



**Leadership Aurora**

**Class of 2014**

**THE HUB:**  
**AURORA'S INTERSECTION OF CARING,**  
**CONNECTION, CURIOSITY, AND COMMUNITY**





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# CONGRATULATIONS Leadership Aurora Class of 2014!



*Proud Home to Numerous Leadership Aurora Graduates:*

#### EMPLOYEES:

Norine Domenico (1985)  
Jo Morgan Brooks (1986)  
Sherrie Kantor (1986)  
Richard Tubbs (1986)  
John McGuire (1987)  
Larry Steele (1987)  
Karl Van Etten (1987)  
Mary Bopp (1988)  
Cynthia Barnes (1989)  
Terry Campbell Caron (1991)  
Cheryl Blum (1992)  
Cindy Gayles (1993)  
Nancy Jackson (1993)  
Greg Appling (1994)  
Steve Marshall (1995)  
Darryl Borgonah (1996)  
Becky Barcheski (1997)  
Rosalyn Zigmund (1997)

Susan Miller (1998)  
Dr. Geo Hunt (1999)  
Lanne Lancaster (2001)  
Maria Halloran (2003)  
Jeannette Issae (2003)  
Jane Harding (2004)  
Greg Goode (2004)  
Kristen Speck (2005)  
Diana Whye (2006)  
Kacee Austin (2007)  
Beth Lattone (2007)  
Dr. Chris Ward (2008)  
Sylvester Brandon (2009)  
Naazlin Dadani (2009)  
Richard Maestas (2012)  
Alton Scales (2013)  
Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven (2013)  
Sarah Grace Pretzer (2014)

#### CCAF BOARD:

Gordon Schieman (1985)  
Ray Barnes (1990)  
Dale Mingilton (1992)  
Tom Ashburn (1994)  
Terri Gehler (1996)  
Kevin Hougen (1998)  
Pat Landaker (1999)  
Leroy Williams (2001)  
David Patterson (2002)  
Rich Allison (2002)  
Suzanne Pitrusu (2006)  
Dan Sandos (2007)  
Mark Gouin (2008)  
Amy McLaughry (2010)  
David Cooper (2011)  
Maureen Barker (2011)  
Tom Henley (2012)

# INTRODUCTION

Look through this keepsake yearbook and glance at the snapshots. These are your neighbors, your colleagues, your friends, your family. They are just a few of the dedicated individuals who keep Aurora growing and running smoothly day in and day out. Now read the mini-profiles of this year's Leadership Aurora class, and note the "birthplace" category. Denver. Portland. St. Louis. Dayton. New York City. Kansas City. Idaho Falls.

Whether members of this year's class found Aurora on purpose or by accident, one thing is certain: they individually and collectively discovered the heart of the community through the Leadership Aurora program. They dedicated themselves to honoring Aurora's past, celebrating its present, and building its future.

In 10 short months, class members experienced an intensive mountain retreat to kick everything off, followed by monthly immersion in the best Aurora has to offer: medical facilities, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, police and fire facilities, the military, city management, and more. The class also selected, planned, and implemented a project designed to give back to the community and support a need that exists right here at home.

The Aurora Chamber has supported the development of community leaders for 30 years now, and while many things have changed since 1984, the Leadership Aurora program continues to incorporate a laser focus on meeting the city's need for strong, skilled, and participatory leadership. The program is funded by the Chamber, in-kind donations, and class tuition. The Leadership Aurora Board steers the program, develops its curriculum, and oversees its success. Just ask members of this year's class about their experience—you will be amazed at what you hear!

The Leadership Aurora Class of 2014

*Congratulations*  
**Leadership Aurora**  
**Class of 2014!**

*Robert McGranaghan*  
*and Jim Beck*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Leadership Aurora class of 2014 acknowledges the many **individuals and businesses** that provide invaluable support to make this one of the most outstanding leadership programs in the United States.

Gratitude is also extended to the **Aurora Chamber of Commerce**. The Chamber's support of this program has touched lives for the better across the Aurora community.

And just as 30 years of Leadership Aurora graduates have done, we applaud the key people who make the program the amazing success that is today. Thank you, **Leadership Aurora Board members!** As we graduate, we look forward to meeting the individuals who will join us as Leadership Aurora alumni in the years ahead. Together, we will take Aurora confidently into the future.

Our appreciation also goes to the **guest speakers and personnel** who took us behind the scenes of organizations throughout the city.

Thank you, **Kimberly Curtis**, for your years of quiet and certain guidance of the program. You made every Leadership Aurora participant feel valued, welcomed, and challenged. It is because of people like you that Aurora offers such a high quality of life.

Welcome, **Rene Simard**, as you take the helm of the program. Your efforts will help Aurora grow steadily into a world-class city and keep this community a happy, healthy environment in which to live, work, and play.

Finally, we thank the **citizens of Aurora**. We are grateful to be a part of such a diverse, dynamic, and caring community. Aurora has many wonderful amenities at every turn, but it's the people that make this city special.

Special thanks to Barbara Peck for the cover photo of the class.





## BOARD CHAIR

to provide your input on important matters, or find some other way to engage. Help us shape the future of Aurora.

There are many people to thank for another successful Leadership Aurora year. Thanks to all the individuals, businesses, and non-profits who provided sponsorship dollars and in-kind donations. The program simply is not possible without all of you.

Thank you to all of the fabulous, dedicated members of the Leadership Aurora Board. You are the hardest working board around and are key to the on-going success of the program. Special thanks to those who are departing the Board at the end of this year: Rob Chaney, Jane McGrath, Keith Peterson, and Ana-Christina. You gave so much to this program and your contributions and your smiling faces will be missed greatly.

I look forward to serving with incoming Chair Randy Berner and Vice Chair Mike Garcia. They have both already made so many contributions to the Leadership Aurora program, and I'm sure that will continue.

The Class of 2013-14 came running out of the gate. You exhibited high energy and enthusiasm at the opening retreat, and never slowed down. Congratulations to all of you for a truly fantastic year! It has been an honor to serve as Board Chair during this past year. I have been so lucky to have a class full of leaders who really did not need too much support from the Board.

Now we need you to engage! Everything you have learned should help you be a better employee, a better neighbor, a better leader, and a better member of the community. I am still so grateful for my year in Leadership Aurora, and for all the ways it helped me improve in all of those areas. Please - get involved with one of the non-profits you learned about, or attend public meetings

At the opening retreat in Winter Park, the Leadership Aurora Class of 2014 discussed focus, reflection, skill development, and team building as aspects of leadership and connection to community. We practiced being present, modeling authenticity, responding, listening, sharing, and connecting. We built the foundation of our team, which is full of passion, drive, and a broad set of talents. Within the first month of the Leadership Aurora program, we found many projects to use those strengths.

LA2014 collected toys for the Salvation Army and the Hope Toy Drive, as well as food and supplies for Comitis Crisis Center. We read to students in the Readers are Leaders program; donated gloves and blankets to Aurora Warms the Night; and we hosted an event for alumni and community leaders, honoring 30 years of Leadership Aurora Graduates. And, I am incredibly proud of our major class project – building a garden at Brent's Place. This project is a lasting legacy of transformation, connection, renewal, and growth.

Leadership Aurora afforded all of us the chance to draw on our skills and to lean on one another to accomplish much more than we might have as individuals. It also encouraged many of us to step further into leadership roles at home, work, interests, and community. With practice, guidance, and teamwork, our skills improved and our confidence grew and we saw that we could – with the network of friends, family, community, and fellow leaders – make a difference.

I am personally grateful to every member of LA2014, the Leadership Aurora Board, the staff at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, and the many talented people who opened their doors and allowed us to explore Aurora behind the scenes. Together, we found the skills, knowledge, and dedication necessary to truly make a difference in our community and to establish ourselves as contributors to Aurora.

As our year comes to an end, I am awed by the incredible support system that exists in Aurora,

Special thanks to ALL the staff of the Aurora Chamber. Kimberly Curtis, long-time director of the program, left us mid-year but as always, laid the foundation for the class and the board to have a successful year. Kevin Hougen, Mitzi Schindler, and Naomi Colwell stepped in to assist in so many ways, halfway through the year, and made sure all the wheels kept on turning. And it is so exciting to have Rene Simard on board as Executive Vice President of the Chamber, bringing his many talents to the role of Director of Leadership Aurora.

I am honestly humbled to have had the opportunity to serve as Chair this past year. It has been a wonderful opportunity, and I look forward to seeing all of your future accomplishments.

Regards,  
Michelle A. Wolfe  
Leadership Aurora Board Chair  
2013-2014

## CLASS PRESIDENT

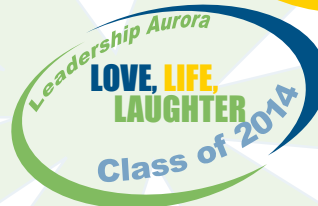
Colorado - by and for the citizens, businesses, entrepreneurs, educators, clinicians, explorers, civil servants, emergency responders, healers, families - and for all of us.

Aurora, Colorado is a place of caring, connection, curiosity, and community – and LA2014 is an integral part of that!

Melissa Toering  
2014 Leadership Aurora  
Class President



# LEADERSHIP AURORA CLASS OF 2014



## CHINAKA AGWU

Program Director/Veterans Program  
Aurora Mental Health Center  
11059 East Bethany Drive  
Aurora, CO 80014  
303-617-2300  
chinakaagwu@aumhc.org



**BIRTHPLACE:** Denver, CO

**EDUCATION:** MS, Counselor Education,  
Southern Illinois University in Carbondale;  
BA, Psychology, Truman State University  
**HOBBIES:** Reading, singing,  
working out, cooking

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

I celebrate myself, and sing myself.  
And what I assume you shall assume.  
For every atom belonging to me as good  
belongs to you.

— Walt Whitman

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

The Leadership Aurora Program of 2014 has been an experience of mentorship, flexibility, and of taking risks. I am sad that it has come to its conclusion. I have learned that leadership does not have to occur in the front of the room, but through actions in the back of the room. I have learned that "shared experiences" propel intimacy, authenticity, and openness. All three of these I have experienced with my Leadership Aurora 2014 class and I look forward to keeping connected with them further in the future.

## TONY ARRIOLA

Principal, Elementary 43,  
Cherry Creek School District  
22200 E. Radcliff Pkwy.  
Centennial, CO 80015  
tarriola@cherrycreekschools.org



**BIRTHPLACE:** Portland, OR

**EDUCATION:** MS, Educational  
Leadership, Chapman University; BS,  
Elementary Education, University of  
Eastern Oregon  
**HOBBIES:** Golf, reading, cooking,  
fitness

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

Always remember that you are in a kid  
business, not an ego business.

— My dad

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

The relationships that have been  
built are priceless and will help with  
networking in the community. The new  
knowledge I have of our community will  
help me assist students, parents, and  
teachers.



## KIRSTEN ANDERSON

Program Director, Child and Family  
South and Disaster Coordinator,  
Aurora Mental Health  
14301 E. Hampden Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80014  
kirstenanderson@aumhc.org

**BIRTHPLACE:** St. Louis, MO

**EDUCATION:** PsyD, University of  
Denver; BA, Dartmouth College  
**HOBBIES:** Cooking, watching and  
playing sports, camping

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

It's just amazing how inside our own  
souls we can lift out so much strength.  
I think it would be enough strength to  
move mountains.

— Jack Kerouac

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

The Leadership Aurora Program has  
been very valuable to me because  
it has given me the opportunity to  
learn even more about what makes  
Aurora such an amazing city. I have  
also met some wonderful and talented  
colleagues.

## DONNA BAIOTTO

Executive Director, Community Housing Partners  
791 N. Chambers Rd., Suite 104  
Aurora, CO 80011  
donna!@ch-partners.org

BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO  
EDUCATION: BS, Education University of Missouri, St. Louis; MA, Spirituality St. Bonaventure University; MSW, Denver University  
HOBBIES: Kayaking, hiking, biking, camping... Anything outdoors with an "ing" on the end!

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

In the attitude of silence the soul finds the path in a clearer light, and what is elusive and deceptive resolves itself into crystal clearness. Our life is a long and arduous quest after Truth.

— Mahatma Gandhi

## OTIS CLAYTON

Commissioner,  
Veterans Affairs Commission  
75 North New Castle Court  
Aurora, CO 80018  
clayton.otis@gmail.com

BIRTHPLACE: Memphis, TN

EDUCATION:

Doctorate, Vanderbilt University; MA, Memphis State University; MA., Central Michigan University; Masters of Divinity, Memphis Theological Seminary, BA, LeMayne-Owen College

HOBBIES: Reading, writing, research, dancing, going to the movies, playing pool, and talking to people

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

Leadership Aurora has given me an exposure to - and a great appreciation for - all the great things that are happening in the City. It gives an "insider's view" that is only available through this program.



## SUNNY BANKA

Broker/Owner/Realtor Sunny Homes and Associates, Inc.  
16629 E. Atlantic Pl.  
Aurora, CO 80013  
sunnybanka@aol.com



BIRTHPLACE: Coronado, CA

EDUCATION: Paralegal, Arapahoe Community College

HOBBIES: Reading, swimming, walking my dogs, gardening, being a grandma, and shopping

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

This is not a time for dragging feet or stooped shoulders. Stop seeking out the storms and enjoy more fully the sunlight.

— Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

Leadership Aurora has been an amazing experience. It has been an opportunity to be hands-on with various aspects of the Aurora community. I am so grateful for the friendships that have been created and the wonderful classmates I have come to know and share these experiences with. It truly is one of the most informative "classes" that I have been involved with.



### FAVORITE QUOTE:

A mind is a terrible thing to waste.

— Dr. Benjamin E. Mays

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

Indeed, I have received more than I have put into Leadership Aurora. Yes! Most importantly, I have met friends for life. This is my sincere and heartfelt testimony. Consequently, I humble myself to "Almighty God." God is so good to me. For one thing, I am a member of Leadership Aurora.



## SEAN CHOI

Banking Officer, FirstBank  
17100 E. Smoky Hill Rd.  
Aurora, CO 80015  
Sean.Choi@efirstbank.com

BIRTHPLACE: Colorado Springs, CO

EDUCATION:

MBA, Finance, University of Colorado at Denver; BA, Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder

HOBBIES: Music, reading, travel, art

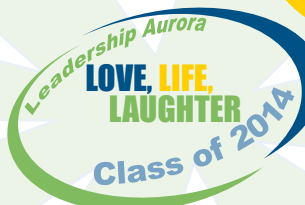
### FAVORITE QUOTE:

Do or do not... there is no try.

— Yoda

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

Leadership Aurora has been a great opportunity to meet and learn about so many diverse individuals and organizations that contribute to our community. I've been thankful to get to know all my classmates, to make new friends, and to share some laughs along the way.





## MARTIN CLOUGH

District 1 Sector Lieutenant, Aurora  
Police Department  
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Aurora, CO 80045  
mclough@auroragov.org

BIRTHPLACE: Baltimore, MD  
EDUCATION: BS, Criminology,  
Florida State University  
HOBBIES: Fishing, hiking, reading,  
spending time with my kids

FAVORITE QUOTE:  
A journey of a thousand miles must  
begin with a single step.  
— Chinese Proverb

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

The community explorations were  
good but the best part of the  
program was the friendships formed  
and the diverse group of contacts  
made with other leaders in the  
community.



## CAMERON DONEGAN

Project Manager,  
Adolfson & Peterson Construction  
797 Ventura St.  
Aurora, CO 80011  
cdonegan@a-p.com

BIRTHPLACE: Portland, OR  
EDUCATION: BS, Mechanical  
Engineering, South Dakota School of  
Mines and Technology



HOBBIES: Football, coaching, fishing,  
rafting, snowboarding, home remodeling

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

I firmly believe that any man's finest hour,  
the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds  
dear, is that moment when he has worked  
his heart out in a good cause and lies  
exhausted on the field of battle - victorious  
— Vince Lombardi

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

My experience through Leadership Aurora  
has opened my eyes to the diversity of  
the city, not only in the people but the  
businesses and organizations that are  
present in Aurora. Every class event feels  
like an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do  
something in the community and to learn  
about a new and interesting aspect of the  
community I live in.

## JOSHUA HOWERTON

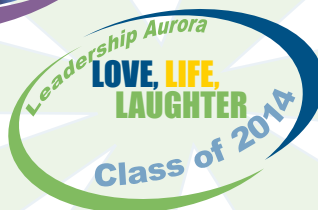
EMS Captain, Paramedic,  
Rural/Metro-Pridemark Ambulance  
452 Sable Blvd.  
Aurora, CO 80011  
joshua.howerton@rmetro.com

BIRTHPLACE: Aurora, CO  
EDUCATION: Criminal Justice, Regis  
University; Paramedic Program,  
Community College of Aurora  
HOBBIES: Reading, walking, watching  
movies

FAVORITE QUOTE:  
Only two things are infinite, the  
universe and human stupidity, and I'm  
not sure about the former.  
— Albert Einstein

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

Leadership Aurora has opened my eyes  
to the many excellent opportunities and  
resources that we enjoy while living  
and working in Aurora. Being part of  
this tremendously dedicated team has  
reinvigorated my want to be a leader in  
this All America City!



## VICKI EKBERG

Public Relations Director, Restoration  
Outreach Programs  
1540 Boston St.  
Aurora, CO 80010  
Vicki@RestorationOutreachPrograms.org

BIRTHPLACE: Grand Junction, CO  
EDUCATION: AA, Communications,  
Community College of Aurora  
HOBBIES: Reading, writing, biking, travel,  
scuba diving, power naps

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

Our lives begin to end the day we become  
silent about things that matter.  
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

Aurora has held a special place in  
my heart for most of my life, and with  
eleven years of community development  
experience, I thought I knew a lot about  
my city. Leadership Aurora blew the doors  
off my illusions. I can't recommend this  
experience highly enough. The people I  
met and relationships built during this year  
of shared experience are a resource and  
treasure. Passionate hearts and leaders  
are the foundation that will continue to  
strengthen and grow our city into the future!



## JOHN KEENE

Broker Associate, Perry & Co.  
101 S. Madison  
Denver, CO 80209  
jkeene@perryandco.com

BIRTHPLACE: CT  
EDUCATION: Arizona State University  
HOBBIES: Bowling and golfing

FAVORITE QUOTE:  
Leap and the net will appear.  
— John Burroughs

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

After graduation, I plan to keep in touch with as many of my classmates as possible to remind myself how a group of very diverse people can come together to form a community. Solid relationships are what help people accomplish their goals and thrive, and I hope to contribute to their future successes.



## MIKE KUHN

Account Director  
SOF/USAF/MDA/STRATCOM/  
NORTHCOM  
CA Technologies  
10333 E. Dry Creek Rd., Suite 400  
Englewood, CO 80112  
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BIRTHPLACE: Houston, TX  
EDUCATION: College of the Desert, Palm Desert, CA; Navy A School, Millington, TN; Multiple Sales and IT Certifications; DOD/Federal Contracting  
Hobbies: Family, Golf, Baseball/Softball, Bowling, and Coaching

FAVORITE QUOTE:  
Then I heard the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"  
— Isaiah 6:8

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

The value I personally have gained from Leadership Aurora is that of true appreciation for all the people that go unrecognized who dedicate so much time and hard earned money to give back. This makes Aurora, CO one of the best cities in the country.



## STEPHANIE MARSHALL

Work Skills Instructor,  
Goodwill Industries of Denver  
15425 E. Iliff Ave., Unit C  
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BIRTHPLACE: Denver, CO  
EDUCATION: Colorado Institute of Art; Human Services, Metropolitan State College of Denver  
HOBBIES: Piano, foreign missions, art, travel, reading, baseball (Cubs/Rockies)

FAVORITE QUOTE:  
We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.  
— Mother Theresa

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

What an incredible experience being a part of the Leadership Aurora 2013-2014 class has been!



I have learned so much about the different facets of Aurora as well as the impact Aurora makes, not only in creating a safe, smart, diverse, and outstanding community, but in adding to the fabric of making Colorado a great state. I have enjoyed being a part of learning, volunteering, and making a positive impact on this great city and appreciate the opportunities provided for networking with professionals from throughout the community. I am also truly honored to have built friendships with such fun, creative, knowledgeable, committed and experienced classmates! I will carry the experience, pride, and friendships with me throughout my life!



## MICHAEL LAWSON

Finance and Budget Program Manager,  
City of Aurora  
15151 E. Alameda Pkwy., Suite 5500  
Aurora, CO 80012  
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HOBBIES: Time with family, reading, graphic design, traveling (especially road trips)

FAVORITE QUOTE:  
Let love and faithfulness never leave you... then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.  
— Proverbs 3:3-4, Holy Bible

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

It's been a great pleasure building a bond with a group of people who value our community not just for what it is but for what it can and will be. I can't think of a more effective way to become woven into the fabric of the Aurora community than participation in the LA program.



BIRTHPLACE: Fontana, CA  
EDUCATION: MPA, Public Administration, University of Colorado Denver; BA, Political Science, University of California, San Diego



## CHARLYN McCALLUM

Manager, Workforce Development,  
Concorde Career College  
111 N. Havana St.  
Aurora, CO 80010  
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BIRTHPLACE: Garden Grove, CA  
EDUCATION: MBA, Project Management,  
Colorado Technical University; BS,  
Marketing, San Diego State University  
HOBBIES: Gym, running, skiing,  
shopping, spending time with family and  
friends, good wine

FAVORITE QUOTE:  
Ability is what you're capable of doing.  
Motivation determines what you do.  
Attitude determines how well you do it.  
— Lou Holtz

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

Leadership Aurora has had such a positive impact on my life. I am so lucky to be a part of such an inspiring and influential class. I will cherish the experiences and the friendships that I have made throughout the year, and will take the knowledge gained through the program and use it to help make a difference in the city of Aurora.



## ROBERT McGRANAGHAN

Director, Community-Campus Partnership,  
University of Colorado Anschutz  
Medical Campus  
Department of Family Medicine  
12348 E. Montview Blvd., Room 4128  
Aurora, CO 80045  
robert.mcgranaghan@ucdenver.edu



BIRTHPLACE: Trenton, NJ  
EDUCATION: MPH, Community Health  
Education, Temple University; BS,  
Marketing, Penn State University  
HOBBIES: Travel, distance running,  
hiking, reading literature, histories and  
biographies, listening to classical music  
and opera, attending theatre and opera,  
baking, and gardening

FAVORITE QUOTE:  
There are those who look at things the way  
they are, and ask why... I dream of things  
that never were, and ask why not?  
— Robert F. Kennedy

PERSONAL QUOTE:  
Leadership Aurora gave me multiple  
opportunities to get out of my own personal  
“comfort zone” and explore and have  
hands-on experiences with sectors of  
the city I wouldn't normally engage with,  
for example the military, police and fire  
departments. Those experiences, added  
to our other “days,” gave me a fuller picture  
of what makes Aurora “tick,” and just how  
important those three particular sectors are  
to making Aurora an “All America City.”

FAVORITE QUOTE:  
All our dreams can come true, if we have  
the courage to pursue them.  
— Walt Disney

## JOHN MULLEN

Chief, Aircraft Maintenance  
Squadron, Colorado Air National  
Guard  
5847 Palmer Dr.  
Castle Rock, CO 80104  
jmullen2760@gmail.com

BIRTHPLACE: Idaho Falls, ID  
EDUCATION: AAS Aircraft  
Technology, Community College  
of the Air Force; BS, Business  
Administration, Columbia College  
HOBBIES: ATVs, camping, hunting,  
fishing, scuba diving

FAVORITE QUOTE:  
Only those who will risk going too  
far can possibly find out how far they  
can go.  
— T.S. Elliot

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

Aurora Leadership has increased  
my knowledge of city management  
operations, as well as the community  
resources that are available to the  
public. This newfound knowledge  
is beneficial in that I can better  
respond to the personal needs of  
our employees as well as find ways  
to improve integration of the military  
functions within the community.



## HELEN MILLER

New Account Officer, Citywide Banks  
13731 E. Mississippi Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80012  
millerh@citywidebanks.com

BIRTHPLACE: Dayton, OH  
EDUCATION: Houston Community  
College; Business and Restaurant  
Management, Community College of  
Aurora  
HOBBIES: Camping, travel, sports  
(Broncos)



PERSONAL QUOTE:  
My participation in Leadership of Aurora  
has been a wonderful experience! My  
awareness of our community and  
the resources that Aurora has to offer  
has expanded my knowledge of this  
great City. It has been an amazing  
experience with all the programs that  
I have had the opportunity to learn  
about and visit. Connecting with all my  
classmates has been so inspiring. Thank  
you for letting me be part of this wonderful  
program.

Leadership Aurora  
**LOVE, LIFE,  
LAUGHTER**  
Class of 2014

## SCOTT NEWHOUSE

Sergeant, Aurora Police Department  
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Aurora, CO 80012  
jnewhous@auroragov.org

BIRTHPLACE: Shawnee, KS  
EDUCATION: AA, Criminal Justice,  
Johnson County Community College  
HOBBIES: Hunting, golfing and other  
outdoor sports

FAVORITE QUOTE:  
Respect your efforts, respect yourself.  
Self-respect leads to self-discipline.  
When you have both firmly under your  
belt, that's real power.

— Clint Eastwood

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

It is an opportunity to share a more  
in-depth learning experience about  
the city and the city's partnerships  
with other organizations within  
the community. You do all this with  
amazing people who become your  
friends by the end of the class year.



## SARAH GRACE PRETZER

Campaign Specialist, Community College  
of Aurora Foundation  
16000 E. CentreTech Pkwy.  
Aurora, CO 80011  
Sarah.Pretzer@CCAurora.edu

BIRTHPLACE: New York, NY  
EDUCATION: BA, State University of New  
York at Potsdam  
HOBBIES: Being outdoors, geology and  
history of the West, the weather, bird/  
animal watching and identification, music,  
marksmanship

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

Don't lead the cheers in someone else's  
game and never learn to play.

— Clint Black

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

Among many other insights, participation  
in Leadership Aurora has afforded me the  
chance to see firsthand how much need  
exists in this growing community as well  
as how many people and organizations  
are dedicated to providing assistance and  
opportunity to make a difference in the lives  
of others. Aurora is a community with a  
heart and a city with an amazing future!



## MARK RYAN

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BIRTHPLACE: Queens, NY  
EDUCATION: Economics, City  
University of NY, Queens College  
HOBBIES: Skiing, golf

FAVORITE QUOTE:  
Whether you think you can or think  
you can't, you're right.

— Henry Ford

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

I plan on sharing what I learned  
in the program with not only my  
friends and family, but with all of  
my business connections so that  
all may come to understand the  
behind-the-scenes workings of an  
outstanding community.



## DOUG ROBINSON

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BIRTHPLACE: Saint Paul, MN  
EDUCATION: BS, St. Cloud State  
University, St. Cloud, MN  
HOBBIES: Golf, Harley riding, hiking, home  
projects, movies, food and wine

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

Focus on the positives in life and strive to  
make a difference with others every day.

— My personal motto

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

I am grateful and full of pride for the time  
and relationships we have built together  
as the Leadership Aurora class of 2014.  
I'm looking forward to the opportunity  
to continue to give back to this great  
community and to utilizing the solid  
connections I have made in the past year.  
Cheers to all.



## SCOTT SECHREST

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BIRTHPLACE: Kansas City, Missouri

EDUCATION:

HOBBIES: Outdoor activities, sports of all kinds, traveling as much as possible.

FAVORITE QUOTE:

You are only as good as your people, and your people are only as good as you are.  
— Unknown

PERSONAL QUOTE:

The eye opening amount of community that we have been able to experience throughout Leadership Aurora is invaluable. It has encompassed a broad

range of programs and has provided an endless amount of resources and information about the area we live and or work in, to be able to pass to others we come in contact with in our daily lives. The friendship gained throughout the program from both a personal and professional aspect is fantastic.



## R. VICKI SCOTT

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BIRTHPLACE: Kittery, Maine

EDUCATION:

HOBBIES: Reading, traveling/ exploring, fine food

FAVORITE QUOTE:

Live your Life. Live your Life. Live your Life.

— Maurice Sendack

PERSONAL QUOTE:

This experience has meant the world to me; meeting wonderful, kind people with diverse backgrounds and amazing stories. I learned during the first gathering that my team wanted to see me succeed in this and everything I tackle. My teammates are now a part of me!



## MICHAEL STANLEY

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BIRTHPLACE: Wheat Ridge, CO

EDUCATION: Med, Education and Human Resources, Colorado State University

HOBBIES: Traveling, reading, movies, football, volunteer work

FAVORITE QUOTE:

Leaders are made, they are not born. They are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile.  
— Vince Lombardi

PERSONAL QUOTE:

I intend to continue working with this amazing network of individuals. By collaborating with them, I have already been able to accomplish goals to make the City of Aurora a better and safer place. There are great things to come from this group!



## SHERYL SKELTON

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FAVORITE QUOTE:

You must always act in the fear of the Lord with faithfulness and an undivided heart  
— 2 Chronicles 19-9

PERSONAL QUOTE:

I hope to take what I have experienced through Leadership Aurora to not only strengthen the person I am, but to be able to help others. I plan to help in growing and strengthening our community for the future with the networking that has been created.



BIRTHPLACE: Lander, WY

EDUCATION: The Salvation Army College for Officer Training/Theology

HOBBIES: Music, reading, enjoying the outdoors



## CHRISTINA STUMP

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EDUCATION: MEd, Education, Troy  
State University; BS, Psychology,  
Colorado State University  
HOBBIES: Travel, hiking,  
snowshoeing, boating, running

FAVORITE QUOTE:  
Climb high, climb far, your goal the  
sky your aim the stars.  
— Author unknown

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

To me, Leadership Aurora is  
an once-in-a-lifetime learning  
experience shared by community  
advocates; a glimpse into the heart  
of our community.



## WAYNE THOMPSON

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EDUCATION: General Studies, Cultural  
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HOBBIES: Music, auto racing, time with  
family

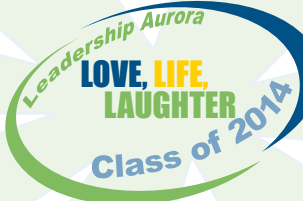
### FAVORITE QUOTE:

Think left and think right and think low and  
think high. Oh, the things you can think up if  
only you try!

— Dr. Seuss

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

Leadership Aurora has provided me  
the opportunities to build personal and  
professional relationships within the  
community. Throughout the program, I have  
experienced various organizations and  
community development. I plan to use my  
experiences and expanded knowledge of  
Aurora to strengthen my involvement with the  
progressing city.



## AMY WILES

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EDUCATION: BS, Sociology, CU Denver  
HOBBIES: Reading, travel, photography,  
community service

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

In life, it's better to fail spectacularly than  
to play it safe and live in mediocrity.  
— Randy Pausch

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

I have loved being a part of the  
Leadership Aurora 2013-2014 class (the  
best class ever). I have been given the  
chance to try things I never would have  
thought to, and to create friendships  
with some of the best people I have  
ever met. I hope that even after we  
have graduated we all stay in touch and  
continue to inspire future classes with all  
of our awesomeness.



## MELISSA TOERING

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EDUCATION: BS, Environmental  
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HOBBIES: Reading, writing, biking and  
mountain biking, hiking, running, pottery,  
sewing, painting

### FAVORITE QUOTE:

Never doubt that a small group of  
thoughtful, committed people can  
change the world. Indeed it is the only  
thing that ever has.

— Margaret Mead

### PERSONAL QUOTE:

My time with Leadership Aurora provided  
time, place, and engaged cohorts for  
a focused year of creating, giving,  
connecting, and exploring my community  
connections.



# CLASS RETREAT

I know that I've had an amazing, unforgettable experience when after I return home, I miss the people I was just with. The older I get, I find, these experiences become fewer and further in between. And that's why I so much appreciated the Leadership Aurora opening class retreat. It was the people that left me with a lasting impression as I headed back home to Aurora. It was like having a wonderful time at a class or family reunion where everyone promises to stay in touch but never does. How excited I was that our class, our new little family really, would have the opportunity to get together several times in the coming months.



The retreat was valuable in the fact that LA2014 class members were given several opportunities to build relationships together and really understand what motivated each of us. Each of us is already a leader in the community to some degree—I feel all we really needed was a common cause to unite us into a powerful force for the greater good. The retreat allowed us to understand each others' passions, the 'why' we all do what we do. I believe anyone of us could provide lessons on how to demonstrate effective leadership. But the retreat was successful at achieving its modest but admirable goals of creating connections and collaborations for the purpose of serving our common community. I made lots of new friends and came away excited to actually make a lasting change in Aurora.





## COMMUNITY DAY

Our class learned that Hope Communities provides affordable housing - 75 percent refugee and 25 percent Americans. In the living/group room, we were welcomed by mothers and smaller children from Myanmar (aka Burma). We also witnessed an English class consisting of a large group of women and several men from Burma. Following our visits to Hope Communities, Bluff Lake Nature Center, and Goodwill, we were once again reminded of the bubbling pot of cultures in Aurora. We even had dancers from the Mudra Dance Studio patiently

teach us some dance moves and gently encourage us to express ourselves.

On this day, we also worked in smaller teams and classmates started working through differing opinions and ideas. We began to experience how to reach an agreement on different projects ideas.

The theme of creating diverse and healthy communities wrapped itself around us throughout Community Day.



## ALL-AMERICAN CITY DAY

Leadership Aurora gathered on a snowy day in November to have The Making of an All-American City Day. We began with presentations by Chamber President Kevin Hogan and City of Aurora Public Works Director Dave Chambers, who discussed the economic growth in Aurora as well as issues concerning infrastructure and public works. It was fascinating to learn about all of the different aspects of Aurora, all of the exciting growth and opportunities in our city, and all of the different parts that make it work.

We then headed over to Council Chambers for a mock City Council meeting concerning recreational marijuana retail sales. While the topic lent itself to several clever jokes, "Mayor" Michael Lawson did a great job of running the mock council, and it was interesting to see the interaction between the public and private sectors. While the afternoon was supposed to be spent at Wagner Equipment, the weather prevented this and instead we were treated to presentations about Visit Aurora and the public art that is on display in Aurora.

## MEDIA DAY

My learning experience with Media Day was realizing that I was not made to either work with or be a part of the media! They are both more difficult than they appear. It was also interesting to learn that there is a protocol in how news is delivered to the public. My overall experience with Media Day was quite enjoyable; I not only learned something about myself but interesting facts about the local broadcasting stations.

During the TV interview process at Channel 8, I truly enjoyed being behind the camera, and it was fun and a bit educational to see my classmates really get into their roles as various members of the community - discussing photo radar in Aurora. The opinions varied widely and the conversation was lively. It was a great day.





## EDUCATION DAY

This day was both inspiring and gratifying on many levels. We visited the Institute of Science and Technology in Cherry Creek School District where we were introduced to the STEM program — a broad based experiential program that teaches problem solving and concepts through hands on learning. At Aurora Central High School, we were introduced to the Aurora LIGHTS Health Science Pathway — also an empirically based educational program where students experiment and learn by their success and mistakes. The Anschutz Health and Wellness Center offered a view into holistic opportunities for

students and employees. The Center for Advancing Professional Excellence was next. The Center allows healthcare professionals to gain real life experience through the use of mannequins. Finally, the Center for Human Stimulation's Visible Human Project demonstrated the research that has completed on the study of the human body.

We were amazed at the tremendous educational opportunities offered within this small 5.5 mile radius and what tremendous contributions these schools make to society!



## HEALTHCARE DAY

The class spent the day learning how important healthcare is to the future of Aurora as well as to the rest of the country. The day opened with Jeff Thompson, Director of Government and Corporate Relations at University of Colorado Hospital. Jeff did an amazing job letting us know how the Affordable Care Act will change the way the nation provides medical care.

The group then split out to tour the University of Colorado Hospital and The Medical Center of Aurora south campus. We learned about various specialties the two hospitals offer by getting hands on with mannequins and meeting the hospital staffs.

As the day progressed, the full class had the chance to experience eating lunch while impaired with a simulated disability. The staff at Spalding Hospital, the host institution of the day, succeeded in getting the group to begin to understand just how challenging having a disability can be.

The LA2014 group followed up lunch with a weighty conversation about end-of-life ethics. The day concluded with three presentations on AirLife Colorado, the air ambulance service, a tour of two ground-based ambulances, and a hands-on CPR lesson from a crew of paramedics.



Our class had the exciting opportunity to tour Buckley Air Force Base. We were amazed by the number of men and women it takes to operate a military base. The base is essentially a city within itself.

After the early morning mission briefings, we were off to get a private showing of the F-16 fighter jets. The tour of the fighter jet hanger was followed by witnessing an engine run-up operation. Next, we all stood in awe as we witnessed actual F-16 jets

## MILITARY DAY

take off from the runway. The afternoon session included tours of several helicopters hangars – to include actually sitting in the seat of a Blackhawk!

While we didn't get to see what was underneath those giant "golf balls," we did walk away with an understanding of what Buckley is all about, the work that goes on at the base, and how a community can come together to achieve specific goals. All in all, military day was another amazing experience.



## POLICE DAY

Have you ever been pulled over for speeding? Have you ever had the police show up at your house because the music was too loud? Have you ever called the police because you thought someone was breaking into your house? No matter your impressions or experiences, no one can deny these fine men and women put it all on the line for us, each and every day they come to work. Police Day gave us all better insight into their difficult work. They train every day to protect us. Whether it's riding

on motorcycles, answering emergency calls, working with gangs, or learning to rescue us from "bad guys," they are ready to do what it takes.

There is no doubt about how well prepared and how much each of the police officers we met care deeply for our community. One of the highlights of the day was watching Vicki Scott hit the bull's-eye on the shooting range.



## FIRE DAY

Wow, what an adventure!

The Leadership Class visited the Rocky Mountain Fire Academy for our Fire Session Day. We had classroom time with Fire Chief Mike Garcia, who had his "ducks in a row," Battalion Chief Mark Stephenson, who blew

us away with chemistry, and Captain Siegfried "Ziggy" Klein who shared his knowledge about arson. We also enjoyed participating on the drill grounds at six different stations.

My favorites were the auto extraction and the maze. I must admit, too, that due to the altitudes involved, the bucket ride and the Telfer Line were not my favorites. All the firefighters we met demonstrated the highest level of training, passion, dedication, and pride.

This was a favorite session for many of our class members. It was a treat to spend the day with these everyday heroes – men and women who risk their lives every day to keep the citizens of Aurora safe.





# CLASS PROJECT

The class project this year was to design and build a garden for Brent's Place. Brent's Place takes in children with life threatening cancer and their families. Brent's Place started urban gardening last year. However, with only two garden beds, it was clear that they were not large enough to feed the 40 plus people living in the facility. Our job was to create additional beds and bridge the gap between growing sustainable fruits and vegetables, and feeding the families.



After a few long days, and with the help of many generous donors, the class was able to complete the construction of the beds, walkways, and trellis for the plants. However, the project didn't stop there. With plants in hand, we went to work again and planted all seven beds with a beautiful assortment of fruits, vegetables, and flowers for all to enjoy!

This garden will be a focal point for every family that comes to Brent's Place whether they help garden, harvest, or cook in the facility.



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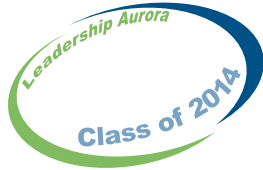
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# INTEREST DIRECTORY



	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
Chinaka Agwu			○								○		○		○				
Kirsten Anderson													○						
Toby Arritola					○						○								
Donna Baiocco	○						○				○				○				
Sunny Banka	○	○				○	○	○	○		○	○				○	○		○
Sean Choi							○		○		○		○						
Otis Clayton		○						○		○			○		○				
Martin Clough						○	○		○				○			○			
Cameron Donegan							○		○		○						○		
Vicki Ekberg	○										○				○		○		○
Joshua Howerton		○									○		○						
John Keene									○										
Mike Kuhn									○							○	○	○	○
Michael Lawson						○	○		○					○	○	○	○		○
Stephanie Marshall							○				○		○		○				
Charlyn McCallum		○						○			○			○				○	
Robert McGranaghan		○				○	○	○			○						○		
Helen Miller	○										○								
John Mullin									○				○		○		○		
Scott Newhouse							○		○										○
Sarah Pretzer	○					○	○	○	○	○	○		○	○		○	○	○	○
Doug Robinson		○				○								○		○			
Mark Ryan			○						○										
Vicki Scott																			○
Scott Sechrest			○		○						○		○						
Sheryl Skelton	○		○		○		○		○		○		○		○				
Mike Stanley			○				○	○	○										
Christina Stump									○		○		○		○				
Wayne Thompson		○		○		○	○	○			○			○	○	○	○		
Melissa Toering									○		○		○						
Amy Wiles				○	○	○	○	○	○		○					○		○	



## GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament has been a part of the Aurora Chamber for the past 16 years, creating opportunities for members of our community to participate in the Chamber's dynamic Leadership Aurora program. The monies raised from the tournament help support and develop this extraordinary institute that introduces the class members to a variety of viewpoints about our city. Thanks to our sponsors we are able to give financial assistance to incoming applicants from this "Pay It Forward" fundraiser and fund the team building retreat that is so vital to their success.

The tournament is held at beautiful Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club. We offer many ways to participate with the tournament from various levels of sponsorships to volunteering. If interested please contact Naomi Colwell [naomi.colwell@aurorachamber.org](mailto:naomi.colwell@aurorachamber.org) or Rene Simard [rene.simard@aurorachamber.org](mailto:rene.simard@aurorachamber.org)





*Leadership Aurora*  
**LOVE, LIFE,  
LAUGHTER**  
*Class of 2014*



# Congratulations! Leadership Aurora Class of 2014



**David J. Barber**  
Leadership Aurora Class of 2011  
**RE/MAX Unlimited, Inc.**  
303-671-3037



[www.DaveSellsMetroDenver.com](http://www.DaveSellsMetroDenver.com)



## A Great Neighborhood School In Every Neighborhood

- ◆ The Cherry Creek School District is one of the highest achieving school districts in the state. Students consistently rank well above the state averages on statewide accountability tests, and above state and national averages for graduation rates and on SAT and ACT exams.
- ◆ All of the schools in the Cherry Creek School District are in the top two categories of the accreditation system developed by the Colorado Department of Education. Ninety-eight percent rank in the highest category, compared to 70% statewide. None fall into the bottom two categories.
- ◆ The Cherry Creek School District has the third most National Board Certified Teachers in Colorado.



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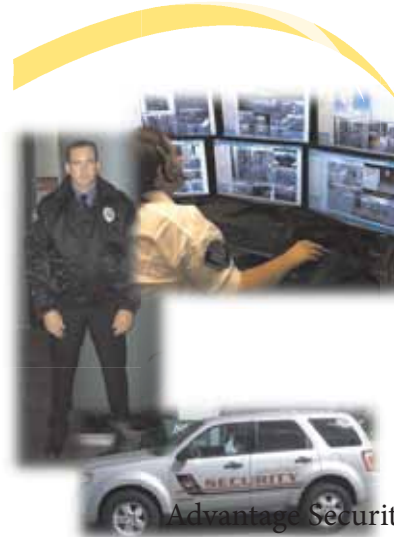
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