



Leadership Aurora Class of 2020 at the Breckenridge retreat

Class of 2020 kicks off its year with Breckenridge retreat

By: Alexandra Hoffman

The Leadership Aurora retreat in beautiful Breckenridge was the ideal setting to immerse ourselves into the program and bond together as a cohort.

Beginning Sept. 12, we kicked off the retreat with a program overview by Rene, learned about committee opportunities, and enjoyed a presentation about Colorado Technical University, our 2019 retreat sponsor, from Beth Braaten, CTU Vice President of Community Relations and 2018 LA alum.

Our thought-provoking second day was facilitated by Franco Marini from the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business. Together we developed our class contract, reflected on the power of declarations, analyzed our Insights Discovery profiles, and got creative with leadership theory. The intentional reflective exercises and our

Friday the 13th luck together worked magic to elevate our class this day from acquaintances to teammates.

Our final morning together was spent learning words of wisdom from Aurora Chamber of Commerce President Kevin Hougen, Leadership Aurora alumni, and Board Members. We elected Karen Lovett as our fearless leader and supported each other in filling committee roles and chair positions. We left Breckenridge that afternoon with a purposeful vision and shared excitement for our year together.

Thank you to retreat sponsor Colorado Technical University and all the Leadership Aurora Board Members and Alum who were a part of the retreat in support of our learning: Rene Simard, Mitzi Schindler, David Barber, Steve Sundberg, Caleb McNaughton, Jen Evans, Marsha McGilley, Dale Mingilton, Ryan Evans, Amy Kusek, Kevin Hougen, and Franco Marini.

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Leadership of Aurora Class of 2020

Mission: To guide participants to conduct as per our identified agreements for the success of the group and to achieve the goals of Leadership of Aurora.

Agreement: Be present, Be engaged, Be on time, Be all-inclusive, Be participative, Be respectful, Be Responsible, Be an ambassador of the program, and Have fun!

President's Corner

Leaders of Aurora,

I am so honored to have been elected President of an amazing group of informed and educated Leaders in the community. Over the next eight months our journey will have its highs and lows, ups and down, tears and laughter; but through it all, we are an inclusive team and motivated to identify ways to become more involved in our community and with one another. We will embrace our new learnings of culture, government, communication, diversity, inclusion and so much more. The sky is the limit for the class of 2020! Stay strong and be your very best you.



Best

Karen Lovett RN MS ACNS-BC CCNS

Meet the Class *Jennifer Mills*

What committees are you participating in?

Graduation and Social.

How do you motivate yourself and your team?

I'm usually motivated by a challenge, when I accomplish something difficult, or when I help a peer with a complicated problem. That's what keeps me going strong. I like to motivate my team with praise and encouragement. I always try to find something good to say, even when things aren't going so well.

Can you name an individual who has had a tremendous impact on you as a leader? Why and how do they impact your life?

To be honest, I don't know that I could name just one. I've been lucky to have so many influential leaders — my current supervisor, previous supervisors, the President of the bank, my husband, and my best friend. They all have helped me grow and pushed me past what I thought I could do. Some provide support, encouragement, and advice; others force me out of my comfort zone.



What is one characteristic that you believe every leader should possess?

They should be approachable and available. We're all very busy and a good leader should take steps to make sure their team knows they are always available.

What are you doing to ensure you continue to grow and develop as a leader?

Currently, I'm focusing mostly on improving my physical and mental health. Over the last few years, I stopped making my own health a priority and I think that has held me back in my professional growth. I also believe this will help me with my goal of becoming a more confident leader.

Upcoming Events



- Leadership Aurora event
- Community Exploration activity

Nov. 6 - Community Awareness Program training

3-5:30 p.m.
Aurora Municipal Center
Register: 303.739.7228

Nov. 7 - CELL - Inside Jihad

7:30-9 a.m.
Aurora Municipal Center
Register: <https://business.aurorachamber.org/events>

Nov. 14 - Community Awareness Program training

1-3:30 p.m.
Aurora Municipal Center
Register: 303.739.7228

Nov. 21 - Leadership Aurora City of Aurora Day

7:45 a.m.-5 p.m.
Information and agenda will be sent separately

Dec. 4- Community Awareness Program training

10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Aurora Municipal Center
Register: 303.739.7228

Dec. 14- Shop With a Cop

7:45-11:45 a.m.
Walmart (5650 S. Chambers Road)
RSVP: dcernich@auroragov.org

Dec. 17 - Community Awareness Program training

8-10:30 a.m.
Aurora Municipal Center
Register: 303.739.7228

Dec. 19 - Leadership Aurora Media Day

7:45 a.m.-5 p.m.
Information and agenda will be sent separately

Leadership Aurora dives into how community groups serve our city

By: Dave Cernich and Ed Hauschild

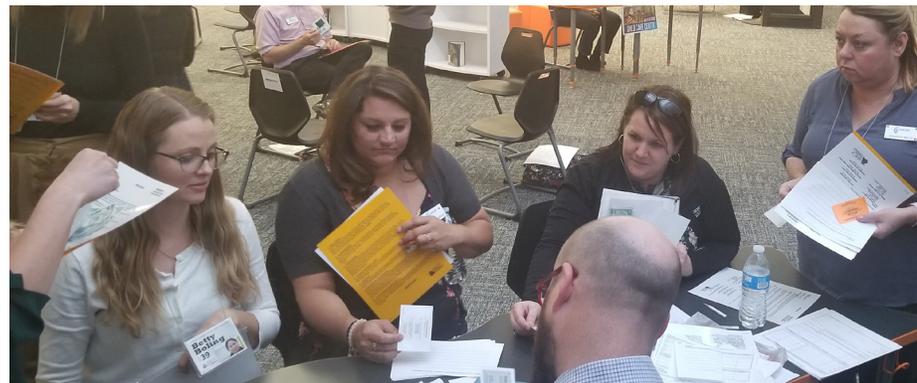
The whole Leadership Aurora Class of 2020 met for the first time since the retreat on Oct. 17 for the Community Day. We gathered at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce office and were treated to a great breakfast by Mrs. Yvonne Valdez from Citywide Banks. After a few minutes of classmates catching up, we were given two informative briefings. The first one was from Lee Ann Morning, from the U.S. Census Bureau. Morning provided information

on the importance of an accurate census, how it will be conducted, challenges they might face as well as hiring opportunities. The second briefing was from Kathie Snell, COO of Aurora Mental Health. She gave the class great information about her organization and the services they provide.

After breakfast, the class was divided into six groups. Each group visited two different organizations that had previously been coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce. While the groups toured their assigned organizations, they had to gather information that included the mission/purpose of the organization, whom they served, what services they provided, their budget, challenges and more. At the end of the day, each group returned and briefed the rest of the class on where they had gone and what they experienced.

We all realized that there are were

services to refugees and immigrants. Other organizations such as the Aurora Day Resource Center, Comitis, and Ready to Work provide assistance to individuals who are experiencing homelessness and need a little help to get back on their feet. There are a few organizations that make themselves available to Aurora's youth such as the Juvenile Assessment Center, Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA), Boys Hope Girls Hope at Aurora Central High School and Aurora Youth Options. They offer an assortment of programs and resources for Aurora's younger population in an effort to develop them into successful members of the community. One of our groups also visited the Adams County Workforce and Development Center, which provides resources for employers and job seekers looking for employment, as well as the Second Chance Center, whose primary



many wonderful organizations that support a variety of people. For example, the Village Exchange Center and the Asian Pacific Development Center are organizations that provide services such as English as a second language classes, employment and legal assistance and many other

mission is to assist formerly incarcerated individuals in reestablishing themselves as successful members of the community. The final place mentioned was Brent's Place, which provides a place where children with cancer or other life-threatening illnesses can stay with their families while they



receive treatment at local hospitals.

Overall, the class learned there are many organizations that help members of the community. Many depend on grants and other donations to be able to take care of the people they serve and when the money is tight, they are limited on the support they can provide. I think all would agree we were impressed with the organizations and want to figure out how our class can help.

After our visits, the class was treated to a delicious lunch by Steve Sundberg and Legends of Aurora Sports Grill. Everyone was able to relax and continue talking about all they had experienced that day.

After lunch there was one last event sponsored by Debra Scarpella from Goodwill Industries. This exercise had all classmates placed in fictitious families and assuming roles similar to families that struggle every day. The families then had to simulate life for four weeks and experience what others have to do with limited resources. Everyone soon realized that the families' incomes did not cover basic life needs such as shelter, food, utilities and transportation. However, they had to figure out how to make ends meet. After an hour of trying to make life happen, many got evicted, others got taken to jail for theft, some had to pawn belongings, many lost their jobs, and more. Even though it was only a short period of time, many got frustrated and desperate. This experience opened our eyes and helped the class realize that there are many who live in the conditions we were simulating. The hope is that everyone can figure out how to help and not be so quick to judge others going through hard times.

An interview with outgoing Aurora Mayor Bob LeGare

By: Steve Ruger

Mayor Bob LeGare, a 42-year resident of Aurora, believes his replacement will need to work hard to foster relationships and community partnerships to be successful. Mayor LeGare, who is not seeking re-election after 17 years of serving the public, intends to retire when his term is over in December. I recently had the opportunity to sit down with Mayor LeGare to talk about his years as an elected official, his leadership within the Aurora community and his advice to those who seek to fill his seat.

Mayor LeGare was elected as Aurora City Council Member At-Large in 1995, 1999, 2011 and 2015, before being appointed in 2018 to fill Mayor Steve Hogan’s unexpired term. Between terms of City Council service, LeGare served for five years on the Arapahoe County Open Space & Trails Advisory Board. He also completed six years of volunteer service as Co-Chair of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs & Education Committee.



In my conversation with Mayor LeGare, I asked him several questions, specifically focusing on his time as an elected official and leadership lessons he could share from his years of public service. Here are some of the questions and answers (and laughs) we shared:

Q: Describe your biggest accomplishment during your time as an elected official.

A: “My biggest accomplishment has been my advocacy for roads. It’s been my mission to ensure that our roads/asphalt/concrete are good.” Mayor LeGare also highlighted his recent efforts to find a solution for residents in Denver Meadows who were forced to abandon their homes. He engaged the property owner and worked with the City Council to make certain that residents had some level of support to start over elsewhere.

Q: What is the greatest leadership lesson you’ve learned during your time as an elected official?

A: “Making sure everyone has been heard and feels that way.” He also stated that it’s important not to take things too personally and that when people are heated, it’s important not to write them off. They may be different when not in the “heat of the moment.”

Q: Describe your approach to leading a board of elected officials.

A: Mayor LeGare jokingly said, “it’s like herding cats,” but quickly reemphasized that it’s important to ensure that everyone gets to have their say.



My biggest accomplishment has been my advocacy for roads. It’s been my mission to ensure that our roads/asphalt/concrete are good.”



Q: How do you motivate people?

A: “I tell a story that gets people excited, and then work with them to develop a shared vision.”

Q: What are your goals after you leave office?

A: “Do anything I want and nothing that I don’t,” a phrase he lovingly borrowed from his wife. He jokingly added that he can’t 100% commit to that philosophy because he is married. In all seriousness, the Mayor intends to volunteer within the community and continue his pursuits to make lives better for others.

I lastly asked Mayor LeGare if he had any departing words of wisdom for the next leader of Aurora’s legislative body. He was quick to point out that, “you need at least six council members to support you if you want to get anything done.” He again emphasized community building as a key task for the next Mayor. That seems fitting from someone who has spent so much of his time building the Aurora community both figuratively and literally, roads and all.

LA classmates on hand to celebrate Lt. Col. Tom Banker's Change of Command Ceremony

By: Ed Hauschild

On Sunday, Oct. 6, many members of the Leadership of Aurora Class of 2020 were able to witness a Change of Command Ceremony at Buckley Air Force Base.



Classmates in attendance: Mandy Ashley, MaryAnn Crawford, Shaunna King, Priscilla Sandoval, Tanner Berkey, Tiena McConnell, Judith Carlson, Jennifer Mills, Jennifer Buckley, Beau Martinez, Dackri Davis, Jill Ruitter, Ed Hauschild

Leadership Aurora class member Lt. Col. Tom Banker assumed command of the 140th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in front of more than 300 airmen, numerous high-ranking Air Force officials, his family, and close friends.

For many of the classmates who attended it was their first time witnessing a Change of Command Ceremony. The ceremony is a military tradition where a transfer of authority and responsibility goes from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander, in this case Lt. Col. Banker. This is his first command

after serving 19 years in the Air Force.

Lt. Col. Banker takes command of an organization that is comprised of more than 230 Airmen responsible for maintaining and loading the advanced combat systems of the F-16 Falcon. The primary objectives of the 140th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron are to ensure combat mission-ready aircraft are maintained to support the combat-readiness of the fighter squadron and its pilots as well as to provide mission-ready alert aircraft in support of 24/7 homeland defend operations.

Shop With a Cop offers chance at community exploration

By: Dave Cernich

Shop With a Cop is sponsored by the Aurora Police Association Charitable Foundation and will be held Saturday, Dec. 14, at Walmart, 5650 S. Chambers Road in Aurora. Over 100 underprivileged children will be paired with an Aurora police officer to shop for clothes, toys and gifts for their family members. Each child will have the ability to spend up to \$200 to fulfill their necessities and desires.

The Aurora Police Association Charitable Foundation was founded to help Aurora police officers and their families during times of hardship. The foundation has grown to support scholarships for high school students entering law enforcement careers and the twice-annual Shop With a Cop program to provide back-to-school supplies and holiday gifts for children and their families in Aurora.

The children who participate in Shop With a Cop are directly chosen by Aurora police officers who may have met them while working on duty or recommended through the Aurora Key Community Response Team, an organization that meets monthly.

Shop With a Cop has been a part of the Charitable Foundation since the foundation's founding in 2015. The Charitable Foundation wants to help as many underprivileged kids as possible have a great holiday season with new clothes, hygiene items, toys and other



Aurora Police Department Facebook

personal necessities. The children are also required to purchase a gift for a member of their family. Requiring them to purchase a gift for an important family member is a significant learning lesson. Volunteers from Leadership Aurora can help wrap those presents that the children purchase, and get community exploration credit at the same time.

The amount of families and children supported depends on the continued fundraising efforts of the Aurora Police Association Charitable Foundation. Donations are always appreciated and can always be made at apacharitablefoundation.org/donate. Details about the Aurora Police Association Charitable Foundation can be found at apacharitablefoundation.org.

Sign up to be a volunteer wrapper for Shop With a Cop: dcernich@auroragov.org

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SUBMISSIONS

Have any ideas on what you'd like to see in future Leadership Aurora newsletters?

edward.a.hauschild.mil@mail.mil



Leadership Aurora is a 10-month community engagement program organized by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and designed to develop an awareness of the Aurora community, create a network of informed leaders, and encourage greater involvement in the community.

AuroraChamber.org/leadership-aurora
303.344.1500



HELP WANTED

It's the season for giving. Keep these organizations in mind for both tangible donations and the gift of your time. If you would like to post a donation request in the next newsletter, please email Alexandra Hoffman at alexandra.hoffman@healthonecares.com. Thank you!

The JAC

Warm clothes-jackets, socks, blankets
Toys

Aurora Day Resource Center, Second Change Center, Adams County Workforce and Development Center

Hygiene products-hotel toiletries
Business clothes

Village Exchange Center

Lawn mower, round tables, lighting, TV, teen activities

Asian Pacific Development Center

Toys

Brent's Place

Bed sheets, cleaning supplies

Boys Hope Girls Hope

Volunteers for career panels, companies to sponsor dinners, job shadowing opportunities, coaches or mentors

Aurora Youth Options

Male mentors, job shadowing opportunities

PERSONAL ADS

Join Leadership Aurora classmates for happy hour at Legends of Aurora Sports Grill, 13690 E. Iliff Ave., after the Nov. 21 session.

More retreat photos

