

RIGHT PEOPLE

RIGHT PLACE

RIGHT TIME



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INTRODUCTION

The Aurora Chamber has promoted and supported the development of leadership in the community for 29 years. While many things have changed since 1984, the Leadership Aurora program still incorporates a laser focus on meeting the needs of Aurora for strong, skilled, and participatory leadership. Consequently, more than 900 graduates later, the Leadership Aurora Program continues to provide education and prepare community leaders. The individuals that commit to the program leave more skilled and informed than they arrived and strongly contribute to Aurora's future success.



The class of 2012-2013 came together, thirty-six strong, in a short period. Our remarkable experience began with a team building retreat in September. The experience continues every month with opportunities to continue amazing work thanks to the planning and organization that the program coordinators provide so generously and tirelessly. We listen to inspiring stories, hear and see the processes and procedures that give us insights into community need, and the contributions from first responders, the military, city-management, and educators in the Aurora community.

In addition to the choreographed activities, each class selects, plans, and implements a class project with the sole intent of giving back to the community or supporting existing programs that address the needs of the City.

Leadership Aurora is one of more than 1,000 such community programs in the nation. We are a member of the Association of Leadership Programs, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to leadership development. The Aurora Chamber of Commerce sponsors Leadership Aurora. The program 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 influencing its on-going progress toward healing what needs to be healed, giving where there is a need and being an active part of a world-class city.

The Leadership Class of 2013

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Leadership Aurora class of 2013 appreciatively acknowledges the individuals, businesses and other organizations that provide the invaluable support needed to one of the most outstanding leadership programs in the United States.

The Leadership Aurora class of 2013 would also like to extend our gratitude to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Your continued support in developing and implementing a "best in class" leadership program has touched lives for the better in the Aurora community.

The class would like to thank the Leadership Aurora Board members and all graduates of the program for your tireless effort in contributing time, energy and enthusiasm in creating

each monthly session. We would like to recognize and give a special thank you to, Kimberly Curtis, Leadership Aurora Program Director, whose leadership, organizational expertise, and willingness to let us paint "outside the lines" touched our lives. Kimberly remained positive through it all! Thank you!

Our sincere appreciation goes to the guest speakers and personnel who devoted time, insight and a behind the scene look at organizations throughout the city of Aurora. We have taken away many experiences and we will thread them into our sphere of influence for the positive advancement of the city of Aurora. We would also like to thank the many establishments who provided services for us. From transporting us

between sites, to providing delicious meals—we thank you!

Finally, we would like to thank the people of Aurora. We are grateful to live and work in such a dynamic community. Aurora has beautiful parks, libraries and cultural centers that enrich all, but it's the people that make this city special.



BOARD CHAIR

Dear Class of 2012-13,

I want to extend my sincere congratulations to the Leadership Aurora class of 2013. It's been very rewarding to see your group come together and perform on such a high level. When we started this journey almost 10 months ago in Keystone, Colorado, most of you didn't know each other at all. It was 36 strangers who met on a Thursday and left as friends on a Saturday, joining together to make a difference in this community. From the retreat on, the group connected well and strived to do great things, 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. I would like to thank the group for making my role as the Chair an easy one. You were a delight to work with.

The goal of the program is to create a group of people who will move forward and foster a greater sense of community, shaping Aurora in positive ways. 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 many sessions this program provided has helped you



develop an area of passion. I urge you to 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 do not believe in taking the credit for the hard work of others, so a special thanks to the Leadership Aurora Board and its diverse members that I had the pleasure of working with. This is a working board, putting in long hours of volunteering to make sure that each session runs well and provides value and meaning. We listen to the classes and make changes as needed

to improve the experience. A special thanks to Bob Jamieson, Cindy Kreutz and Karen Terry who are leaving the board after their term ends in May. They are irreplaceable and the contributions they have made will be missed.

I look forward to supporting Michelle Wolfe as the new incoming chair. We are always recruiting for the next class; so please let us know if you have anyone in your company that would be an asset to this great journey. Last, but most importantly, the program wouldn't be what it is without all the hard work, dedication and leadership of Kimberly Curtis, Program Director. Her attention to detail, professionalism, and ability to keep 36 class members and close to 30 board members in line still amazes me. I have learned a great deal from her, and am glad that I had the opportunity to lead alongside her.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent such a great group of people, and I look forward to seeing what you accomplish in the future.

Regards,
Ryan Evans
Leadership Aurora Board Chair
2012-2013



CLASS PRESIDENT

Fellow leaders and classmates,

We, the class of 2012-2013 did not happen by chance. There is a poem that states, "Sometimes people come into your life and you know right away they were meant to be there, to serve some sort of purpose." Thirty-six leaders coming together for Leadership Aurora in 2012 - 2013 happened for a reason. When I saw you at the class retreat in Keystone, I wondered how 36 different individuals can connect with each other after just two days. Something special happened and I felt that connection. I went home knowing that you would affect my life and others in a profound way.

I am grateful for the leadership and guidance provided by Kimberly Curtis. I admire her patience with us and passion for this program. I recognize the dedication of the Leadership Aurora Board in ensuring that our class retreat and each of our monthly class sessions become unique learning experiences. Our class is fortunate to have Committee Chairs who provide further leadership and help increased engagement, focus and results. To Marissa Banker, Teri Karjala, Joel Parriott, Stephanie York and especially Stanley Turner of Insula Design Studio – your leadership made me want to do more and accomplish more.

Moments after I was nominated and elected as president, I encouraged our class to be extraordinary. Therefore, we



took our unique talents, personalities, sense of service, and molded them into achieving our "Best Ever." We are our own potential! It was exciting as we embraced the possibility of what we could achieve and of what we could become. The pursuit to do our best was sprinkled with spontaneity and a wicked sense of humor.

Our class was formed after the tragedy of the Aurora Theater shooting. We were deeply affected by it, but we did not want it to define our city. We aimed higher and created more opportunities to serve and help. We decided to do a monthly Community Outreach Program: Diaper Drive for MCPN, adopted four families for Aurora Mental Health Center, collected \$700 for Comitis, collected toiletries for St. Andrews, participated in Leaders are Readers at Aurora Public Schools, a blood drive for Children's Hospital,

food drive for Restoration Outreach Program and helped in our own Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament. Our Community Outreach Program provided help and hope to many lives and organizations.

I am very touched by my classmates' continuous generosity of time and resources offered over many months in so many diverse ways. We put together hundreds of names for the Leadership Aurora Alumni List. We also served as Ambassadors for the VIP Event for the Colorado Freedom Memorial. We even created a Leadership Aurora Blog and raised money for our Pay It Forward scholarship.

As part of our commitment to Aurora, we decided to partner with Aurora Fox Theater for our main class project. Aurora Fox Theater Studio B provides performance opportunities and affordable space for actors and new and emerging artists. The class project provided a design for a new handicapped accessible ramp, supplied labor and materials to build three new seating riser sections, installed brand new carpeting, and provided grant writing assistance to fund further improvements.

I would like to thank all of my Leadership Aurora classmates. It has been a humbling experience serving as your president. You taught me so much! I will never forget your friendship, encouragement, support and sense of fun, which made this an unforgettable experience. Most of all, I admire your compassion and desire to make a difference. I appreciated every moment working and learning with the Right People...Right Place...Right Time.

Gigi de Gala
2012-13 Class President



RIGHT PEOPLE

Marissa Banker



Campus Director of Career Services | Colorado Technical University

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BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: M.ED. – Educational Counseling, University of Phoenix 2006

BA – Counseling Psychology, Mesa State College 2002

FAMILY: Husband – Ryan; Dogs – Neil and Lulu

HOBBIES: Volunteer work, Reading, Travel, Exercise, and spending time with Friends/Family

Leveraging the relationships I've made to further my network within the community. Utilize the leadership skills learned to better my approach and strengthen my effectiveness in my career. Enhancing my knowledge base of specific growth opportunities within Aurora will help me to better serve internal/external CTU stakeholders.

"If you think you can or can't, you're right."

Henry Ford

Lynn Burgess



Employment Consultant | Cherry Creek Schools, School to Work Alliance Program

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BIRTHPLACE: St. Louis, MO

EDUCATION: BS – Horticulture, University of Missouri 1985

FAMILY: Husband – John; Children – Stephanie, Ashley and Rebecca

HOBBIES: Playing soccer, hiking, gardening, homebrewing

My clients are young adults learning how to become successful employees in our community. Whether looking for a career position or entry level roles, understanding Aurora helps them to be better prepared.

"Leadership comes in many forms. Whether you shine a light, hold out a hand, or shadow in support. Underestimate no one—especially you!"

Lynn Burgess

Rob Carmody



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BIRTHPLACE: Port Washington, WI

EDUCATION: BS – Geography/Cartography, University of Wisconsin 1993

Graduate Certificate – Geographic Information Systems (GIS), University of Denver 2002

FAMILY: Wife – Kim; Children – Mattie and Mackenzie

HOBBIES: Camping, Traveling, Sci-Fi and Fantasy Movies and Books, Genealogy, College and Pro Football, Radio Contests and Quality Family Time.

The once-in-a-lifetime experiences we have had this year have opened my eyes to what a wonderful, vibrant and diverse community in which we live and work. I will sing Aurora's praises to everyone I encounter. The personal and professional relationships I've made will last a lifetime and help fuel my career development and further my community involvement. I am honored to be included in this class of remarkable leaders.

"No! Try not. Do, or do not. There is no try."

Yoda

Sandy Carter



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BIRTHPLACE: Houston, Texas

EDUCATION: Brandywine College, Wilmington, Delaware

FAMILY: Two children – my daughter Taylor and son Drew

HOBBIES: Travel, especially to European countries, cooking for friends and family.

Leadership Aurora has provided a wealth of friendships, resources and learning experiences. I am confident that my experiences will develop into endless opportunities. I am amazed at the tremendous resources available in my community. Leadership Aurora has given me the knowledge and community awareness to know what the City of Aurora is all about.

"Shoot for the moon, if you miss, you will still be among the stars."

Les Brown

Tammy Clementi



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BIRTHPLACE: Pueblo, CO
EDUCATION: PhD – Educational Leadership, Denver University 2007
MEd – Curriculum and Instruction, Lesley College 1990
BA – Elementary Education, Colorado State University 1987
FAMILY: Dogs (Joe, Sam, Otto, Bella, and Zoey)
HOBBIES: Reading, working out (weights/cardio), spending time with family and great friends (have had a best friend since Kindergarten)

The exposure to the different organizations in Aurora has opened doors and opportunities to work closely with and partner in an overall effort to “utilize the village” in making a difference for students in public education.

“You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him.”

James D. Miles

Nanette V. Coats



Training Supervisor | City of Aurora, Public Safety Communications
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BIRTHPLACE: San Rafael, CA
EDUCATION: BA – Business Administration, Columbia College (expected graduation 2015)
FAMILY: Husband – Mark; Child – Nathan; Dog – Nina
HOBBIES: Outdoor sports, Traveling, Reading, Cooking and Wine Tasting

The Leadership Aurora program has provided me the opportunity to build valuable personal and professional connections with leaders in our community. I can draw on the experiences and knowledge I have gained to better serve the citizens of Aurora.

“A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, the compassion to listen to the needs of others.”

Unknown

Bill Culver



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BIRTHPLACE: Buffalo, New York
EDUCATION: AAS – Business Administration – Erie Community College
FAMILY: Wife – Nancy; Children – Crystal & Chelsea
HOBBIES: Dog “Cash”, Hiking & Snowshoeing; playing hockey, golf and softball; watching hockey, football & movies; cooking and wine

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

“Control what you can and ignore what you can’t.”

Bill Culver

Gigi de Gala



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BIRTHPLACE: Cebu City, Philippines
EDUCATION: BS – Business Management, University of Phoenix
FAMILY: Husband – Herman; Children – Efren and Ian
HOBBIES: Volunteering, Reading, Thrift Shopping

Leadership Aurora provided me with a higher level of awareness of Aurora - its resources, leaders and people. I developed a stronger sense of pride and connection to this city. I am committed to being more involved in helping shape its future. My classmates made this experience fun and simply unforgettable!

“I choose not to be a common man. Me, its my right to be uncommon if I can.”

Theodore Roosevelt

RIGHT PEOPLE

Shaun Drost



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BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: AS Computer Technology

AS Networking Technology

BA – Communications-currently working toward

FAMILY: Significant Other – Diane, Children – Brittani, David, Ivie

HOBBIES: Reading, Psychology, Face Painting, Drawing, Music, Piano, Art, Travel

“Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.”

Albert Einstein

I will use this experience to further my understanding of my community in Aurora. I also have developed a deeper commitment to helping others. I will apply this knowledge to get involved, to change and to grow personally and professionally.

Gian Paul Gandolfo



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BIRTHPLACE: Long Beach, California

EDUCATION: BS – Liberal Arts (Sociology/Social Work) Whittier College, CA 1984

FAMILY: Partner – Tony Peterson

“Of all the words of tongue or pen, the saddest of these, It might have been.”

John Greenleaf Whittier

After each class I talk to Family/Friends/Peers and have told them about what I have learned and the great things the City of Aurora has to offer and how important it is to be involved in what goes on in your community. To become more active with the Aurora Community, to promote the Leadership Aurora Program and utilize the network of professionals I have met within and outside of our class. Building upon that thing called “Aurora.”

Troy Grimes



Program Coordinator, Healthy Relationships | Goodwill Industries, Denver/Career Connections Center

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BIRTHPLACE: Denver Native

EDUCATION: Current State Approved Child and Family Investigator

Certified Family Development Worker/Temple University

Master Fatherhood Development Worker

FAMILY: Wife – Teresa Grimes, Children – Devin, Ashia, Joshtian, Desserae, Obera, Destiny, Geovonte' and Jalil. Granddaughters – Samari and Eli'Ana

HOBBIES: Coaching, Writing, Cards and Board games, experiencing life best I can

“Iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Proverbs 27:17,
Holy Bible

The community partnerships and resources gained through this experience are priceless. I hope to continue the work that I do in our community while enhancing it by accessing some of these newfound resources and relationships. I am a firm believer that we do more TOGETHER and when it comes to the work of ‘helping’ people more is better!

Hunter L. Hackbarth



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BIRTHPLACE: Minneapolis, MN

EDUCATION: BA – Ashford University, Clinton, IA

FAMILY: Children – Austin, Logan, SyEnna

HOBBIES: Hiking, Crossfit, Hockey

“But sound aloud the praises, and give the victor-crown To our noble-hearted Firemen, who fear not danger's frown.”

Frederic G.W. Fenn, “Ode to our Firemen,” 1878

Being in Leadership Aurora has allowed me to connect with my classmates and establish long lasting relationships/friendships with business persons and community members outside of the public safety community. This will aid me in being a better community oriented chief officer in the Aurora Fire Department.

RIGHT PEOPLE

Gregory Hatcher



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BIRTHPLACE: Aurora, Colorado
EDUCATION: BA – Political Science, University of Colorado Denver (current)
FAMILY: Wife – Rebecca Hatcher
HOBBIES: Football, being with family, outdoors, reading

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Aurora is the community I grew up in and continues to be a community near to my heart. The opportunities and people I have been able to meet in L.A. are amazing. I want to take what I have learned from L.A. to help continue the positive forward growth of Aurora.

Jacquie Healy



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BIRTHPLACE: Tulsa, OK
EDUCATION: Amarillo Junior College, Amarillo, TX
FAMILY: Husband – RJ; Children – Chris, Tom, and Holly
HOBBIES: Reading, Travel, RVing, Cooking

“One person can make a difference and every person should try.”

John F. Kennedy

With leaders all working toward the same goals, I have seen a common thread to our accomplishments – paying it forward, energy, and thoughtful ideas. Thank you for letting me be a part of this wonderful group of people.

Jason Heustis



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BIRTHPLACE: Bismarck, ND
EDUCATION: Associate of Arts – Bismarck State College, 1995
Associate of Applied Science – Carpentry, 1996
BS – Construction Management – Colorado State University, 2001
FAMILY: Wife – Dianna, Daughters – Anne and Elizabeth
HOBBIES: Golf, mountain biking, ice fishing

“A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it.”

George Augustus Moore

The LA Experience has revealed many different aspects that I had never been a part of before. Overall it has been an eye opening adventure that has shown me how our Community functions with all of its different resources. Experiencing and understanding how the different parts work in tandem has helped me see the “big picture” currently and what lies ahead for The City of Aurora.

Deborah Jones



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BIRTHPLACE: Los Angeles, CA
EDUCATION: MS – Human Resources Personnel Management, Golden Gate University 1996
BA – Human Relations, Golden Gate University 1992
AAS – Applied Sciences, Community College of the Air Force 1987
FAMILY: Son – David Jr.
HOBBIES: Exercise, Reading, Traveling

“If you are unable to correctly accomplish the small things, anything after that is not likely to be good.”

Deborah Jones

The class sessions we had, has given me pause to think about what it takes to keep a city the size of Aurora going and growing. I will use the resources, networking and new friendships to remind me that the Anschutz Medical Campus is a small part of a larger community.

RIGHT PEOPLE

Teri Karjala



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BIRTHPLACE: Herington, Kansas
EDUCATION: MS – Community Counseling
BS – Rehabilitation Services
FAMILY: Husband – Steve, Daughter – Brooklyn
HOBBIES: Spending time with family, outdoor Activities, running, hiking, water skiing, “creating,” scrapbooking, learning. Playing and being silly with daughter.

**“The more you praise
and celebrate your
life, the more there is
in life to celebrate.”**
Oprah Winfrey

This experience has been such a gift. I have learned so much about the community of Aurora, had incredible adventures, and created dynamic professional and personal relationships to last a lifetime. I hope to continue to collaborate with leaders in the community to keep Aurora moving forward.

Barbara Lee



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BIRTHPLACE: New York City
EDUCATION: SUNY@ Farmingdale, Nursing.
FAMILY: My children: Ian, Kyle and Brittany Hales. Beloved four legged loved friends: Holly, Smoky, Heta and Pixie Lee.
HOBBIES: Hiking, Cooking paired with great wine, Horses, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Sports Buddy Program, gardening and live music.

**“Be Kinder Than Necessary,
For Everyone You Meet Is
Fighting Their Own Battle”**
Unknown

My goal is to grow and develop relationships with my fellow LA classmates to allow the opportunity to improve the quality of life for Aurora residents on a long term basis. I’m especially interested in supporting local government and affiliated non-profits that foster improving healthcare services, nutritional guidance and mental health awareness.

Pieter Leenhouts



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BIRTHPLACE: Eindhoven, The Netherlands
EDUCATION: MBA – Emory University, 2001
BA – Economics, German – The College of William & Mary
FAMILY: Children – Amber, Bridget, and Chloe
HOBBIES: Anything Outdoors, Running, Skiing, Camping, Volunteering, reading

**“I don’t believe that life is
supposed to make you feel
good, or miserable either.
Life is just supposed to
make you feel.”**
Gloria Naylor

The deep understanding of the vibrant and diverse Aurora community, its people and leaders, have made me a better advocate for and citizen of this community. I plan to use this knowledge to bring more needed resources to our community.

Christian T. Lertch



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BIRTHPLACE: Neptune City, New Jersey
EDUCATION: BA – Norwich University, The Military College of Vermont (1992)
FAMILY: Wife – Marena Children – Brandon (19), Connor (19), Lauren (4), Caiden (2), Dogs: “Ripley” and “Harley”
HOBBIES: Hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, cooking/bbq’ing, softball and other team sports.
I believe that my Leadership Aurora experience has allowed me to have a greater insight into the Community that I serve. It has truly been both an education and a revelation which has allowed me to see more of my City then what I have experienced in almost twenty years of living and working here.

**“Courage is not the
absence of fear, but
rather the judgment that
something else is more
important than fear.”**
Meg Cabot

RIGHT PEOPLE

Linda Lillyblad



Finance Director | Aurora Chamber of Commerce
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BIRTHPLACE: Alexandria, VA
EDUCATION: BA – St. Andrews Presbyterian College 1973
US Chamber Institute for Organization Management 1983
FAMILY: Husband – Dan
HOBBIES: Snorkeling, Conducting Relationship Skills Classes

**“So now faith, hope and
love abide, these three;
but the greatest of these
is love.”**

Apostle Paul, The Bible

The eye-opening education I received through Leadership Aurora will serve me daily in a new and much expanded comprehension of the businesses and community that my employer, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, serves. Not only has the experience filled in gaps in my understanding, in some cases my whole perspective on our community has shifted.

Chris Martin



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BIRTHPLACE: Chicago, IL
EDUCATION: MS – Health Admin, University of Colorado 1998
MBA – University of Colorado 1998
BS – Biology, Creighton University 1992
FAMILY: Wife – Melissa, Children – Lily, Finbar, Sullivan
HOBBIES: Sports, traveling, bacon, playing with my kids & dog

**“The problem with
quotes on the
internet is that it is
hard to verify their
authenticity.”**

Abraham Lincoln

This was an incredible experience in which I learned so much. I will share my knowledge and make sure everyone I work with and serve through the Children's Hospital Colorado understands what Aurora has to offer!

Dave Mittan



Aurora Market President – FirstBank | FirstBank - Aurora
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BIRTHPLACE: Elkhart, IN
EDUCATION: BS – Finance, Western Michigan University 1987
FAMILY: Children – Mallory and Jenna
HOBBIES: Running, Golf, and Mustangs

“Crushing it!”

I plan to use the relationships I've made to help improve the community by leveraging those relationships into community service projects and organizational involvement.

Chris Mulberry



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BIRTHPLACE: Lorain, Ohio
EDUCATION: Paramedic – Swedish Paramedic Program 1999
FAMILY: Wife – Stephanie, Child – Cameron
HOBBIES: Hiking, camping, photography, reading and fine wine

**“The practice of
medicine is an art,
not a trade; a calling,
not a business.”**

William Osler, M.D

Leadership Aurora has been an unbelievable experience and I hope to encourage other people to attend. I have discovered numerous wonderful things about this great city and the great people here. My goal is to help be a positive influence like my classmates are!

RIGHT PEOPLE

Laura Noe



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BIRTHPLACE: Austin, Texas
EDUCATION: BA, University of Texas at Austin
FAMILY: Husband – Skip Noe, Children – Natalie, Zach, Neil and Megan
HOBBIES: Gardening, Art Collecting, Shopping, Travel, Reading

**“Be the Change
you want to see
in the World.”**
M. Gandhi

With my new expanded knowledge of our community and new connections made through new friends will use the experience to enrich my personal sphere and those I come into contact with beyond that and expand into the community at large.

Betsy Oudenhoven



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BIRTHPLACE: Rochester, New York
EDUCATION: PhD – Higher Education, Loyola University Chicago 2005
MA – Counseling and Guidance, University of Colorado-Boulder 1979
BS – Psychology, St. Lawrence University 1977
FAMILY: Husband – Duane “Arnie”, Children – James and Mollie
HOBBIES: Running, reading, anything outdoors

**“Be like a duck.
Calm on the
surface, but
always paddling
like the dickens
underneath.”**
Michael Caine

Leadership Aurora has connected me to my new home in Aurora by providing information, hands on experiences, pride and perspective. The professional connections I have made will help me in my work at CCA and the personal connections have begun friendships that I hope to continue for many years.

Joel Parriott



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EDUCATION: BA – Journalism, Northern Colorado 1989
FAMILY: Wife - Jill
HOBBIES: Comic Books, Fantasy Football, Card/Board Games

**“Never get too
busy making a
living that you
forget to make a
life.”**
Unknown

Each aspect of the experience has added to my sense of how a city can react to need. But on a fundamental level, I have learned that it's all about effective collaboration. Surround yourself with people who are passionate and want to affect the same change as you. The rest is lipstick and rouge.

Anne Polyzou



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EDUCATION: MSW, University of Michigan 2003
B.A., University of New Mexico 2001
FAMILY: Partner Leta Sharpe, Step-Son Jaxson Sharpe
HOBBIES: Mountain Biking, Snowboarding/Skiing, Triathlons, painting, drawing, running

**“You miss 100%
of the shots you
don't take.”**
Wayne Gretzky

The ability to network with leaders in the Aurora community who comprise diverse areas of expertise, as well as the many community explorations we have accessed, have allowed me to expand my knowledge of community needs and resources. Maintaining these connections and applying my knowledge of how the greater Aurora community works will help foster support for the disenfranchised residents that I work with on a daily basis, and motivate me to garner support for other Aurora Community projects.

RIGHT PEOPLE

Rachel Puckett



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BIRTHPLACE: Puyallup, WA

EDUCATION: MS - Financial Analysis, Air Force Institute of Technology 2011

BS - Managerial Studies, University of Maryland University College, Heidelberg Germany 2007

FAMILY: Husband – Jeremiah; Children – Jack

HOBBIES: Fishing, hiking, reading, pets, cooking & wine, horseback riding.

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

The Holy Bible, Phillipians 4:13

The access we've had to help us understand Aurora's interworkings and connections has been so helpful for seeing the strengths and needs of our city. It was invaluable to be able to shake hands with those working hard to make Aurora function, and hear about their goals and see what they are working on. We have gained an awareness that will aid our success in future endeavors within our businesses, volunteer work and involvement with local government.

Taylor Roberts



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BIRTHPLACE: Aurora, Colorado

EDUCATION: BS – Education, Indiana University 2008

FAMILY: Wife – Amanda Judge Roberts Dog – Franklin

HOBBIES: Hiking, golf, disc golf, motorcycles, exercising, racquetball, swimming

"Be a champion... Everyday."

Doc Counselman

I will build a network of likeminded leaders in the community. I will engage the non-Aurora community to help further spread the message of our city. I will support initiatives and organizations that provide services for Aurora citizens. I will utilize community resources in providing YMCA programs in the Aurora Community. I will make lifelong friends.

Alton D. Scales



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BIRTHPLACE: Amarillo, Texas

EDUCATION: MS – Manufacturing Engineering

BS – Industrial Technology Manufacturing

FAMILY: Wife – Jacquelyn

HOBBIES: Audiophile, African Artifacts, Jazz & African drumming

"Silence is to oppression what darkness is to the thief."

Alton D. Scales, "African Heritage Conference 2001"

The series of site visits organized by the Leadership Aurora team has had a positive impact on my understanding of several anchor organizations within Aurora. This exploration has afforded me access to key community members and entrée into places most of our citizens will never tread. Additionally, the relationships developed during this trek will aid me as the leader of the Community College of Aurora.

Kent Scroggs



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BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO

EDUCATION: MBA – Finance, UCLA (Beta Gamma Sigma honor society) - 1981

BA – Economics and Asian Studies, Claremont McKenna College (summa cum laude) - 1975

FAMILY: Wife – Lisa, Children – Brian, McKenna and Katherine

HOBBIES: Cycling, Photography, Camping, Skiing, Hiking

The clearest benefit resulting from my participation in Leadership Aurora is my expanded awareness of all the resources Aurora has to offer its residents and especially the disadvantaged population served by Restoration Outreach Programs. This has already created significant benefit for ROP's clients and I expect it will continue to do so.

The key to enjoying an "Abundant Life" (John 10:10)—"a life characterized by joy, peace and a sense of fulfillment—is serving God and other people out of a heart of gratitude."
Kent Scroggs

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BA – Architecture, Savannah College of Art & Design 1992
FAMILY: Wife – Amy Cheslin; Children – (Son) Brennen, (Daughter) Bradleigh
HOBBIES: Sketching, Painting, Reading, Traveling, Culinary Arts, Gardening, & Building Cool Stuff

I plan to harness this collaborative experience as fuel for my business and as a foundation to educate my friends, neighbors, and colleagues on the many strengths of Aurora. The wealth of knowledge gained and relationships created during this focused period of time will absolutely translate back to the community.

"I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it."
Chuck Swindoll

Gary Wheat



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HOBBIES: Golf, Hunting/Fishing, Dragon Boating, Horseback Riding, Reading, Writing

The community experiences and the new network of friends from Leadership Aurora have enhanced my personal and professional growth. The amount of pride and vision experienced in my City and the Leadership Aurora class will travel with me throughout my life.

"There is a choice you have to make, in everything you do. And you must always keep in mind the choice you make, makes you."
Anonymous

Kathy Williams



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EDUCATION: MS – Human Resource Management/OD, Regis University
BS – Human Resources, Regis University
FAMILY: Husband, 2 grown daughters and one grown son, 4 grandchildren.
HOBBIES: Dogs, fitness, reading

This opportunity allowed me the time and exposure to the City of Aurora I find inspiring and energizing. I treasure the gift of working with such a dynamic and committed team of individuals from the Chamber to my classmates and look forward to continuing the work of learning and contributing to such a great city.

"Success is, liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it."
Maya Angelou

Stephanie York



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BIRTHPLACE: Littleton, CO
EDUCATION: BFA – Ballet Performance, Marymount Manhattan College 2001
HOBBIES: Travel, Languages, Reading, Dancing!

It's been highly enriching to understand and experience all of the elements that create a vibrant and engaged community. I am so proud of Aurora and very thankful and excited for all the new friends I've made!

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community."
Cesar Chavez

RIGHT PLACE

CREATING AN EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



On a beautiful day in September, 2012, the Leadership Aurora class of 2013 gathered for their introductory retreat at the Keystone Lodge. The setting was beautiful, tranquil and full of strangers expected to unite into a

cohesive team at the end of two days. We all love meeting new people and an adventure now and then—but becoming a cohesive team? Right.

The first few minutes of this amazing experience set the tone for the rest of the retreat and the rest of our experience. Ice breakers like “I like people, but I really like people who...” began the process of introducing us to each other. Every activity, meal, snack, gathering, presentation and conversation led us closer to the inevitable outcome. Those tricky board members and their coordinated

efforts were just what the seemingly daunting task required.

After just two days, we left with a new support system, inspiration, friendship, and trust. We were not strangers any longer, we were a team. We broke into committees to plan social activities, our class project, a newsletter, a yearbook, photography, and graduation. It was clear that we had work ahead but we looked forward to the tasks presented to us and the planning and discussion necessary to get there.



RIGHT PLACE

COMMUNITY TIES AND YOU



Community Day, in October proved to be a rewarding, fact-finding and memorable experience for the entire Leadership Aurora class. Our class was provided the opportunity to share ideas for projects after visiting 12 different organizations in Aurora. The organizations included: Providers Resource Clearinghouse, Aurora Animal Shelter, Bluff Lake Nature Center, Hope Communities Neighborhood Center, Aurora Fox Arts Center, Morning Star Adult Day Program, Aurora History Museum, Excelsior Youth Center, Workforce and Business Center, Metro Community Provider Network, Friends of St. Andrew/Aurora Warms the Night, and the Ronald McDonald House.

In the afternoon, Goodwill provided a tour of the Career Development Services and the processing area. The tour provided a true sense of how important community involvement can be in making a difference in other's

lives. It was interesting to hear about the successful development of Goodwill Industries and how it is helping individuals with life skill lessons.

One class member summarized our experience. "I believe that few people have a true understanding of how many organizations are in the community and the scope of their work. This day provided a chance for myself and my classmates to experience the services that are being provided to Aurora citizens and what it takes to provide those services."

Community Day motivated our group and resulted in a commitment to an ongoing initiative which would include bringing a specific donation to each of our monthly meetings to support different needs in our community and to develop a larger legacy project as well.



THE MAKING OF AN ALL-AMERICA CITY



In November, the Leadership Aurora Class of 2013 participated in the session "The Making of an All-America City." Who doesn't take our infrastructure for granted pretty much all the time? Our government and civics day turned out to be even better than hoped and showed us how much we lean on the city to function the right way, everyday.

A brief history and discussion of present issues facing Aurora was presented. Class members were educated on the topic of infrastructure. We participated in a mock city council meeting and

learned about the "ins" and "outs" of government in our beloved city. The class moved to Wagner Equipment where we were exposed to "big" construction equipment. We even got to drive a few. What a hoot!!

Most striking was the revelation of interdependence between businesses and citizens. From government-sanctioned projects like the light-rail to privately funded ventures such as a new hair salon; we are all a part of this community and we all have an impact.

RIGHT PLACE

COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION



Media Day in December began with Jacquie Palisi, who provided an overview of the day, and Kim Stuart, Director of Communication for the City of Aurora. Kim gave

a remarkable presentation titled "Lessons Learned from 7/20." She shared incredible stories about press briefings and data on the published news stories on the event.

Kim stated that accepting support from other communication professionals to assist the Aurora team, making resource decisions, and using selected, trusted media members to share the city's message were all valuable lessons learned in a difficult time for the city and citizens of Aurora.

Our class also traveled to the 9News Station where we were greeted by

Tim Ryan, Assistant News Director. Tim introduced 9News President and General Manager Mark Cornetta and Consumer News reporter Gregg Moss. Both spoke about industry changes and challenges, with great focus on the digital evolution and meeting consumer demand for access across multiple platforms.

This informative and comprehensive day ended with a fun and interactive exercise at Aurora 8 studios. We had some laughs when we stepped briefly into the shoes of media stars both in front of and behind the cameras.

TOMORROW'S LEADERS



The coordinators of Education Day in January, the speakers and, most importantly, the children all provided a comprehensive view of education in the 21st century for our class.

Our day included visits to the Institute of Science and Technology in Cherry Creek School District, Aurora Central

High School, the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center, the Center for Advancing Professional Excellence (CAPE) and the Center for Human Simulation. We also toured the Eisenhower Suite during an overview of the Anschutz Campus for a glimpse back into the 50's.

We were privileged to learn about S.T.E.M., Aurora LIGHTS Health Science Pathway, Arts, Communication, and Business Pathways and the APS mentorship program. We heard and saw inspiring presentations from students from first grade through high school

and from our own classmates. We learned the role of simulation in training and some of us got to try out the equipment to scope a knee.

Every step we took throughout the day emphasized that a strong public education is what drives economic growth. Secondary education can only thrive with the foundation built in our public schools. We felt informed, enthusiastic, encouraged, confident, awed, and impressed, particularly with the opportunities available to students and their empowered participation.

WORLD CLASS HEALTHCARE IN AURORA



Snowfall created an hour delay to Thursday morning's healthcare session in February but the day delivered thanks to our host Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital and all the coordinators of the day. Our class broke into groups and traveled to The Medical Center of Aurora (TMCA) and University of Colorado Health (UCH). At TMCA, half of us toured an emergency

department, heard about the response to 7/20, operated a Da Vinci surgical robot and observed an interventional radiology procedure. The other half of our class listened to a presentation about UCH's burn unit, participated in a burn patient simulation and received a tour of the WELLS (Work, Education, and Lifelong Learning Simulation) Center.

RIGHT PLACE

PRIDE AND PRESENCE



March provided brisk but beautiful weather for exploration of Buckley Air Force Base. We knew before we arrived that there would be no flight time for us due to sequestration. Nevertheless, the day did not disappoint.

Military day was a balance of speakers with some hands-on

and eyes-on activities. The National Guard, the Air Force Space Command, and Army Aviation broadened our knowledge. The sight and sounds held most of us in awe as we witnessed the take-off of several F16s. The pilot that accompanied us made the experience enjoyable with his humor and personal stories. We were able to examine the F16s up close, learn about the mechanical side, touch them and have our questions answered. We saw Army helicopters, sat in them, and heard some of the stories about their use in Colorado for rescue and fire control.

One of our classmates had just seen his son graduate from Army basic training and he voiced the gratitude

we owe our military personnel. It does not matter who sits in the Commander in Chief's chair at the White House. Regardless, the personnel of our armed forces get the call and they go. Whether it is to assist in the cleanup and provide medical care for those who have experienced a natural disaster or to go to war with another nation. They go. The members of our armed forces put themselves directly in harm's way because of a deep love and commitment to our country. To all military personnel past and present, the Leadership Aurora class of 2013 acknowledges you and thanks you for your service. You protect what and who make up this nation. You all are special people. Many thanks!

IN THE LINE OF FIRE



Our April session was definitely one of our favorites – a great combination of information and hands-on experiences, as well as a sneak peek into a profession that is dramatically different from many of us.

The experiences that involved guns were exceptionally thought-provoking, especially for those of us who have never handled a gun. We gained an understanding of what it is to use a lethal tool with skill and good judgment. Police officers must be able to gauge a situation and react appropriately. We understood that, even in the most seemingly benign situation, things can turn deadly.

In our simulations, we experienced a traffic stop that became dangerous, shot a bike thief who started out with a bolt cutter and ended up with a gun, practiced on a target at the shooting range, and walked through a building with a variety of potential threats. In the process, many may have mistakenly "shot" some they shouldn't have!

It was apparent from our experiences at the Police Session that the Aurora Police Department is a proud, well-trained, and skilled group of individuals who care deeply about each other and the community they serve. The experiences of the day only emphasized the respect we have for the work they do.



RIGHT PLACE

WHEN YOU'RE HOT, YOU'RE HOT!

A rainy May day was the setting of our final session for the Leadership Aurora Class of 2013. We met at the Rocky Mountain Fire Academy and began the day's adventures with a fitting for full bunker gear. Fire Chief Mike Garcia welcomed us, talked about the history of the Aurora Fire Department (AFD) and the importance of collaboration among fire departments in our state and across the United States. We learned that the Rocky Mountain Fire Academy took shape in 1986 as an example of an important collaborative venture by the Aurora and Denver fire departments. Battalion Chief Mark Stephenson provided an entertaining and informative presentation on fire behavior. Deputy Chief Tony Cito provided a comprehensive overview of the department, complete with data about the number of personnel, fire stations,

and the impressive number of calls that AFD responds to each year.

Lunch was a delicious barbeque grilled and served to us by the AFD Executive Staff. After lunch, we donned our full bunker gear and broke into groups for our chance to experience firefighter training activities. We rappelled down a five story tower, crawled through a confined space maze, searched for victims in a smoke-filled building, used the jaws of life for automobile extrication, and put out a car fire. We gained a more complete picture of what it takes to be a firefighter. We ended the day exhilarated, exhausted, and with a deeper appreciation of AFD for all they do and the sacrifices firefighters make for our safety.



RIGHT TIME

It was clear from the very beginning that the Leadership Aurora Class of 2013 would not settle for just a singular Class Project. Instead, we would embark on an ambitious desire to raise the Leadership Aurora bar, craft a meaningful Class Project and leave a positive legacy for our Aurora Community.

Our Class Project was composed of three primary components: Community Outreach, LA Directory and a Legacy Project.

First, Community Outreach included seven specific outreach events, resulting in the following:

- November- 5,821 diapers donated to Metro Community Provider Network.
- December- Food & gifts to 6 families through the Aurora Mental Health Adopt-A-Family program.
- January- \$645 worth of food raised during the Grocery Cart Race for Comitis Crisis Center.
- February- Multiple classmates participation in the Aurora Public School's "Leaders are Readers" program.
- March- Blood drive for Children's Hospital.
- April- 291 pounds of food and \$195 donated to Restoration Outreach Programs.
- May- Door prizes for Leadership Aurora's "Pay It Forward" Golf Tournament.
- Multiple donations of toiletries to Friends of St. Andrews throughout the year.

Second, class members assisted the Chamber in updating the Leadership Aurora alumni directory of the past 28 years, contacting over 900 classmates. This directory document will be a resource for the Chamber and LA members as a reference moving forward.

Last, our Legacy Project was a special opportunity to leave our indelible mark in the Aurora Community and we are grateful to have had the opportunity to partner with the Aurora Fox Arts Center. The AURORA Fox Studio Theater was originally built as a rehearsal space then converted for performances in 2008. With more than 100 performances a year, as well as hundreds of rehearsals and classes, the studio has become a key facility serving Aurora's cultural life. Our project included conceptual design services for a new main entry handicap access ramp and removal and rebuilding of the existing seating risers. While the facility is accessible, patrons in wheelchairs navigate through a labyrinth of non-public spaces just to get to their seat. The Fox's goal is to implement a new fully accessible main entrance that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The conceptual design



Food Bank Drive, Restoration Outreach Program



Leaders are Readers



Comitis Grocery Cart Race

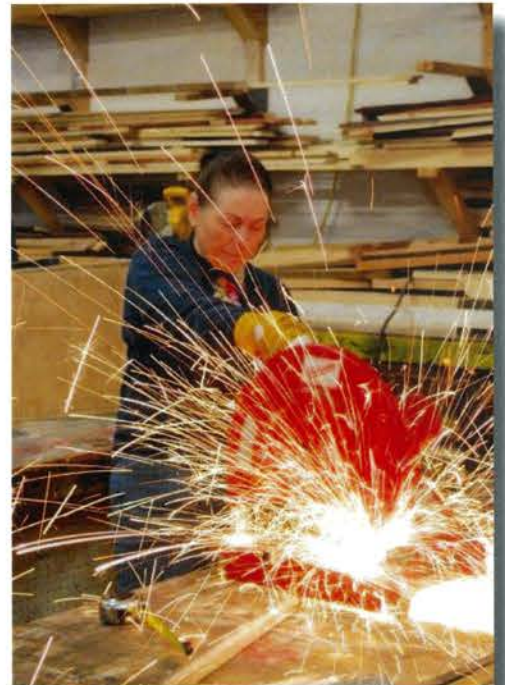


MCPN Diaper Drive

work provided by Insula Design Studio is intended to define a new Studio Theater identity and support future fund raising. The seating risers re-build was directed by Executive Producer, Charles Packard. Charles provided the blueprints for our team to follow. The Leadership Aurora class volunteered over a dozen scheduled work days consisting of more than 450 total labor hours. We collected over \$8,750 in donated materials and raised over \$6,350 to pay for remaining material costs. The estimated value of the new riser project is well in excess of \$20,000.

RIGHT TIME

THE AURORA FOX THEATER



INTEREST DIRECTORY

2012-13 Community Interest Directory	Aging Wellness	Arts / Theater	Substance Abuse	Child Abuse	Childcare	Community Planning	Econ. Development	Education	Government	Disabilities	Health & Wellness	Legal	Mental Health	Recreation	Religion & Spirituality	Small Business	Transportation	Youth Services	Visitor Promotion
Marissa Banker		•					•	•						•					
Lynn Burgess		•				•	•	•		•	•			•	•		•	•	
Rob Carmody		•			•	•		•			•			•				•	•
Sandy Carter	•	•									•	•							•
Tammy Clementi						•		•			•							•	
Nanette Coats	•	•		•		•	•		•					•		•		•	•
Bill Culver									•					•		•			•
Gigi de Gala		•	•					•	•		•		•		•				
Shaun Drost		•						•					•	•	•			•	
Gian Gandolfo							•		•		•						•		•
Troy Grimes		•	•	•															
Hunter Hackbarth							•		•		•								
Gregory Hatcher		•				•		•	•		•				•		•		
Jacqueline Healy				•		•			•		•		•					•	
Jason Heustis	•					•	•				•			•		•			
Deborah Jones	•	•				•	•	•			•								
Teri Karjala			•	•				•			•		•			•		•	
Barbara Lee	•	•	•							•			•						•
Pieter Leenhouts		•				•	•	•	•		•			•		•			•
Christian Lertch		•						•	•		•			•	•				
Linda Lillyblad	•	•				•		•			•		•		•	•			
Christopher Martin		•		•		•		•			•		•	•				•	
David Mittan		•					•							•					
Chris Mulberry		•						•			•			•					
Laura Noe	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Betsy Oudenoven	•							•			•			•				•	
Joel Parriott						•	•	•	•					•		•			
Anne Polyzou		•		•				•										•	
Rachel Puckett		•				•	•									•			
Taylor Roberts		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•				•	•
Alton Scales	•					•	•	•	•										
Kent Scroggs		•	•			•		•			•		•		•			•	
Stanley Turner	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		•	•		
Gary Wheat		•				•	•	•	•	•				•			•		•
Kathy Williams				•		•		•								•		•	
Stephanie York													•						

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special thank you to those who worked diligently in putting together the 2013 class yearbook. Stephanie York took on the task of chairing the Yearbook Committee with help from Barbara Lee and committee members Kathy Williams, Shaun Drost, and Linda Lillyblad. They undertook the task of gathering and editing the information for class bios, and writing the copy for session descriptions. Each committee member also helped choose photos and made other various creative decisions.

A special thank you also goes to Teri Karjala and Kent Scroggs, along with the other members of the photo committee, Nanette Coats, Bill Culver, Gigi de Gala and Chris Mulberry who documented the class year with their cameras!

We'd also like to thank those companies who purchased advertising in this publication. You made it possible to provide

additional funds for scholarships.

We would not have been able to produce this yearbook without Kristen Savage who helped us with the design and layout. We are grateful for her imaginative and creative ideas.

Also to Brad Mikel, Master Photographer, for his professional services on the individual class photos.

And to Mark and Nanette Coats for videography services.

And, to Barbara Peck, In Your Element Photography, for her professional services on the Leadership Aurora board photo.

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

In WHO la?

[in-SOO-la]



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Rural/Metro Ambulance congratulates
Chris Mulberry
on his successful completion of the
Leadership Aurora Program, Class of 2013.

We're proud of you, Chris!

Rural/Metro is a proud sponsor of the Leadership Aurora Program.





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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 2013.

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Congratulations again to the entire Class of 2013.

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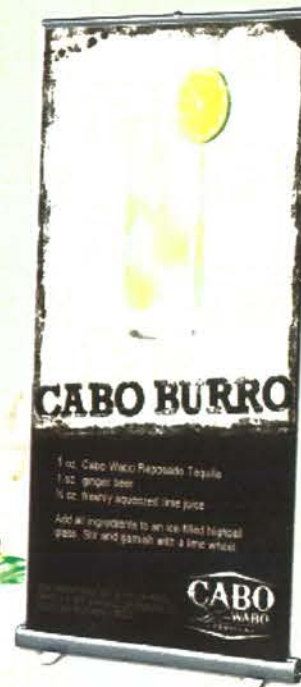
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