

LEADERSHIP

A • U • R • O • R • A

1995 - 1996
YEARBOOK

*“A community is like a ship;
every one ought to be prepared to
take the helm”*

— Henrik Ibsen



CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

The Leadership Aurora class of 1995-96 had a year packed with a number of events. They participated in a 2 1/2 day retreat and monthly classes that provided an overwhelming amount of information about Aurora and the challenges it faces. They attended meetings of committees and boards throughout the city as part of their board internship assignment. And they have taken on a project to help create an updated video about the city.

The mission of the Leadership Aurora program is to provide programs which prepare current and developing community leaders committed to shaping Aurora's future. The annual retreat and monthly classes, as planned by members of the Leadership Aurora Board, are designed to provide class members with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of Aurora. This is done by having a variety of topics throughout the year — from the basics of city infrastructure and how the city government works, to the details of the fire and police departments, and the aspects of education, community services, healthcare, the media and the military.

Once the topics are finalized, the class session is then built around historical, current and future aspects of the topic. Many community leaders share their knowledge and viewpoint, both individually and in panel discussions. This often creates an atmosphere for lively discussion and interactive activities.



The commitment it takes to be a Leadership Aurora class member includes not only attendance, but a willingness to learn and be open minded. A desire to be more involved and knowledgeable part of the community is also critical in the initial class selection process.

On behalf of the Leadership Aurora Board, I would like to congratulate the graduates of the 1995-96 Leadership Aurora class. We hope you are able to incorporate what you learned from the retreat, class sessions and your fellow classmates throughout the year, and use that knowledge to help Aurora evolve into the community in which you would like to continue to live and work.

Heidi A. Tackett
FHP Healthcare
Leadership Aurora Chair

INTRODUCTION

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce accepted a challenge in 1984 to ensure that new leadership be continuously added to our community; to cope with the problems and opportunities we face; and to prepare individuals to assume positions of leadership. Leadership Aurora graduated its first class in 1986. Our mission is to provide programs which prepare current and developing community leaders committed to shaping Aurora's future.

By seeking out individuals and empowering them with information about vital issues affecting our community, Leadership Aurora provides the opportunity for enhanced participation in the community. Participants are committed to personal involvement, and are prepared to devote the time necessary to achieve these goals.

The purpose of Leadership Aurora is reflected in its goals:

- ▼ To identify and develop community leaders.
- ▼ To acquaint individuals with community needs and issues while focusing on alternative solutions.
- ▼ To expose participants to others who possess broad, diverse intellectual backgrounds and challenge them to make decisions for the good of the community.
- ▼ To educate and motivate leaders to greater involvement in the community.

This year's class is comprised of people from academia, finance, large and small business, government, military operations, and social service agencies. Though individual in background and perspective, the class members are alike in commitment to public service and the potential for community leadership.



On this, the tenth anniversary of Leadership Aurora, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce takes pride in introducing those who have accepted the challenge to pursue roles in the realm of community service which will positively shape and influence Aurora's future—

The Leadership Aurora Class of 1996!



LEADERSHIP AURORA GRADUATES

1995 ▲
▼ 1996



Left to Right

Suzanne Bailey
William J. Bell Jr.
Darryl John Borgonah
Naomi Colwell



Suzanne Bailey

Assistant Vice President
FirstBank of Aurora, N.A.
17100 E. Smoky Hill Road
Aurora, CO 80015 • 680-9000

Suzanne moved to Colorado in 1988 to attend the University of Denver where she received here B.S. B.A. degree. She moved to Aurora soon after graduation and is currently employed at FirstBank of Aurora N.A., Smoky Hill Branch. She has been involved in the community over the past few years, but hopes that her involvement with Leadership Aurora will open the door to other opportunities.

"That which does not kill us makes us stronger."

— Friedrich Nietzsche



William J. Bell, Jr.

Police Lieutenant/Neighborhood Enforcement Section Commander
Aurora Police Department
15001 E. Alameda Drive
Aurora, CO 80012 • 739-6341

Bill is a graduate of Metropolitan State College with a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice. He is also a graduate of the 63rd Session of Northwestern University Traffic Institute School of Police Staff and Command. He began his career in law enforcement in 1974, and currently commands the Gang Intervention Unit and Direct Action Response Teams. The varied experiences provided through Leadership Aurora has given him insight into the many persons who work together to make Aurora a great place to live and work.

"Trust is a must or your game's a bust."

—Bill Welu



Darryl John Borgonah

Controller
Community College of Aurora
16000 E. Centretech Parkway
Aurora, CO 80011 • 360-4755

Darryl graduated from the University of Jodhpur (Rajasthan) India with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Accounting and Business Administration. He spent the first seven years of his career working for the State Bank of India, currently one of the world's largest branch banking organizations. Since his relocation to the United States in March 1990, he has held positions in various retail organizations such as Albertsons and Nordstroms. Darryl has been in the education field for the past six years

Leadership Aurora has provided Darryl with a wealth of knowledge and resources related to the community. It has also given him an opportunity to become familiar with ways in which he can contribute to, and serve the community.

"A leader is someone who has dreams and vision and can communicate them to others in such a way they say 'yes'."

— Unknown



Naomi Colwell

Credit Administrator
AVCO Financial Services
3300 S. Parker Road, Ste 600
Aurora, CO 80014 • 743-4634

Naomi graduated from Metro State College of Denver with a B.S. in Criminal Justice and has always been interested in the youth of her community. This interest prompted her to join AVCO's Community Involvement Committee, to which she was recently elected Chairperson. Acting on a desire to improve conditions in Aurora, she has initiated several projects including a scholarship program with the Aurora Education Foundation, and quarterly visits from the Community Involvement Committee to Aurora based hospital pediatric units. This work has earned her AVCO's Community Involvement Person of the Year Award for the past two years. Leadership Aurora has opened the field to new and exciting opportunities in Aurora.

"One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar."

—Helen Keller





Left to Right
Nancy Flores
Jerome Davis
Laurie Findley
Terri Gehler

Jerome Davis

Regional Sales Executive
Public Service Company of Colorado
 2070 S. Valentia Street
 Denver, CO 80231 • 671-3914

Jerome is a native of Colorado and recently moved back into the Aurora area. He graduated from Regis University with a B.S. and MBA degree in Accounting and Finance/Marketing Strategy respectively. With over twelve years experience at Public Service Company he is currently Regional Sales Executive for the Southeast Metro Region, which includes the city of Aurora. He is responsible for addressing the energy issues of commercial and industrial customers. Jerome is active in the Downtown Aurora Business Association and the Aurora Public Schools. Leadership Aurora has helped him develop an understanding of how the city functions and increased his awareness of the many challenges that the community faces. He looks forward to continued involvement in the Aurora community and continuing the proud tradition of Leadership Aurora graduates.

"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith."

—Franklin D. Roosevelt



Laurie Ann Findley

Director of Marketing & Visitor Promotion
Aurora Chamber of Commerce
 3131 S. Vaughn Way, Ste 426
 Aurora, CO 80014 • 755-5000

Laurie moved to Aurora six years ago from New Mexico to continue her career in the hospitality industry. She has been the Director of Marketing at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce since 1991. Most recently, Laurie began heading the coordination of the Visitor Promotion Task Force with the city of Aurora.

She is a board member of the Downtown Aurora Business Association, Chair of the Business Advisory Council for the Community College of Aurora, and is on the Metro Denver Tourism Development Council.

Laurie has a Bachelor of Arts in Advertising and Marketing from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She is also a resident instructor for the Community College of Aurora, and program coordinator for the Hospitality and Restaurant Management program.

"There are two kinds of friends — those that nourish, inspire and motivate, and those that find fault, confuse and drain."

—Les Brown



Nancy Flores

Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development
 14th Floor, 1st Interstate Tower No.
 683 - 17th Street
 Denver, CO 80202 • 672-5440

Nancy has sixteen years of Federal service with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, eleven years as a Paralegal and two years as a Public Affairs Officer. During her tenure with HUD she has gained a deep sensitivity to the issues encountered by individuals and families like homelessness, lack of affordable housing, denial of housing due to skin color, or the number of children in a household, etc.

Through this knowledge and experience, Nancy creates an environment that encourages and supports individuals to grow to their fullest potential. She plans to continue her leadership and involvement in making Aurora a place that people want to work, live and play.

"Every morning in Africa a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed . . . Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows it must out run the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn't matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle . . . when the sun comes up, you better be running."

— Unknown



Terri Gehler

Education Consultant
 11878 Park East Road
 Aurora, CO 80010 • 364-0163

Following a three year teaching assignment in France, Terri and her attorney husband, Rob, settled in Aurora where Terri pursued a career in education. She holds a Ph.D. in Education and has served on various boards, including Children's Hospital, Humana Community Advisory, University of Colorado Alumni, and Colorado Principal Center UCD.

Having completed a second career as owner of a small company specializing in nutrition, Terri now focuses on writing, consulting and volunteer work.

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affections of children; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson





Left to Right

Debbie Kunkel-Benson

Odie Kennedy

Lawrence D. Grandison, Jr.



Lawrence D. Grandison, Jr.

Deputy Director of
Resource Management
Defense Finance & Accounting Service-
Denver Center
6760 E. Irvington Place
Denver, CO 80279-8000 • 676-7718

Larry is a Federal employee of seventeen years hailing from Ft. Washington, Maryland. He is active in the community as a member of the Arts in Public Places Commission, Aurora Community Mental Health Board, and now as a result of his Leadership Aurora internship, is a member of the South Aurora Family Resource Center Board. Larry also donates his time in a collaborative decision making group at Whiteman Elementary which has responsibility for determining the best utilization of limited resources to provide a quality environment for education. Larry looks forward to continued involvement in the community and becoming a future Aurora leader.

"You must care more than others think is wise; risk more than others think is safe; and dream more than others think is practical!"

— Unknown



Odie Kennedy

Administrative Supervisor of
Nursing Services
Aurora Presbyterian Hospital
730 Potomac Street
Aurora, CO 80011 • 360-3380

Odie is a graduate of Webster University with an M.S. in Health Science Management. She has been employed in the Columbia HealthONE system for twenty years. She has demonstrated her great concern for people by her involvement in various community activities and committees. Odie also assists her husband's ministry in serving as a pastor. Leadership Aurora has given her great insight into the community in which she lives. She looks forward to continuing her involvement in Leadership Aurora and the Aurora community.

"The great and glorious God is present, and if I can lay open my conscience before him, and clear my self to him, I value not the esteem of men."

—Sir Matthew Hale



Debbie Kunkel-Benson

Victim Services Coordinator
Aurora Police Department
15001 E. Alameda Drive
Aurora, CO 80012 • 739-6086

Debbie is the Victim Services Coordinator for the Aurora Police Department. She feels fortunate to be able to do meaningful work and enjoys the variety of tasks and responsibilities her position involves. Her work entails budgeting, planning, training, community education and direct crisis intervention with crime victims.

Debbie has been in the human services field for ten years. She has a bachelor degree in psychology and a master degree in social work. She enjoys hiking, gardening, cooking and golf. Leadership Aurora has increased her appreciation of the city and broadened her perspective of community leadership.

"You are as strong and powerful as you allow yourself to be, and the most difficult part of any endeavor is taking the first step, making the first decision."

—Robyn Davidson





Left to Right
Dinah L. Lewis
Eileen Mackin
Donna Lancy
Vern Martin

Donna Lancy

**Small Group & Support
 Services Director**
Kaiser Permanente
Waterpark I, 2500 S. Havana
Aurora, CO 80015 • 338-3711

Donna is a Colorado native, actually born at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, and a graduate of Aurora Central High School. She has spent twenty-five years in the health care industry in a variety of administrative positions. Thirteen of those years she has been a Kaiser Permanente employee. Her current responsibilities are for the sales and service of companies with 1-50 employees. Donna will soon be a graduate of the citizen's police academy, and is looking forward to becoming more involved in the Aurora community.

*"If you have built castles in the air,
 your work need not be lost; that is where
 they should be. Now put foundations
 under them."*

—Henry David Thoreau



Dinah L. Lewis

Director of Internal Services
City of Aurora
1470 S. Havana Street
Aurora, CO 80012 • 739-7235

Dinah is a third generation Coloradan. Growing up with four brothers and sisters in a rural section of the metropolitan area, and witnessing the growth and maturing of the city, Dinah has been an active part of its change. Dinah holds degrees in accounting, business and law, and has practiced in private and governmental sectors. Currently, she heads a department that provides employment, fleet, procurement and administrative services to other city operations.

Dinah's community activities include food banks, homeowners groups, pension board and youth mentoring. Leadership Aurora has provided a gathering place for individuals who think, care and give to the community.



Eileen Mackin

Director
Morning Star Senior Day Program
9859 E. 16th Avenue
Aurora, CO 80010 • 361-0898

With an extensive background in creating programs for seniors, Eileen is Director of the Morning Star Senior Day program for the city of Aurora. She has been an educator; a former Sister of Loretto and a leader in the Adult Day Care movement in Colorado. She received her B.A. from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri; M.A. from Iliff School of Theology and a certificate in gerontology from Denver University. Community work includes a commitment to persons at risk: the elderly, children, and the chronically mentally ill.

*"One person can make a difference.
 Two can make it happen."*

—Edna Mosley
 Aurora City Councilperson



Vern Martin

Principal
Crawford Elementary
1600 Florence Street
Aurora, CO 80010 • 340-3290

Vern grew up with Dorothy and Toto, got his Bachelor's degree from Washburn University and Master's degree from the University of Nebraska. He was named National Distinguished Principal of the Year for Colorado in 1989. Vern has been with Aurora Public Schools in a variety of positions since 1974. Vern is past president of Phi Delta Kappa, an honorary educational group. He is also a private pilot and enjoys reading and hiking. He has come to value the unique contributions each of his classmates has to offer.

*"Trust thyself, every heart vibrates
 to that iron string."*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson





Left to Right
Dan Martinelli
Jody McNerney
Steven E. McGraw
Paul Mendoza



Dan Martinelli

Battalion Chief
Aurora Fire Department
1470 S. Havana
Aurora, CO 80012 • 752-4839

Dan is a native of Westminster and still resides there. He was self-employed in trucking prior to his appointment to the Aurora Fire Department in 1978. He has served in several capacities during his tenure there including Hazardous Materials team, Technical Rescue team, and as Training Chief. Dan currently serves as Battalion Chief of the southern portion of Aurora. Additional assignments include the Officer Development Program, Safety and Health Board, Employee Diversity Board and is a Governor appointee to the Colorado Fire Service Advisory Board. Dan is married with two daughters, ages eighteen and sixteen.

"No man has a right to be respected for any other possessions but those of virtue and talents. Titles are tinsel, power a corrupter, glory a bubble, and excessive wealth a libel on it's possessor."

—Shelley



Steven E. McGraw

Vice President
Administrative Services
GeriMed of America, Inc.
333 W. Hampden, Suite 802
Englewood, CO 80110 • 781-6430

Steve was educated and spent most of his career in the Southeast. He received a B.A. and M.A. degrees in political science from Virginia Tech and a Master of Healthcare Administration degree from Duke University. Steve has more than twelve years experience in healthcare administration and spent one year as the vice president/chief operating officer at Aurora Regional Medical Center.

At GeriMed, Steve is responsible for accreditation and performance improvement for twenty-two sites in eight states; and for the transition of eight MedWise Senior Clinics under contract with Columbia-HealthONE, including MedWise of Aurora.

"The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

—Edmund Burke



Jody McNerney

Branch Manager/Vice President
Commercial Federal Bank
6941 S. University Boulevard
Littleton, CO 80122 • 795-7500

Jody is the Branch Manager of the Southglenn Commercial Federal location. She recently left Colorado National Bank at the Aurora Havana Branch. Jody has enjoyed a banking career for over thirteen years. She attended the University of Northern Colorado as an accounting major, and later attended classes on the D.U. weekend campus. She is a native Coloradan and grew up in the Greeley area.

Jody has been involved in various volunteer efforts and particularly enjoys working with kids. She is an outdoor enthusiast enjoying skiing, golfing, hiking and biking. Leadership Aurora has been by far a highlight in Jody's career, and she plans to maintain the network of friends and utilize the information learned during the past nine months.

"If we did all the things we are capable of doing, we would astonish ourselves."

—Thomas Edison



Paul Mendoza

**Asst. Vice President/
 Facility Manager**
Norwest Bank Colorado, N.A.
9000 E. Colfax Avenue
Aurora, CO 80010 • 360-4848

Paul was born in Loveland, Colorado and raised in Berthoud. He received an Associates degree in Liberal Arts from Mesa College in San Diego, California. He began his banking career in 1979. He has been Facility Manager at Norwest Bank, Colfax location, since September 1994. Effective July 1, 1996, Paul will become President of the Hispanic Advisory and Employee Resource Council for Norwest Banks.

Paul has been involved in several mentoring programs for at-risk boys. He is married with two children and enjoys sports, woodworking and kids.

"Where there is a need for consensus there will be a lack of leadership."

—Margaret Thatcher





Left to Right

Ken Neeper

Teri Mingilton

Lori Kookan Morris

Glenda Mitch

Teri Mingilton

**Consumer Bank Manager
Norwest Bank Colorado, N.A.
2550 S. Parker Road
Aurora, CO 80014 • 752-7904**

Teri is manager for one of the Norwest Bank locations in Aurora. She has over nine years of community banking experience, the last four in Aurora. She hails from the Western Slope, Palisade, Colorado. Teri holds a degree in Business Administration from Mesa State College. She serves on several boards including Fox Arts Advisory Council, Multi Cultural Activity Planning Committee, the Aurora Y.M.C.A., and serves as chair of the Aurora Chamber's Banks in Harmony Summer Concert Committee.

Teri believes involvement in community activities not only strengthens business contact, but helps to better understand each person's needs and motivations. She looks forward to continuing her work in the Aurora community and sees Leadership Aurora as an excellent vehicle to help her accomplish her personal and business goals.

"Attitude is contagious — is yours worth catching?"

—Unknown



Glenda Mitch

**Supervisor, Dislocated Worker
Program/Career Transitions Center
Arapahoe County Employment &
Training Division
14241 E. 4th Avenue, #155
Aurora, CO 80011 • 340-1212**

Glenda has been an employee of the Arapahoe County Employment and Training Division since 1987. As supervisor of the Career Transitions Center, she is responsible for providing "dislocated workers" with the resources and environment needed to help them re-enter the workforce. Her degrees in Education and coursework in adult learning have assisted her in designing a program that is recognized both locally and nationally.

Glenda has participated in various cultural and service organizations over the past several years. She looks forward to continued involvement in the Aurora community through Leadership Aurora contacts.

"In the process of defining ourselves, we have a tendency to create rules and set up boundaries, then forget that rules are made to be broken, and boundaries are to be expanded and crossed."

—Unknown



Lori Kookan Morris

**American Classic Toy Trains
2225 S. Peoria Street
Aurora, CO 80014 • 745-9909**

Lori joined her husband as co-owner of American Classic Toy Trains, a retail hobby store, in 1994 after working at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service for sixteen years. She is also a consultant, trainer and speaker and is currently working a software conversion project for a downtown law firm. Lori has been involved as a volunteer in the Aurora community since high school. She was a member of the Aurora Youth Advisory Committee in 1972, participating in matters pertaining to local youth. She has been a volunteer for Gateway Battered Women's Shelter, and a victim advocate in the Aurora Criminal Justice system. She currently participates in the Aurora Chamber's Focus on Women Committee and is a member of the Leadership Aurora Board.

*"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
At all the times you can,
As long as you ever can."*

—Hillary Rodham Clinton



Ken Neeper

**Chief Engineering Plans and Services
Fitzsimons Army Medical Center
MCHG-PWP, Bldg. 118
Aurora, CO 80045 • 361-4607**

Ken is an engineer responsible for design and construction, environmental compliance, long range planning, and real estate actions. He has lived in the metropolitan area since 1977. Other than a three year assignment as a Civilian employee of the Army in Europe, Ken has worked at Fitzsimons since December 1982 in a variety of engineering related capacities. He looks forward to using the contacts and the knowledge gained in the Leadership Aurora program in making a difference in the community.

"Good management (substitute leadership) is keeping the herd moving roughly west."

—Unknown





Left to Right
Sandra Smith
Jim Sack
John M. Spann
Roylene Rhodes



Roylene Rhodes

Vice President of Marketing/
 Gov. Affairs/Community Services
 American Medical Response
 of Colorado
 2821 S. Parker Road, Suite 1105
 Aurora, CO 80014 • 614-8850

As Roylene enters her seventeenth year in Emergency Medical Services, sweeping changes are taking place. Roylene is Vice President of Marketing, Government Affairs and Community Services at American Medical Response of Colorado, Aurora's ambulance service. She is responsible for contractual management for her company with local government, 911 agencies, managed care organizations, hospitals and skilled nursing facilities.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

—Aristotle



Jim Sack

Regional Account Executive
 Public Service Company of Colorado
 2070 S. Valentia Street
 Denver, CO 80231 • 671-3913

Jim is a Colorado native and earned a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the University of Colorado. He has over fifteen years experience with Public Service Company, providing the extension and utilization of gas and electric service to customers. In 1994, he was assigned a new position as Account Executive, and is now providing Public Service Company products and services to the large commercial customers located in the southeast metro area. His background is utilized by providing customers within the community of Aurora the most effective strategy to best meet their needs.

Jim is an active member of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee. The various programs and experiences provided through Leadership Aurora has helped him develop a partnership with customers in the community.

"The taste of defeat has a richness of experience all its own."

—Bill Bradley



Sandra L. Smith

Director of Customized Training and Continuing Education
 Community College of Aurora - Lowry Campus
 9125 E. 10th Drive
 Aurora, CO 80010 • 340-7087

With over eighteen years experience in education, Sandra has taught at the high school and college levels with administrative positions at the higher education level. A graduate of Kearney State University, Sandra graduated with a B.A. in Education. She is an active member of the Smoky Hill Rotary Club, BISNET, ASTD, an intern with Aurora Education Foundation, and a member of Heritage Christian Center. Leadership Aurora has provided additional networking and learning opportunities for her.

"There is no such thing as a self-made person. You will reach your goals only with the help of others."

—George Shinn



John M. Spann

Public Affairs Officer
 Buckley Air National Guard Base
 140 FW/PA, 140 Aspen Street
 Aurora, CO 80011-9544 • 340-9431

John is a native of Colorado and is a graduate of Colorado State University. He spent three years on active duty with the U.S. Army and upon leaving active duty in 1975, joined the Colorado Air National Guard. He retired from the guard in November, 1993. John began working in the Public Affairs Office at Buckley Air National Guard Base, as chief of Internal Information in 1984. He was selected as the base public affairs officer in 1995. John is active with the Boy Scouts and enjoys getting away to the mountains and spending time with his family.

"Accept the responsibility that goes with this choice."

—Unknown





Left to Right
Lisa Trudgian
Julia Unkrich
B. Rose Weinrich
Mario Waller

Lisa Trudgian

Program Director
Aurora Family Y.M.C.A.
445 South Lansing Street
Aurora, CO 80012 • 364-7471

Lisa is the Program Director at the Aurora Family Y.M.C.A. She enjoys working at the Y.M.C.A. because of the involvement with families and the community, but most of all, Lisa enjoys working with the children. She is a graduate of the University of Northern Colorado, active in Special Olympics and the mother of two young children. The experiences of Leadership Aurora have made her more aware of the communities' needs, diversities, and services available to support families and children.

"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove . . . but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a CHILD!"

—Unknown



Julia Unkrich

Youth Services Administrator
City of Aurora Library, Recreation & Television Services
Expo Center
10955 E. Exposition
Aurora, CO 80012 • 367-KIDS (5437)

Julia is the Youth Services Administrator for the City of Aurora Recreation Services Department. She graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a B.S. degree in Recreation Administration and received her M.A. degree in Counseling Psychology from Lesley College. Julia believes in providing quality experiences for today's youth and is active in building community collaborations to meet the multi-leveled needs of youth and their families. Leadership Aurora has created excellent networking resources and helped broaden her scope of the Aurora community.

"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

—Antoine de Saint-Exupery



Mario Waller

Art Director
The Harrison Company, Inc.
3131 S. Vaughn Way, Suite 520
Aurora, CO 80014 • 695-8924

Along-time resident of the metro area and Colorado, Mario was hired in 1988 as a graphic artist for the Aurora Sentinel. He soon moved to Aurora where he now resides with his wife and daughter. Mario is currently the Art Director for The Harrison Company, an advertising/ graphic design firm. Also an accomplished fine artist, his acrylic painting was selected to represent the Denver Botanic Gardens 1995 Plant & Book Sale .

As the President of the Aurora Arts & Humanities Council and a Cultural Affairs Commission board member—Mario's goals are to improve and strengthen the opportunities for artists in Aurora as well as improve the cultural opportunities for all Aurorans. He was recently honored with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Business for the Arts Award for 1995. With the knowledge gained in the Leadership Aurora program, he hopes to improve his efforts in making a difference for Aurora.

"It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little. Do what you can."

— Sydney Smith



B. Rose Weinrich

Military Personnel Manager
Air Reserve Personnel Center
6760 E. Irvington Place
Denver, CO 80280 • 676-6426

Rose was born and raised in Denver, and has lived in Aurora for the past ten years. She graduated from Manual High School and will complete her B.S. degree in Management from the University of Phoenix in May 1997. Rose is the Deputy Director of Personnel and has worked at the Air Reserve Personnel Center for twenty-three years. She serves on the Comititis Crisis Center Board and is involved in many other volunteer efforts. Leadership Aurora has opened her eyes to a whole new Aurora!

"Where I was born and how I have lived is unimportant. It is what I have done with where I have been that should be of interest."

—Georgia O'Keefe





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Leadership Aurora program is designed to build upon the dedication and leadership abilities of the participants. In order to acquaint Leadership Aurora participants with the issues facing the Aurora community as well as the metropolitan area, class members attend a two-day retreat in September and thereafter day-long monthly sessions from October through May. Topics are presented through lectures, lively debate, small group discussions, activities, case studies and field experiences. The community is the classroom.



Class members learn about every major aspect of community life from education and economic development to media, police and fire protection, and healthcare. Most of all they develop a working relationship among themselves and with current community leaders. The success of the program is measured by the positive effect on the participants, their organizations and the community.

The Leadership Aurora program acknowledges and thanks the Leadership Aurora Board members whose charge includes recruitment and selection and the development of program curriculum. They spent many volunteer hours formulating program content and securing guest speakers for each session. We also thank each of the speakers/presenters who volunteered their time on behalf of the program.



OPENING RETREAT



Session Coordinators

Board Members

Ray Barnes

Tom Bowman

Dale Mingilton

Katherine Montgomery

Jo Snell

Heidi Tackett

Sue Wentzell

The scenic Copper Mountain Resort was the site of this year's opening retreat. During which, each class member familiarized themselves with one another, learned the many faces of a leader, and got a feel for the objectives of the next nine months. Meals and team-building sessions were interspersed with lectures, panels, and workshops—filling the two days with non-stop action.

"The most influential aspect of the retreat was the Myers Briggs results which profoundly influenced my understanding of myself and others."

—Debbie Kunkel-Benson

"The best thing I learned from this session was the diversity and the strength of leadership in the Aurora community."

—Ken Neeper

"It was an eye-opening experience as we learned as much about ourselves as we did about all of our newly met classmates."

—Suzanne Bailey

"I left with a much better understanding of the issues a city of this size faces and an appreciation of the quantity and quality of services available."

—Glenda Mitch



“SCHOOL DAZE”

(EDUCATION SESSION)



Session Coordinators

Board Members
Catherine Canny,
Sue Clark and
Artie Cowan

Education was the first session after our retreat, beginning with Artimese Cowan who provided us with an overview. This was followed by a journey through the city from Peakview Elementary to Community College of Aurora. The experience included participation in school activities, educational opportunities offered within the city, and lunch with students! A dynamic presentation regarding the future of public education rounded out the day.

“Panelists representing charter schools, alternative education, home schooling, and private/religious schools offered a very thought provoking discussion on the various methods of delivering education today.”

—Roylene Rhodes

“I was impressed with the staff from all the organizations. I was particularly pleased to see that in spite of ‘economic challenges’ and limitations seen at Crawford Elementary, the staff there was enthusiastic about meeting their objectives, and certainly seemed to care about their students.”

—William Bell

“IN THE LINE OF FIRE”

(POLICE SESSION)



Session Coordinators

Board Members
Lt. Bruce Smith
Marc Stine

The session opened with Police Chief, Vern Saint Vincent’s overview of the new age of law enforcement. Informative lectures on organizational structure and gang policies was followed by a tour of the Police Academy including an impressive demonstration by members of the S.W.A.T. division. Wrapping up a full day was an enlightening presentation on vice and narcotics, and the challenging efforts of recruiting .

“We learned that the A.P.D. consists of people who are very well trained and who care for the people they serve.”

—Darryl Borgonah

“It was astonishing to hear that the Aurora Police Department has been nationally recognized and are recruiting the best officers from around the country.”

—Jim Sack

“The session brought us into the modern world of policing—the issues, the techniques, the equipment, and the realities.”

—Dinah Lewis



“LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!”

(MEDIA SESSION)



Session Coordinators

Board Members
Helen Littlejohn
George Peck
Lt. Col. Sue Wentzell

Media Day presented both print and broadcast media to the Leadership class. There was discussion on the importance of radio, newspapers in major markets, and the community newspaper. A quick overview of interview techniques was followed by a “trial by fire” experience as class members were given the opportunity to debate city issues as they were captured live by Channel 8 cameras.

“I found the station tour to be very informative. The anticipation of my interview, however, made me extremely nervous.”

—Naomi Colwell

“...given a topic, wired for sound, and led to the camera area (did I miss the makeup session?) as our colleagues observed us on a TV from a waiting room, we anxiously, and cautiously answered the questions from our interviewer.”

—Sandra Smith

“The highlight of media day was spent presenting our own views of issues facing the city. A valuable experience for all!”

—Eileen Mackin



“WHERE DOES IT HURT?” (HEALTHCARE SESSION)



Session Coordinators

Board Members

Cindy Bohl

Katherine Montgomery

Heidi Tackett

Kathy Zeleski

This session provided us with information about the challenges and shifting priorities facing the current healthcare system. Along with tours of the emergency room, surgery, and an AirLife helicopter, we were presented with financial challenges, nutritional information, and the overall evolution of the healthcare field. A particularly powerful exercise was to be part of an ethics panel and participate in making life and death decisions of an actual case presented to the hospital ethics committee.

“...the subject I found most interesting was the ethics portion. I have a deeper respect for the medical community.”

—Rose Weinrich

“...30 oddly dressed Leadership Aurora members wandering the hallways of Aurora Pres’ Hospital in their paper ‘blues’ — came away from the day with new sensitivity to the challenges and supports that are unique to the health profession.”

—Vern Martin

“DOLLARS AND SENSE” (ECONOMIC/ INFRASTRUCTURE SESSION)



Session Coordinators

Board Members

Tom Bowman

Dale Mingilton

Joe Pucci

Paul Short

Jo Snell

The economic session presented us with information about the City of Aurora, how it relates to the metro area, and the impact it has on residential growth, business development, transportation, and re-development.

(I discovered) “...we each try to solve economic issues based on what we perceive as needs and rarely do they coincide with another viewpoint. Rather than trying to convince others of our viewpoint, we must work toward solutions that will address the critical points of the issue.”

—Dan Martinelli

“I found the information presented on the re-development of Lowry and Stapleton to be educational and beneficial in the community programs I am a part of.”

—Odie Kennedy

“The impact of transportation on economic growth is one of the most significant issues facing decision-makers in the eastern metropolitan area.”

—Steve McGraw



“WE ARE FAMILY” (COMMUNITY DAY)



Session Coordinators

Board Members

Sheila Anthony

Terry Campbell

Catherine Canny

Debbie Lynch

What does Aurora offer its community in the form of culture, recreation, family programs, and youth opportunities? This was the question posed to us during the opening Community Day presentation. The rest of the day was spent exploring and experiencing Aurora’s offerings—from shelters, to playgrounds, to community centers. As we presented our findings, a consistent show of pride, commitment, and support was unveiled. An inspirational “chat” with Bill Atkinson, President and CEO of Presbyterian/St. Lukes Medical Center, on the importance of our role in community leadership, concluded the day.

“Aurora truly follows the saying, ‘It takes an entire community to raise a child.’”

—Jerome Davis

“The most ideal way to involve our youth is through the cultural arts.”

—Nancy Flores

“This opportunity made us more aware of the diversity of our communities’ needs.”

—Lisa Trudgian

"FIRE AND BRIMSTONE"

(FIRE SESSION)

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Session Coordinator
Board Member
Fire Chief Ray Barnes

Always a highly anticipated day, the Fire Session, hosted by the Rocky Mountain Fire Academy didn't disappoint us. Fire Chief, Ray Barnes began the day with a discussion on the many challenges facing the Department today. A demonstration on the physics of fire was followed by a discussion on the Department's mission and its "offensive" firefighting philosophy. Much of the day was spent on the academy grounds participating in various aspects of firefighting. The "high" light for many was being "rescued" from a five story building with a telfer line!

"I walked away with a feeling of pride and security, knowing the level of expertise we have in Aurora."
—Jody McNeerney

"It was impressive to know the vast range of responsibilities of this Department from fire safety for children, to major hazardous gas fires."
—Julia Unkrich

"Aurora has an outstanding safety record and personnel who share great pride in their department."
—Terri Gehler



"PRIDE AND PRESENCE"

(MILITARY SESSION)

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Session Coordinators
Board Members
Helen Littlejohn
Sue Wentzell
John Spann

The face of the military in Aurora is changing dramatically. Our day focused on where the military has been and where it's headed. Beginning with mission briefs by the Naval Reserve Readiness Center and others impressed upon us the socio-economic impact the military has on the Denver metro area. We continued with a windshield tour of Buckley ANG Base, then headed into the wild blue yonder aboard a T-43. Rounding out another full day was a glimpse of the Lowry ARPC/DFAS operations, the Lowry redevelopment, and Fitzsimons redevelopment plans.

"The ride with the Colorado Air National Guard's Boeing T-43 navigational trainer, over the purple mountain majesties and fruited plains, was one of the day's highlights."

—John Spann

"YOUTH MENTORING DAY"

(CLASS PROJECT)

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Coordinators
Class Members
Mario Waller
Laurie Findley

This year's Leadership Class came with visions of "making a difference" in the city of Aurora. They had particular interests in the areas of youth mentoring, improving the city's image, and an overall helping hand attitude for the community. With such broad desires their ambition led to the adoption of two opportunities. A youth mentoring presentation given to the students of Crawford Elementary, and the continuing efforts to produce an updated version of a promotional video for Aurora. The dedication to each project demonstrated the '95-'96 class' present and future commitment to the city they live and work.

(The video) "...will have application for many organizations to help them with human resource recruiting and encourage (Aurora residents) to become ambassadors for the city."

—Lori Morris

"Regardless of how large or small the project is, one thing is clear—this class is full of members that truly want to 'make a difference' in the community!"

—Larry Grandison

