

WE ARE ONE



Leadership Class of 2021-22



CLASS OF
2022

WE ARE ONE

INTRODUCTION

In 10 short months, Leadership Aurora class members experience an intensive mountain retreat, 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 selects, plans, and implements projects designed to give back to the community.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce has supported the development of community leaders through the Leadership Aurora

program for 38 years, and while many things have changed, the 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.

Ask a member of this year's class or an alumni of the program about their experience – you will be inspired!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Leadership Aurora class of 2022 acknowledges the many individuals and businesses that provide invaluable support to make this one of the most outstanding leadership programs in the United States.

Our appreciation goes to the guest speakers and personnel who took us behind the scenes of organizations throughout the city. Gratitude is also extended to the Leadership Aurora Board, Program Director Rene Simard,

Assistant Director Mitzi Schindler, and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce – for collectively cultivating this top-notch program.

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.

Special thanks to Mark Smith of PhotoSmith Colorado for the class photo of the 2021-2022 Leadership Aurora class, taken at the Breckenridge, CO retreat, September 2021 – and for the individual class photos for this yearbook.





Jennifer Evans

CHAIR'S LETTER

I feel so honored and lucky to have had a small part in the success of this year's class. Time and time again they continue to blow me and my peers

out of the water. After serving on the board for a few years, it's been such a unique experience to see how classes come together and perform in such different ways. I am the lucky one who got to watch and assist with this group of individuals.

Our kick off retreat in Breckenridge simply scratches the surface of all the potential and growth that is to come. It excites me every year to discuss with the Board and classmates who will be stepping up to lead this group through unknown territory. The intimate and intense experience of the retreat allows the class to develop a quick bond and trust an individual to carry them throughout the experience. They all picked very well this year!

The class President Nycci has done a phenomenal job keeping the class together and motivated. How she was able to whip everyone into shape – with our best survey participation to date - and still be a very respected, likable team member is something to be noticed. No one wants the corner of Nycci's eye on them! It is by recognizing people's strengths through

encouragement and kind words that has her class working hard day in and day out.

Last, but never least, I want to recognize the team that the Chamber has established to support programs like this. Our outgoing Chair – Steve Sundberg – so much enjoyment watching him serve in a COVID year and really making the best of it with his contagious enthusiasm for the community while keeping things light hearted... Our incoming Chair – Alan Antolak... he continues to provide a perfect balance of humor, energy, and level headedness that has allowed me to brainstorm successfully on many days. These two gentlemen are really a class act and I felt fortunate to have them on each side of me though this year. The Chamber staff who makes all this possible – Kevin, Mitzi, and Rene – through your support you inspire leaders in our community by how much you care and how you allow each class to be individuals. This is a challenging role and if it were not for your partnerships with the Board and the Class this program would not have its esteemed reputation and pure enjoyment that it has. Thank you for supporting all of us – even though sometimes unconventional – at the highest level!



CLASS OF 2022

WE ARE PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT LETTER

Wow...these past 10 months have flown by and here we are at the completion of the program. Everyone told us that it would go by fast, and boy were they right!

Once strangers, now friends! We walked into a conference room in Breckinridge wide eyed, some nervous, some excited and some a mixture of both. Within a few short days we left with a strong bond. From the extra time at night hanging out to riding in the back of pickup trucks to make it back on time to the next meeting. We truly are the best and most humblest class ever! We have left our mark that will carry on not only for the incoming classes of Leadership Aurora but for the children at DAVA and the other projects we were able to make contributions.

Thank you, Casey Bloyer and Launch Pad Brewing, for continuing the Jadoo Brew for incoming classes.

And we should be very proud that we raised close to \$4,000 for scholarships for future LA participants, thanks to the Pay it Forward Committee (let's see if anyone can top that!). Thanks also for the endless hours that class members have put in on the class projects, events, etc. This class is truly amazing. We have met and exceeded our goals and put in tireless hours to make sure all events happened in the best way possible.

We are honored and proud to be a part of the Leadership Aurora Class of 21-22. We are a strong and knowledgeable group of leaders and a powerhouse as a group. You know what they say – "Team Work Makes the Dream Work!"

For one another and for Aurora; stay involved in the community, stay in touch, reach out for help, or just a hello. We look forward to everyone's future.

#Jadoo – We definitely made magic happen!



Sherry Davis

*Vice President, Leadership Aurora
Class of 2022*

Nycci Jones

*President, Leadership Aurora
Class of 2022*



CLASS PROJECT

The Leadership Aurora 2022 class evaluated multiple worthy projects and decided that their major project would be some renovation and safety upgrades for Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA), at 1405 Florence St. in Aurora, CO.

DAVA provides arts education programs for urban youth ages 3 to 17. Their mission is to strengthen the community through the visual arts with youth engagement as the primary focus. Every student that walks through DAVA's doors experiences the transformative power of high quality out-of-school programs that develop art, social, and life skills.

The class was made aware that the DAVA facility was in need of some maintenance. The class project team met with Executive Director Krista Robinson to identify what was needed to improve the lifetime and beauty of the building, and to increase safety in and around the building. The main focal point of the building is the cedar siding at the main entrance. The siding had sun damage and the existing varnish was starting to peel off. Leadership Aurora was able to have the labor and material donated to power wash, sand and revarnish the entire front entry.

Next up was lighting to provide better security to the building. The DAVA staff requested repairing the existing lights illuminating the front of the building. The Class had a wonderful partner, Encore Electric, that donated the replacement of all the exterior lights and even added security lights in the alleyway! What an amazing gift!

In addition, after the Leadership Aurora Class of 2022 has graduated, they will finalize repainting the ceiling in one of the classrooms and replace components on an exterior door. This work will be completed early summer 2022 to ensure classes at DAVA are not interrupted.

The Leadership Aurora Class of 2022 greatly appreciates the positive impact DAVA provides to the community and looks forward to seeing their continued good works!



“As a graduate of the program myself (2019), I am so proud of how much each class gives – to support each other as leaders and to give back to our community!”

– DAVA Executive Director Krista Robinson

CLASS OF 2022

WE ARE ONE OPENING RETREAT



We made it! After all of the emails and submitting paperwork, we finally met up at the highly touted Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge to learn about getting a teamwork environment lesson for a multitude of personalities. We learned about our individual traits from our Insights testing and learned who our success partners would be. We also had a day of leadership discovery with Franco Marini of the University of Denver. The entire weekend was filled with fun, games, and team building activities. It truly opened up the class and showed us who we really are down inside. With class president Nycci Jones, vice president Sherri Davis and a host of committee co-chairs elected, we were ready to start making our mark on Aurora.





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CLASS OF 2022



Amanda Anthony

UCHealth

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The opportunity to connect with and learn from such talented and passionate leaders throughout our community has been the best part of Leadership Aurora!



Casey Bloyer

Launchpad Brewery

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This whole group has been amazing, really love the relationships I've made this year.



Mehran Ahmed

Aurora Public Schools

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The connection of our community has meant a lot to me during this time. We can unite together as a community through different facets of our city make us a stronger community.



Miguel Arellano

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Not only have I been able to learn from 32 different friends, but I've been able to learn and grow from the community that surrounds us. The community members who gave their time to bring forward not only the issues that face us today, but the beauty that will come by working together to make us all move forward tomorrow.



Erin Currier

Juvenile Assessment Center
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Leadership Aurora boosted my understanding and appreciation for my city, but more importantly, launched me into real connection with the community. I've learned so much, and been inspired and motivated by the wonderful people in my cohort.



Jennifer Dale

Community College of Aurora
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Leadership Aurora has provided a deeper understanding of this incredible community. The connections with fellow leaders and organizations in Aurora as well as identifying the strengths and opportunities of this city has been invaluable!



Dan Clarke

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Miguel Mendoza Castaneda

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Leadership Aurora has provided me a fresh perspective and a clear panorama of the city I grew up in. I'm truly grateful to join the elite leadership Aurora network and family, especially after having a one-of-a-kind connection with community leaders & learning about the wonderful resources that make our Aurora communities prosper!



Sherry Davis

Pickens Technical College
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Katlynn Del Dotto

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Leadership Aurora has not only opened my eyes to all the amazing areas in my community, but it has also helped me create a network of friends I can call on to help me support out community.



Mike Dineen

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The most important part of this whole experience has been coming together with new friends who share a passion to give back. At any stage of your community involvement or professional career, prepare for a new journey - filled with hands on experiences, learning more about your community, and deliver purpose to action in everyday lives.



Leah Fishman

140th Wing, CONG
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LA has been one of the most amazing experiences I've had recently in my career. It has been a pleasure to stand alongside other professionals, who are committed to growth, serving the community and learning from each other!



Zella Goetsch

Adolfson and Peterson
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Isaac Greenlee

Nelnet
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Amazing experience getting to build meaningful relationships as well as getting to learn about the people and services that make Aurora great!



Daniel Halkett
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Jessica Hegewald
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Danielle Jackman
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Nycci Jones
Nelnet
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Being a part of Leadership Aurora meant building partnership and camaraderie with fellow leaders. It also meant getting the unique opportunity to deepen my appreciation for this beautiful diverse city where I both live and work.

Leadership Aurora afforded me the ability to participate in a community learning experience that allowed me to give back to the community in which I live and work. I am so proud to be a part of this lifelong cohort and take pride in what we were able to accomplish.



Anne Keke
Self Employed
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Getting to know the city that has adopted me with open arms deeper and better. I cannot be more proud to be a citizen of Aurora.

**CLASS OF
2022**

WE ARE ONE



Yvonne Madril-Brawner

City of Aurora
ymadril@auroragov.org

Sharing, inspiring and encouraging each other as we come together to help others in our community and gain a greater understanding of the Aurora community as we become our best selves along the way.



Anthony Oyewole

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Being a part of Leadership Aurora meant having a great opportunity to engage with highly educated and career-driven individuals who shared the common goal of understanding & making Aurora better.



Nathan Larson

Colorado Technical University
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Meeting a great bunch of other leaders and making new friendships. Getting to know the city of Aurora better and the needs of the city.



Justin Nimock

Leading Evolution Group
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New, empowering relationships.



DeeDee Poole

Department of Military & Veteran Affairs
Deborah.Salerno@dmva.state.co.us

I am honored to be a part of such an elite group of leaders! I have made some long-lasting friendships in this class... the caring, kindness, and dedication of each member is unmeasurable! Definitely the best decision I've made to join this group! Jadoo Pride!



Jason Read
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John Schneebeck
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David Spencer
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Leadership Aurora showed me what leaders in a community can bring together a concerted effort to grow a community. The strong bonds fostered through short a period of time shows how a diverse group can accomplish a meaningful duty.



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Pete Torres
Pete Torres
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Ana Valles

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Being part of Leadership Aurora has given me the opportunity to grow personally and professionally, and to meet great leaders and create life-long memories. You learn a lot about yourself and the community.



Julius Vaughns

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Leadership Aurora has afforded me the opportunity to network with other like-minded individuals to enact positive change in Aurora. It has opened my eyes to issues that I didn't know existed in my own backyard.



Lynne Winchell

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Leadership Aurora provided an opportunity to connect with various community members and leaders to learn more about the City of Aurora. The connections and friendships made with professional leaders within our class of 2022 cohort has been very meaningful to me. I am proud to be a part of Leadership Aurora, and look forward to continue to serve in this community.

Community Day

What do you get when 30 plus leaders scour the city to connect with organizations looking to make a difference in the lives of Aurora's residents? A 'Community Day' worth shouting about!

We assembled for a day of learning and adventure to explore a host of nonprofits — Boys Hope Girls Hope, Day Resource Center, Aurora Youth Options and many more — to familiarize ourselves with their line of work and better understand the reason why such groups exist within the context of the Aurora community. Led by our Board members, we divided up to learn about the various organizations and presented our findings to the class. Thanks to the abundance of information, class members walked away with ideas of how to formulate projects to help each of these organizations in various ways to assist them in sustaining their programs that affect so many lives in our community.



CLASS OF 2022

WE ARE ONE City of Aurora Day



Our class started the day off at the City of Aurora for a leadership panel breakfast with Mayor Coffman, City Manager Jim Twombly, Mayor Pro Tem Francois Bergan and DEI Officer Janice Napper. Later, we heard from Aurora Water General Manager Marshall Brown, where he shared about the department's continued focus to ensure that the water supply can keep up with the population.

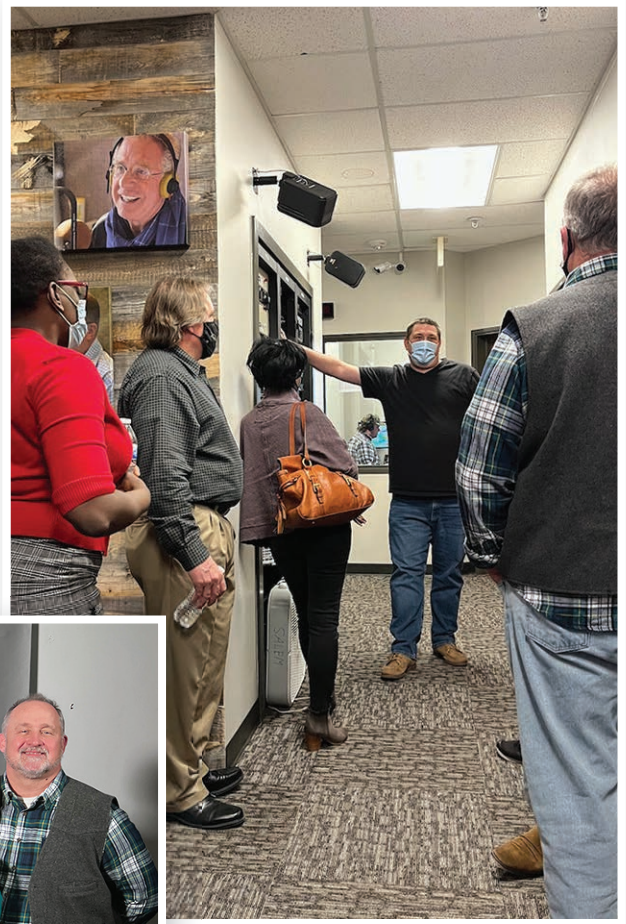
During our mid-morning timeslot, the class participated in a mock council session by acting out their assigned roles while getting help from Deputy City Manager Jason Batchelor. We got an insight into some of the topics that were presented to the

council when they discussed the public and private property camping ban bill. We later paired up with our accountability partner to "tour" the various city departments and their booths to hand out "\$1,000 Aurora Bucks," to whichever department you felt warranted additional make-believe funding dollars. It was a terrific way to learn about the various departments and the roles each team member played. We also all made our way to Level 10 LLC for a tour of their large nondescript marijuana grow facility. One thing is for certain, the employees and the local business owners continue to put their passion for Aurora in everything they do.



Media Day

Moving into the film room watching a segment from “Back to the Future,” some may have wondered ‘how can I get this room added into my house?’ We listened to CCA Film School officials explain their backgrounds and what the film school is all about. The potential and competitive nature that the collective of the school from the instructors to the students is very evident in what they are creating. The first thing that came to our minds wasn’t just something on the screen. After watching two small and very emotional clips we all realized that they create art. The creative minds that they have nurtured and grown shows that they are having something very special in our community.

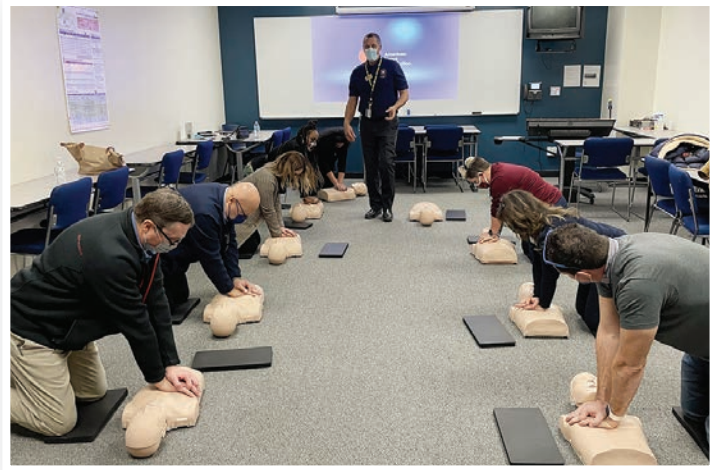


CLASS OF 2022

WE ARE ONE

Education Day

Our day started at Pickens Technical College where our own Sherry Davis serves as an assistant director. We had the opportunity to tour the campus, learn about the nearly 50 certificate programs they offer, have a wonderful meal prepared and served by the students of the Culinary Art Program and hear directly from a few of the students on how the program at Pickens have impacted



their lives. While at Pickens we heard from Cherry Creek Innovation Campus Principal Steve Day and Aurora Public Schools Superintendent Rico Munn, who both discussed the highlights and challenges facing their respective school districts. We were also looped into the exciting news of new schools and pathways, including the Charles Burrell Visual and Performing Arts Campus, led by our own Mehran Ahmed.



CSU Global gave us a special presentation on mental health awareness and new programs. Next, we were off to Community College of Aurora where Dr. Mordecai Brownlee, president of CCA, briefed us on the history of CCA and their plans of diversification and growth to best serve the greater community of Aurora and continue to be a true center of excellence. We truly enjoyed our visit and learning how CCA was a pioneer in their approach to the paramedic program. And, what a fun end to the day when we broke into groups for a team building exercise to build a solar powered mini robot. Of course, it was a competition, with a race to the finish.



Military Day



Buckley Space Force Base has been called Naval Air Station Denver, Buckley Air National Guard Base, and Buckley Air Force Base. It hosts tenants from each of the military branches and also serves Active, Guard and Reserve military components. And despite bad weather on our visitation date, our hosts were still able to pull off the tour with our big group.

We owe a big “thank you” to Josh and SMSgt Fran Sechrest for making that happen. We got a good look at the important work the Army National Guard Aviation is doing. The National Guard has been a huge piece of Buckley since it was started. What most people don’t realize is that the Guard is dual hatted. They have both a Federal mission, serving alongside the Active Duty military and deploy for Federal missions. The thing that makes the National



Guard great is that these are your neighbors, and their other mission is to help the state of Colorado. The Colorado National Guard, both Air and Army, are the folks that assisted with the State’s COVID response; they assist Alpine Search and Rescue; they assist with the fires; they assist wherever they are needed to help their neighbors.

Buckley SFB has become a big part of the City of Aurora and we thank them for allowing us a glimpse into that world for Military Day.



S OF 2022

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Healthcare Day



Leadership Aurora '22 members embarked on a full-day journey at Falck Rocky Mountain headquarters to learn about all things healthcare. The day began with an end of life ethics discussion to break down the most important principles people should consider in advance when planning out how they want their final days to look. Class members were



presented with case studies about families and medical professionals who were forced to make tough decisions about someone's life. In general, many of these decisions revolve around values like religion, family and other cultural foundations.

The day continued with presentations from Donor Alliance, Rocky Mountain Lion's Eye Bank, Allosource and a donor family member, during which the class was exposed to topics like cornea, tissue and transplant donations and was able to participate in hands-on activities. We also learned about the importance of tourniquets and how to stop massive bleeding from an open wound. The afternoon wrapped up with the class splitting into three groups to tour the facility, talk with paramedics and practice CPR.



Police Day

Police Day had been long talked about by class alums, and it more than lived up to the hype. The day began at the city's Public Safety Training Center (CAPSTC), where we heard remarks from District Commander Sam McGee and Acting Police Chief Chris Juul. APD's Employee Support Unit treated us to a thorough presentation about the various wellness initiatives in place to ensure officers are in the right headspace to do their jobs and support their families. Classmates engaged in hands-on training activities about use of force and also learned about the department's SWAT and K9 units. We engaged in a SWAT sniper demo session, K9 demos, and rifle target shooting.

It was great to walk away with a greater appreciation for the tough jobs our law enforcement professionals do each day to maintain a safe and prosperous city.



CLASS OF 2022

WE ARE C



On Thursday, May 19, 2022, the Leadership Class of 2022 gathered for our final meeting at Fire Day. This was another fabulous day filled with information, briefings, and fun with our fellow classmates.

After getting fitted for our fire suits and a great breakfast, we learned all there is to know about the Aurora Fire Department from the commanding chief who walked us through an overview of the fire department and the various calls they receive... from fires, to accidents, shootings, and more – there is no end to the citizens in our community that they assist.

Learning about the history of the Aurora Fire Department was nothing short of fascinating. Riding down the street, you don't realize the historical buildings that are still standing, but

Fire Day



it's also heartbreaking to learn of the others that were lost over the years in fires. The chief took us from the early 1900's, all the way through to present day...showing the different fire trucks, fire stations, and even the changes in the fire departments uniforms. It's pretty amazing to see how far technology has come in the past century.



PAYING IT FORWARD

The Leadership Aurora Class of 2022 Pay It Forward Committee exceeded the fundraising goal that was set at a minimum of \$2k and a maximum of \$4K! These funds go towards scholarships that will help with the tuition for future Leadership Aurora qualified applicants.

Since October 2021, the Pay it Forward Committee has hosted four events; The first event was a fundraiser at Legends of Aurora Sports Grill where they raised half of their maximum goal of \$2k. The second event was at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse at which they raised \$294.81. The third event was a Leadership Aurora social event that raised approximately \$1,200. This makes their running fundraising total \$3,894.81...and does not include the Business After Hours and Silent Auction that they hosted on May 26, 2022, which will definitely put them over the \$4k threshold.

This group of leaders is hands down a team of hard charges that came, conquered, and left an everlasting

mark for future Leadership Aurora participants! We are so appreciative for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year and thankful to all of you that participated in these events to support the cause!



LEADERSHIP AURORA GOLF TOURNAMENT



The Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament has been a signature fundraising event of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for 24 years. The monies raised from the tournament help support the Leadership Aurora program that annually introduces class members to a variety of information about, and resources for, the Aurora community. Because of generous sponsors of this Pay it Forward event, The Chamber is able to give financial assistance to incoming applicants, as well as fund the team building retreat that is so vital to the success of the program and its participants.

There are many ways to participate in the tournament, from volunteering to a variety of sponsorship options. Contact Rene Simard for details at rene.simard@aurorachamber.org.



CLASS OF 2022

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SOCIAL AND HAVING FUN



LEADERSHIP AURORA BOARD



Left to right, back row: Mike Hanifin, Natalie Artibee, Alan Antolak, Marty Garland, Steve Sundberg, Rene Simard, Tanner Berkey, Tom Isaacson, Ed Hauschild.

Front row: Jennifer Evans, Tricia Johnson, Sarah Young, Mitzi Schindler, Mo Barker, Kynn timer Martin, Marcia McGilley, Shauna King, Karen Lovett, Teri Mingilton, Sunny Banka.

Alan Antolak (Vice Chair)
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Rene Simard (Program Director)
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Steve Sundberg (Past Chair)
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Yvonne Valdez
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Congratulations



“Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another.” –John C. Maxwell

Leadership Aurora

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Applications are now being accepted for the **Leadership Class of 2023**

Due by July 15, 2022

<https://www.aurorachamber.org/leadership-aurora/leadership-application>

Congratulations! **Leadership Aurora** **Class of 2022**



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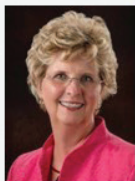


David J Barber, Sr.
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*Congratulations to the
Leadership Aurora Class of 2022!*



Sonda "Sunny" Banka—Broker-Owner, CRS, GRI
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Congratulations to the Leadership Aurora Class of 2022!



The Sims-Fayola Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of young men and boys of color by addressing the obstacles (educational and community) that directly affect their life outcomes.

<https://www.sffoundation.org>

Congratulations Yvonne Madril-Brawner!

*Your friends and colleagues
in the City of Aurora
and Court Administration
are so proud of you!*



**Municipal Court
Administration**

Congratulations

**to the Leadership Aurora Class of 2022
on Your Great Achievement.**



**Municipal Court
Administration**



Congratulations Leadership Aurora Class of 2022!

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Federally insured by the NCUA.





***Congratulates the
Leadership Aurora
Class of 2022!***

**Cheluna Brewing Co.
Stanley Marketplace
2501 Dallas Street, Unit 148
Aurora, CO 80010
(720) 600-0020**

**Congratulations
To the
Graduates!**



Falck
Rocky Mountain

CONGRATULATIONS

*on completing Leadership Aurora and making
a lasting impact on our community!*



Dan Clarke, Ed.D.
Instructor of
Entrepreneurship, CCA



Jennifer E. Dale, Ph.D.
Dean of Academic Success in
Online and Blended Learning, CCA



Katlynn Del Dotto
Director of Development,
CCA Foundation



Lynne Winchell, MBA
Vice President of Administrative
Services/Chief Financial Officer, CCA




*Sometimes talking
makes all the
difference.
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Nelnet Congratulates the 2022 Leadership Aurora Graduates.

Celebrating Diversity in Aurora

Thank you to Leadership Aurora for emphasizing community engagement, celebrating the diverse community, and creating dedicated, passionate leaders of tomorrow.

Congratulations to the Leadership Aurora Class of 2022! We look forward to seeing what you continue to accomplish in the Aurora community.

Learn more about us at [NelnetCareers.com](https://www.nelnetcareers.com).

