote academic excellence and empower students to become leaders on a national and global society are new targets

in all our schools. It was very interesting to see how both districts are restructuring for the future to meet the needs of a competitive international stage.

The University of Colorado Center for Advancing Professional Excellence provided hands-on training with mannequin patients. The Visible Human Project felt like an episode out of "Star Trek," creating an education through 3D technology. Our walk through of the new Health and Wellness Center expanded our knowledge of opportunities for students in Aurora.



Tomorrow's leaders educate Class President, Daniel Rodriguez

Whether educators are teaching select S.T.E.M. courses or discovering cures for diseases, Education Day emphasized the importance of health and education in our society. We have some of the best and brightest, with Aurora leading the way.



Our Healthcare Session was eye opening and inspiring. From the moment we arrived for breakfast to the time we left, we were emerged in the world of modern medical care.

During breakfast, class members learned what life is like for people with

HEALTHCARE "World Class Healthcare in Aurora"

various disabilities and diseases. Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital staff assigned a medical condition to each of us and we had to cope with that disability while we ate. We also had the opportunity to talk with people who have experienced disabilities. We certainly gained a greater appreciation for our own health!

Next, we split into two groups. Half of the class went to the Medical Center of Aurora – South Campus, where they toured the Cardio Catheter Lab, met the DaVinci robot, and learned step-by-step about the care given to a heart attack victim, from the moment the ambulance arrives until they are in recovery.

The rest of the class traveled to the University of Colorado Medical Center, where they had a sobering tour of the burn unit and heard stories from the professionals who work there.

The groups then reconvened, and spent time with the people who are responsible for transporting patients to medical care: Air Life and Rural/Metro EMS. We also learned the basics of CPR, how to help choking victims, and heard an overview about bioethics. The session ended with a moving presentation from class member Marilee Roybal Verdun's daughter, Chloe, who talked about her battle with juvenile diabetes.

MILITARY "Pride & Presence"

The theme for our Military Session was "Pride and Presence," and listening to the military personnel who spoke to us made it clear that Buckley Air Force Base brings both of these things to our community. Pride was evident in each of their explanations of what they do, what their units do every day, and how much work is involved to make it all appear seamless, both to US citizens and local citizens of Aurora. Presence is what the community feels, but it's much more than that. These men and women are responsible for ensuring that the community at large is safe and protected.

Brigadier General Trulon Eyre commands the Colorado Air National Guard (COANG), 140th Wing. He spoke passionately about

the Air National Guard's mission. He also talked about the history of COANG, which is storied and impressive.

Colonel Daniel Dant oversees the US Air Force 460th Space Wing, which operates the "golf balls" on the base. He described the Wing's responsibility for tracking not only missiles on a global level, but also more than 23,000 items in orbit around the earth.

We enjoyed a tour of the F-16 inspection hangar and learned about this aircraft's role in COANG. We see these planes overhead regularly, and it was a treat to be able to touch one and peer into its cockpit.

A tour of the Army Aviation Support Facility, hosted by Capt. Troy Brown, gave us



the opportunity to observe Blackhawk helicopters up close, along with other aircraft that COANG uses in its operations.

With more than 12,000 personnel and an economic impact of more than \$1 billion annually, our military has a great influence on Aurora and helps make it a great place to live.



Beware of the girl with the gun



POLICE "In the Line of Fire"

On a misty day in April we met at the Aurora Police Academy where we were welcomed by Capt. Fran Gomez who works directly with Police Chief Dan Oates. She gave us an overview of the Aurora Police Department's mission, values and goals. Aurora is the 58th largest city in the country, with over 320,000 citizens. This translates into a very busy full-service Police Department.

We heard presentations from the heads of several of those departments including Traffic, DART (Direct Action Response Team), the Gang Intervention Unit and 911 Dispatch. In comparison to cities with similarly sized populations, Aurora's crime rate is noticeably lower than the average.

After a short break, we headed to the Training Academy Gymnasium for

a demonstration of "less lethal" weapons including tasers and firearms which shoot rubber bullets and bean bags. They may be less lethal, but we'd surrender. We then broke into smaller groups and took turns in the simulation room where a scenario was played out on a large screen and the group's vocal commands and physical actions determined the outcome of the scenario.

Our afternoon was spent at the Police Shooting Range where we met several SWAT officers and had an opportunity to shoot M-4 and M-16 rifles, observe a SWAT sniper in action, explore the department's armored vehicle, the Bear, and meet K-9 officers who demonstrated the skills and training it takes to find hidden explosives and drugs, and detain bad guys.

It is clear that the 644 members of the APD are passionate about creating and maintaining a safe, peaceful community.



Wheweee!!



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

Many class members were looking forward to Fire Day and no one was disappointed. We reported to the Rocky Mountain Fire Academy and started by getting fitted with full bunker gear for the afternoon activities. Fire Chief Mike Garcia spoke with us about how important it is for fire rescue personnel to build friendships with each other. He also pointed out that without a safe city nothing else matters. Next, class member and Fire Department

Battalion Chief, Scott Mills spoke about the elements of the Department's Special Operations team, which he oversees. Battalion Chief Mark Stephenson then taught and demonstrated how fire behaves and made us aware of some of the dangerous substances transported through Aurora. Deputy Chief Tony Cito finished the classroom presentations with an overview of the Fire Department's organization.

After a delicious barbeque lunch, grilled by the AFD Executive Staff, we divided into groups and participated in six training activities: automobile extrication; smoke search and rescue; confined space maze; car fire extinguishing; technical rescue from a five-story building; and an aerial climb to 100 feet in the bucket of a rescue truck.

In addition to learning about the structure and function of the Fire Department, many class members faced and overcame some of their fears with the support of their team members. We all walked away with a greater appreciation for the men and women of Aurora Fire Department and their dedication to keeping us safe.

CLASS PROJECTS

The Leadership Aurora (LA) Class of 2012 wanted to have a direct impact on our community. The group decided the best way to leave its stamp on Aurora would be to work with the Salvation Army, located at 802 Quari Court. One of the Salvation Army's significant projects every holiday season is providing toys for underprivileged children in our city. The LA group sorted a large room full of donated toys by age, gender, type of toy, and labeled them to facilitate quickly finding the toys for kids during the 2012 Christmas season.

In addition, several rooms were prepped and painted along with building out a space that will be used as a computer lab, complete with donated desks and chairs.

The group didn't stop there and collected food for the Saint Andrews Soup Kitchen on East Colfax. The group collected and donated bags of shelf-stable food to support the efforts to feed the homeless.

On April 21, a team of LA volunteers for Earth Day supported one of the largest cleanup events of the year. Volunteers were assigned to Frog Hollow Park, located at 8th Avenue on the Platte River. It was a great opportunity to help keep our community green.

LA volunteers did a planting project at Meadow Hills Golf Course, including laying a new hybrid sod that uses 20 to 30 percent less water than traditional cool weather grass. The group also restored a wetlands habitat.



Rebuild Together



*Earth Day
Work Project*



Salvation Army Painting



Pay It Forward Fundraiser



*Salvation Army
Toy Sort*

HAVING FUN



COMMITTEES

Social Committee



L-R Karen Hookstadt, Mary Pray, Marena Lertch, Rachel Macias, Marilee Roybal Verdun, Bill Moran, Briley Peters, Cassidee Carlson, Naquetta Ricks, Joyce Rocha-Brown, Chris Lockwood

Project Committee



L-R Chris Lockwood, Greg Baker, Cassidee Carlson, Ralph Kasper, Mara Kailin, Thate Wilmes, Richard Maestas, Jon Barber, Karen Hookstadt, Steve Clagg, Brent Hubbell, Daniel Rodriguez, Scott Mills

Yearbook Committee



L-R Celeste Johnson, Briley Peters, JulieMarie Shepherd, Tom Henley, Jon Barber, Rachel Banks, Jeff Anderson

Photography Committee



L-R Liz Agresti, Kinder Blacke, JulieMarie Shepherd, Patricia Wells, Marena Lertch, Tom Henley, Scott Mills

Graduation Committee



L-R Daniel Rodriguez, Joyce Rocha-Brown, Marilee Roybal Verdun, Ralph Kasper, Naquetta Ricks, Bill Moran, Brent Hubbell, Stephanie Benintendi, Jeff Anderson, Rachel Macias, Von Limbaugh

Newsletter Committee



L-R Mark Pray, Greg Baker, Kinder Blacke, Lisa Riddel, Stephanie Benintendi, Bill Moran, Von Limbaugh

2011-12

Leadership Aurora Board



Kimberly Armitage

Aurora YMCA
27151 E. Lakeview Drive
Aurora, CO 80016
Ph.: 720-870-2221
karmitage@denverymca.org

Randy Berner

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

Mary Beth Brunston

Colorado Insurance Professionals
13693 E. Iliff Ave., Ste 115
Aurora, CO 80014
Ph.: 303-755-8600 X-230
Mbb@colorado-insurance.com

Kimberly Curtis, Program Director

Aurora Chamber of Commerce
14305 E. Alameda Ave., Ste 300
Aurora, CO 80012
Ph.: 303-344-1500
kimberly.curtis@aurorachamber.org

Wendy DeBell

Cherry Creek School District
4700 S. Yosemite, #250
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
Ph.: 720-554-4231
wdebell@cherrycreekschools.org

Antoinette Dow

1506 S. Eagle St.
Aurora, CO 80012
Abarth7363@aol.com

Marcus Dudley

Aurora Police Department
13347 E. Montview
Aurora, CO 80010
Ph.: 303-739-1690
mdudley@auroragov.org

Ryan Evans, Vice-Chair

Advantage Security, Inc.
13693 E. Iliff Ave., #200
Aurora, CO 80014
Ph.: 303-755-4407
revans@advantagesecurityinc.com

Mike Garcia

Outback Steakhouse
2066 S. Abilene St.
Aurora, CO 80014
Ph.: 303-695-9600
mikegarcia@outback.com

Fran Gomez

Aurora Police Department
15001 E. Alameda Pkwy.
Aurora, CO 80012
Ph.: 303-739-6256
fgomez@auroragov.org

Chris Henderson

Aurora Fire Department
15151 E. Alameda Pkwy, 4th Fl
Aurora, CO 80012
Ph.: 303-326-8950
chenders@auroragov.org

Bob Jamieson, Chair

Mutual of Omaha
2001 S. Lansing Ct.
Aurora, CO 80014
Ph.: 303-952-2613
bob@goapco.com

Randy Kehn

Colo. Air Natl. Guard/Buckley AFB
18860 E. Breckenridge Ave.
Aurora, CO 80011
Ph.: 720-847-9684
Randy.kehnl@ang.af.mil

Cindy Kreutz, Immed. Past-Chair

Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital
900 Potomac Street
Aurora, CO 80011
Ph.: 303-363-5302
Cindy.kreutz@healthonecares.com

Jane McGrath

Retired Cherry Creek Schools
3868 S. Eagle Street
Aurora, CO 80014
Ph.: 303-693-7008
Jmcgrath51@comcast.net

Jacquie Palisi

Aurora 8 TV
15151 E. Alameda Pkwy
Aurora, CO 80012
Ph.: 303-739-6607
jpalisi@auroragov.org

Barbara Peck

In Your Element Photography, Inc.
13250 E. Center Ave.
Aurora, CO 80012
Ph.: 303-343-8750
inyourelement@mac.com

Keith Peterson

University of Colorado Hospital
1635 Aurora Ct, P.O. Box 6510
Aurora, CO 80045
Ph.: 720-848-1072
Keith.peterson@uch.edu

Daniel Rodriguez, Class President

Allstate Insurance
4272 S. Chambers Rd.
Aurora, CO 80014
Ph.: 303-690-2124
Daniel.rodriguez@allstate.com

Rosemary Singer

Rural/Metro Management Co.
3350 Peoria St., Ste 100
Aurora, CO 80010
Ph.: 720-975-2404
rosemary.singer@rmetro.com

Debra Scarpella

Goodwill Industries of Denver
6850 N. Federal Blvd.
Denver, CO 80221
Ph.: 720-495-7495
dscarpella@goodwilldenver.org

Damon Smith

Aurora Public Schools
1085 Peoria Street
Aurora, CO 80011
Ph.: 303-344-8060
dsmith@aps.k12.co.us

Karen Terry

Providers' Resource Clearinghouse
14200 E. 35th Place, Unit 105
Aurora, CO 80011
Ph.: 303-962-2270, Ext 11
karenterry@aumhc.org

Ana-Christina Wadle

My Legacy Coaching LLC
Tools of Hope
1647 S. Ironton St.
Aurora, CO 80012
Email: hope@toolsofhope.com

Michelle Wolfe

City of Aurora
15151 E. Alameda Pkwy. #5900
Aurora, CO 80012
Ph.: 303-739-7124
Email: mwolfe@auroragov.org

Interest Directory

	Aging Wellness	Arts / Theater	Substance Abuse	Child Abuse	Childcare	Community Planning	Econ. Development	Education	Government	Disabilities	Health & Wellness	Mental Health	Recreation	Religion & Spirituality	Small Business	Transportation	Youth Services	Visitor Promotion
Elizabeth R. Agresti	■	■		■				■	■		■		■	■			■	
Jeff Anderson		■						■			■		■	■			■	
Greg Baker						■	■	■	■		■					■		
Rachel Banks	■						■						■	■				
Jon Barber	■		■			■		■	■					■	■			
Stephanie Benintendi		■				■	■	■	■				■					
Kinder Blacke					■						■		■					
Cassidee Carlson		■		■		■					■		■	■			■	
Steve Clagg		■					■	■			■		■		■			
Tom Henley				■		■	■		■									
Jim Hitz													■		■		■	
Karen Hookstadt	■	■		■						■	■							■
Brent Hubbell			■				■		■		■							
Marlene A. Husson					■						■		■					
Celeste Johnson, PHR				■				■	■	■	■		■				■	
Mara Kailin			■	■									■					
Ralph Kasper						■		■	■		■		■	■			■	
Marena Lertch	■										■		■	■				
Oren Von Limbaugh	■			■					■			■		■	■			
Christopher Lockwood	■		■	■		■	■		■		■		■	■	■	■		■
Rachel Macias						■	■		■			■	■	■				■
Richard Maestas		■					■		■									
Scott D. Mills	■					■			■				■					
Bill Moran						■	■	■			■		■	■	■	■	■	
Briley Peters													■					■
Mark Pray	■	■				■			■		■		■			■		
Lisa Reddel	■							■			■	■						
Ellen Rehmar						■	■	■			■						■	
Naquetta Ricks							■	■	■	■					■			
Joyce Rocha-Brown							■				■					■		■
Daniel Rodriguez													■	■	■		■	
JulieMarie A. Shepherd						■		■	■								■	
Kira Suurvarik		■	■			■		■			■		■	■	■	■		
Marilee Roybal Verdun	■								■		■			■		■		
Patricia Wells		■		■				■							■		■	■
Thate Wilmes						■	■	■	■		■		■		■			■

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to those who worked diligently in putting together the 2012 class yearbook. Celeste Johnson took on the task of chairing the Yearbook Committee with help from Patricia Wells and Tom Henley. They undertook the task of gathering and editing the information for class bios. Committee members Jeff Anderson, Rachel Banks and Tom Henley wrote much of the copy for session descriptions and each committee member helped choose photos and made other various creative decisions.

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IT TOOK EACH OF YOU TO MAKE THIS YEARBOOK A REALITY —
THANK YOU! IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT YOU!!




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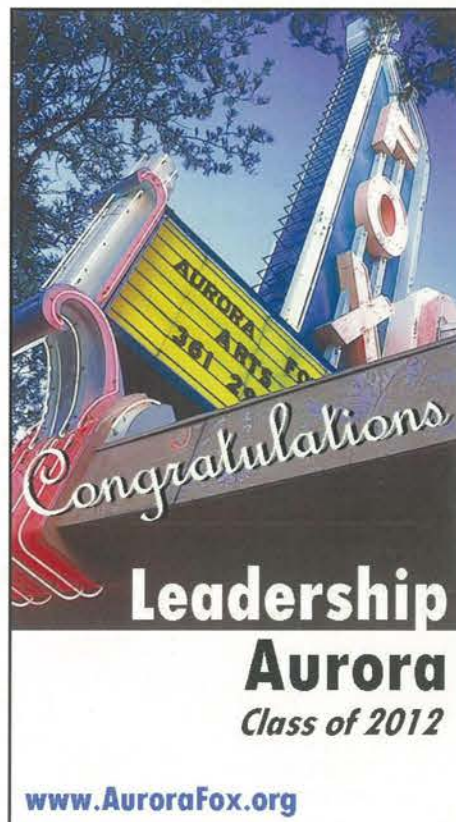
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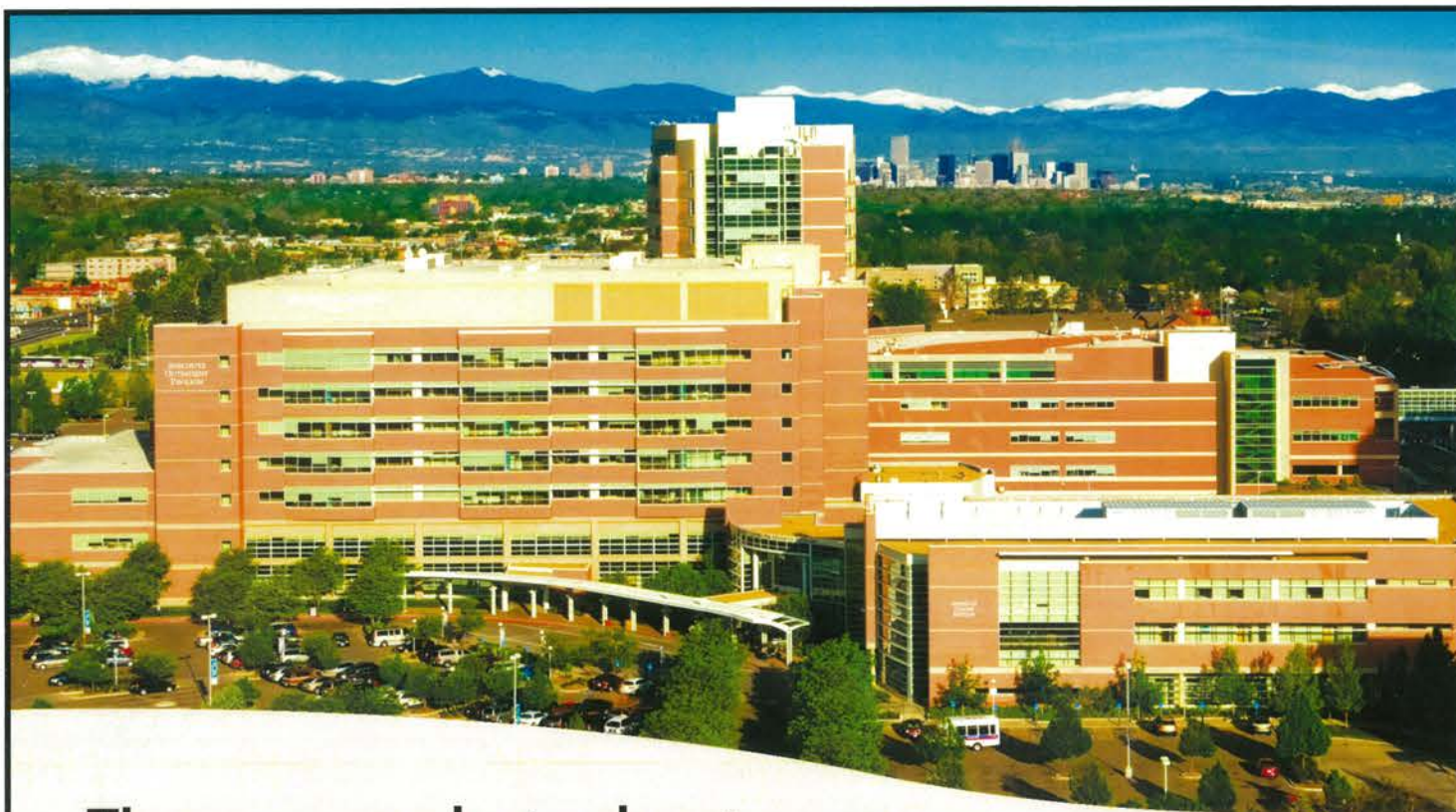
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Congratulations to Leadership Aurora Class of 2012!

There is something simply amazing about citizens gifted with a certain quality that seems to catapult them into a category all their own. Simply amazing—yet amazingly simple. It's called leadership. And it is precisely this attribute that sets apart the small group of individuals chosen to participate in the Leadership Aurora Class of 2012.

Here at the University of Colorado Hospital, we not only admire, and support these illustrious individuals, we take special pride in the fact that, once again, one of our own has met the esteemed expectations of this program. Ellen Rehmar, our Director of Human Resources, along with her fellow colleagues, listened, learned, and participated. Going forward, they will continue to shine as leaders of the Aurora community.

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Congratulations again to the entire Class of 2012. With your leadership, we look forward to an even brighter Aurora in the future.



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