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THE CHAMBER Impact

JAN/FEB 2021

Supporting

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce facilitated the distribution of \$350,000 of Adams County Small Business Mini-Grants, and assisted in the distribution of over \$7 million dollars in CARES ACT Federal Funding for Arapahoe County.

These businesses at Stanley Marketplace were just a few of the many businesses in Adams County that received the grant funding. Clockwise: Nelson Harvey, Annette Restaurant; Raquela Serber, ELITA Specialty Market and Kitchen; Michelle and Max Ryan, Industrial Luxury; and Stephanie Shearer and Christ Bacorn, Trunk Nouveau.

In this new year, let's continue to support our small businesses and shop local! ■



Nelson Harvey, Annette Restaurant



Raquela Serber - ELITA Specialty Market & Kitchen



Michelle Ryan and son Max, Industrial Luxury



Stephanie Shearer and Chris Bacorn, Trunk Nouveau

Small Businesses



The Aurora Chamber encourages everyone to enjoy socially distanced outdoor activities like shopping at Southlands and skating on The Pond – where reservations are required, and fun is mandatory. The Pond is open until February 28, 2021.

President's Letter

Save our Brick and Mortar Businesses, Shop Local... It's our duty!!



Kevin Hougen
President & CEO

The Pandemic Holiday Shopping's Big Winner is Big Tech, While Small Business Suffers

Following the unprecedented year of 2020, we must now consider the digital ecosystem in which we have been doing online shopping – and remember those who are losing out.

The pandemic has made it abundantly clear that companies like Amazon, Apple, Google, and others are a force in today's business ecosystem. We should be increasingly concerned that these large conglomerates are hurting small businesses.

The good news is that this dynamic is getting increased scrutiny from politicians on both sides of the political aisle. Democrats and Republicans in Colorado have found common ground to face this issue. Colorado's Attorney General Phil Weiser is participating in a nationwide effort by State Attorney Generals to file antitrust suits against Facebook. Recently, Congressman Ken Buck echoed these sentiments in an article he wrote, titled "Big Tech's Reckoning has just Begun."

Instead of collaborating with small businesses and local producers, big tech companies actively work against them. Through my work at The Chamber of Commerce, I have heard testimonies from business owners across many industries, that many of these large companies frequently misrepresent information.

One would hope that a company of such scale would actively partner with small businesses, and work to build back the community. But instead, companies have chosen to do the opposite, even referring to third party vendors and local businesses as "internal competitors," per a judiciary committee's report earlier this year.

Immigrant and minority-owned businesses are especially vulnerable to Amazon and its anti-competitive practices. First generation business owners often have less tools and access to resources and rely on local community support. Our fundamental goal at The Chamber is to provide access, advocacy, and influence for small businesses, representing business owners and entrepreneurs from around the world - including Korea, Latin America, and Ethiopia. This business diversity strengthens our communities, grows our economy, and allows folks to find meaningful jobs – providing skills and experience to advance careers.

Local businesses have a meaningful stake in their communities, using their profits to invest back into their businesses and the place they call home. Amazon, on the other hand, serves distant shareholders who do not have any stake in the economic health of a place like Akron, Ohio or Aurora, Colorado.

Amazon must be held accountable for its anti-competitive practices and its unfair control of the online market. Unlike Amazon, the working people and small business owners represented by The Chamber cannot afford expensive Washington, D.C. lobbyists to advance their interest. Therefore, we must recognize the importance of this issue, as the stakes are too high for complacency. Continued investigations into Amazon, paired with sustainable antitrust regulations will allow Amazon to retain employees while simultaneously encouraging a competitive marketplace. The solution is simple: A healthy ecosystems require diversity to grow, and healthy competition is necessary for long-term sustainability.

As illustrated on the cover of this newsletter, shop local – and help our local economy continue to recover!

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DON'T FORGET: "Every employee of a Chamber member is a member of The Chamber"
Please route this issue to your sales reps, account managers, marketing directors, HR and PR departments. You can also access each month's newsletter online at our website, www.aurorachamber.org, so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

THE CHAMBER'S MISSION



The mission of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is to give a voice to the business community and serve as an advocate for its members, creating a positive business environment that encourages their growth and long-term economic vitality

ChamberCommittees

An Inside Look

ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION

Creative Ways to get on the Wheel - The Wellness Wheel!

Thursday, November 12, 2020

In November, Arts + Business Connection and the Work Well 2.0 Health Series joined forces to offer a timely presentation and discussion about how to creatively manage the seven pillars of overall health. (see Work Well 2.0 Health Series)

Show and Tell-A-Networking

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

The Arts + Business Connection committee closed out their 2020 meetings with a virtual Holiday Show & Tell Networking event, during which attendees shared and spread holiday cheer through storytelling with art experiences.

The offerings included a fun and funny moment captured through photography, meaningful outdoor décor, a snippet of the Aurora Singers virtual performance, paintings and artwork by children, needlepoint, mosaics, a tap dance story, the Colorado Freedom Memorial, a hand painted nativity carving from Mexico, a gorgeous and unique Hamsa metal foil creation, and even some Light Bright art!

The stories and artwork – of all kinds – provided a unique networking and sharing opportunity, as well as inspiration for Michele Haugh, with Tri-County Health Department, who said, “I so enjoyed it! I have not been doing much exploring artistically over the past decade and talking with everyone today has really inspired me to be more proactive and artistic. Thank you for the invitation!”

Another attendee, Sarah Brown with Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council, had to leave before she could share her story, but sent hers through the chat. “Working remotely means I have time to take art breaks

on my patio a lot more, and the cats definitely enjoy it too. I like to do pastel, which is super messy, so it's good to have some outdoor/less dangerous places to go,” said Brown.



Sarah Brown with Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council shared the pastel art project she is working on - on her porch - because of how messy pastels are.

TRANSPORTATION

Adams County Transportation Update

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair

The November 4 Transportation meeting featured a presentation by Senior Transportation and Mobility Planner for Adams County Public Works Chris Chovan.



Chris Chovan



Chovan first provided an overview of the process for development of the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) with the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). “It’s a multi-step process with technical staff and elected officials from the County and its’ municipalities providing input,” said Chovan. “Their selected projects are then forwarded to the DRCOG committee structure for review and approval prior to final adoption by the DRCOG Board.” He pointed out that Arapahoe County as well as other counties in the metro area follow a similar project selection process.

Chovan then offered updates on several major projects in various stages of development:

- Widening of I-270 between I-25 and I-70 with the addition of managed lanes (in the environmental study phase with construction likely to start in late 2022)
- Vasquez Blvd. between 52nd and 64th Ave. has various alternatives for improvements

identified and evaluation is ongoing (Commerce City and CDOT are project sponsors, Adams County is an advisor)

- Managed lanes on I-25 from 120th Avenue to E-470 opened this summer and the long-range plan is to extend those additional lanes to Berthoud
- RTD’s N Line opening in September, and a future extension to SH 7 is still a possibility
- Adams County, Westminster, and Federal Heights are conducting a study for multi-modal improvements to Federal Blvd. from 52nd to 120th Ave., with a projected completion in the fall of 2022
- Adams County is updating their Transportation Plan in coordination with their Comprehensive Plan and the Parks, Open Spaces, and Trails Plan. (They have begun early outreach efforts with final adoption expected in spring 2022)

Chovan emphasized that Adams County recognizes the need for collaboration and advocacy for successful transportation funding and project development. They utilize the AdCOG Transportation Forum, are active with North Area Transportation Alliance, and involved with the Reimagine RTD effort, as well as the Governor’s RTD Oversight Committee.

Aurora and Centennial Transportation Updates

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair



The final Transportation meeting of 2020 had 55 participants via Zoom, and featured updates for the Cities of Aurora and Centennial.

Cindy Colip, Aurora’s director of Public Works, reported adjustments due to COVID, included cutting of vacant positions, staggering work schedules to ensure social distancing, and delays in development of the Capital Improvement Plan pending better info on economic impacts.



Cindy Colip



Matt Kozakowski

Matt Kozakowski, transportation delivery manager, presented on the current capital improvement program of more than 50 projects. These include the City’s first protected bike lane project near the Florida Ave. RTD station, the Parker/Quincy/Smoky Hill project

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This photo, taken by Mark Smith, owner of PhotoSmith Colorado and vice-chair of the ABC committee, brought smiles to the Zoom attendees of the December ABC meeting. Smith’s photo, titled “Two Orphans in Borneo,” was taken at the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia.

in preliminary design, and progress continues for the pedestrian bridge over Parker Road at the Nine-Mile Station. Procurement of the design-build team for the I-70 and Picadilly interchange is scheduled to begin construction in 2022.



Mac Callison

Mac Callison, transportation planning supervisor, discussed major initiatives still in the planning phase, including the I-70 and Harvest Road interchange, the multimodal improvements to 64th Avenue between Himalaya and E-470, the 13th Ave. study for improvements related to the multiple schools within the corridor, and partially federally funded programs to improve sidewalk connectivity for schools and transit users.



Victor Rachael

Victor Rachael, deputy director of Public Works Engineering, reported that development projects have not slowed down at all during COVID. And they are working to develop a Middle Aurora Regional Improvement Authority (MARIA) to collect funds then make roadway improvements, like the successful program with the South Aurora RIA.

Centennial's Director of Public Works Jeff Dankenbring gave an overview of the City's annual transportation program of typically \$10 – 15 million. Revenue uncertainty because of COVID has caused some delays but major work is making progress. The City will update their Transportation Master Plan in 2021 and complete the fifth year of their technology-based system improvements with installation of fiber and improvements to traffic signal timing in coordination with Greenwood Village and Arapahoe County. Their largest construction project will be replacement of the bridge to provide additional lanes on Arapahoe Road just east of University.



Jeff Dankenbring

Centennial is implementing their Pavement Management system with funding set to maintain the network in "Good" condition. They also do four projects per year to provide "traffic calming" improvements within neighborhoods.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY

Results of the Election

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Loren Furman, senior vice president of State and Federal Relations for the Colorado Chamber, began her presentation by

COVID-19 Business Updates from Mayors of Aurora and Centennial

Thursday, December 3, 2020



More than 50 people attended December's virtual meeting featuring Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman and Centennial Mayor Stephanie Piko. The Mayors spoke primarily about what their cities are doing to support businesses during the Pandemic.



Mayor Mike Coffman



Mayor Stephanie Piko

are complying with all CDC guidelines and have gone above and beyond to keep their establishments safe.

Mayor Coffman discussed the \$5 million grant program supporting the resiliency of struggling businesses and nonprofits. In

Mayor Piko discussed the Centennial Small Business Loan Fund that provides small businesses a bridge to larger resources. The fund does not compete with the Small Business Association CARES Act loans, so applicants can apply for both. The City of Centennial, in partnership with Arapahoe County, also provided \$750,000 as part of Centennial CARES to non-profit organizations that are providing services to Centennial residents. Mayor Piko expressed her concerns with the current restrictions facing restaurant owners and their ability to stay in business, especially since the vast majority of restaurants in Centennial

cooperation with the Arapahoe County and Adams County CARES Programs, the Aurora Economic Resiliency Grant Program provides grants up to \$30,000 each to small and mid-sized businesses and nonprofits to help with payroll and rent expenses for the upcoming winter months. It is the third round of CARES funding that the city of Aurora has deployed to support its local businesses and nonprofits during the pandemic. Mayor Coffman also discussed the current safer at home (level red) restrictions and the work being done with the state/counties to provide flexibility to businesses. ■



Loren Furman

suggesting that Colorado is an anomaly, and that we should not listen to pollsters because of the potential of wrong information being passed along.

"Politically speaking, there has been a "Blue Wave" in our country, as

opposed to a "Blue Trickle" with a narrowed gap between republicans and democrats," said Furman. She also said that although Trump is filing lawsuits about the election, Joe Biden will be the next President of the United States.

In addition to supporting Vice President Biden in the Presidential race, Colorado voted to send two newcomers to Washington: Congressional District 3 elected Republican Lauren Boebert over former Democrat legislator Diane Mitsch Bush; and Incumbent Senator Cory Gardner was defeated by former Governor John Hickenlooper.

All other Colorado congressional seats stayed in the hands of the incumbents, which means Colorado has 3 Republican representatives and 4 Democrat representatives. However, Furman said that it should be noted that many other states saw Republicans pick up Congressional seats, which narrows the gap between the parties in the U.S. House.

Some of the Ballot Initiative votes were not yet finalized at the time of this presentation, but Furman offered that Colorado voters are fiscally conservative on some issues and not on others. "They chose to decrease their income taxes and prevent the Legislature from creating new tax or fee enterprises without their approval, while increasing workers' payroll taxes through a new government-run family leave program," she said.

The Chamber Public Issues Committee is sponsored by



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

Diverse Holiday Celebrations and Spiritual Resiliency

Friday, November 13, 2020

In November 2020, the Diversity and Inclusion Council Executive Committee and Council offered two videos - one about the holiday celebrations of various cultures, and a non-religious presentation by Major Joseph Friedman, Chaplain of the 140th Colorado National Guard (COANG) about how to be

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resilient in the face of the many obstacles we are all facing during these trying times. View the holiday celebration video at <https://vimeo.com/480537853>, and the spiritual resiliency video at <https://vimeo.com/486582897>. The videos were produced by Dennis Stretar of Our Community Broadcasting Network. Stretar also serves as the vice-chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Council.

Beginning January 2021, the Diversity & Inclusion Executive Committee will host bi-monthly, live presentations via zoom, and bi-monthly video presentations. Mark your calendar for the following dates:

Video Presentations: January 8, March 12, May 14, July 9, September 10, and November 12, 2021.

Guest Speaker via Live Zoom Presentation: February 12, April 9, June 11, August 13, October 8, and December 10, 2021.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion 101: Where do I start?

Friday, December 11, 2020



Tariana Navas-Nieves

More and more, businesses and organizations are recognizing the benefit of addressing equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in their work. What is the difference between these terms? What does being an anti-racist mean? What does it mean to bring an EDI lens into

your operations? Should we make a statement of solidarity like so many others have?

In this session, Tariana Navas-Nieves, director of Cultural Affairs with Denver Arts and Venues talked about the basics of EDI work and some steps you can take to get you started on this journey, and as a way to support the success of your business.

The Diversity and Inclusion Council is sponsored by



WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Update on COVID-19 Pandemic Tuesday, October 27, 2020

On October 27, 2020, Michelle Barron, MD, provided The Chamber's Women in Business committee with updates on the COVID-19

Pandemic and gave a clear timeline about the anticipated duration of COVID and the impact to our society. Dr. Barron, who completed her training in infectious diseases at the CU Health Sciences Center in 2003, is now Colorado's top infectious disease doctor.

At the time of the presentation, Dr. Barron provided a snapshot in time of the U.S. Situation Update, including that the total cases as of October 27, 2020, which was 8.6 million worldwide, with more than 224,000 deaths in the U.S.

Dr. Barron also offered information about COVID-19 cases and deaths by age group, with 23.8 percent of people that have contracted COVID-19 are between the ages of 18 and 29. However, the highest percentage of deaths was 26.5 percent in those 75 to 84 years old.

Ironically, although the percentage of deaths for this age group is the highest, only 4.3 percent of Americans from 75 to 84 years old have actually contracted the virus.

Dr. Barron also addressed COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths by race/ethnicity to include factors that increase community spread and individual risks.

Defending Yourself Tuesday, November 17, 2020

At the November 17 Women in Business meeting, Terry Gist, self-defense instructor and owner of Gist Realty, LLC, shared ways to proactively take safe measures to avoid a potential situation, as well as pointers on how to protect yourself if faced with an attack.

Through Gist's instruction, attendees learned how to protect themselves from attackers in various situations and how to take proactive measures to always maintain awareness of your surroundings. Gist shared that one of the biggest distractions that attackers look for is people on their cell phones when walking to their car or struggling to look for keys. Predators are always looking for their next victim, and we should all know what to do to be prepared so that an attacker does not have an opportunity to take



Michelle Barron, MD



Terry Gist

advantage of us.

Gist has 15 years of experience with Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and Judo. He is a Purple Belt, working towards his Brown Belt, and trains with instructors of the highest level of Jiu Jitsu as well as several Ultimate Fighting Championship fighters.

WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

Creative Ways to get on the Wheel - The Wellness Wheel!

Thursday, November 12, 2020

By Patti Corcoran, Tri-County Health Department

In November, the Work Well 2.0 Health Series and the Arts + Business Connection committee joined forces to offer a timely presentation and discussion about how to creatively manage the seven pillars of overall health.

Leslie Conzemius, RN, shared a "Wellness Wheel" to help attendees identify and improve areas of general health including environment, nutrition, movement, relationships, sleep, spirituality, and resilience. Using the wheel analogy, Conzemius explained that when one or more of your health pillars is lacking, you end up with a "flat tire." By using a vision MAP consisting of Mission, Aspirations, and Purpose – she explained that you can creatively plan ways around obstacles that crop up. By taking small steps and celebrating the positives, you can gain confidence to achieve your goal, in order to build the future you want to live.



Leslie Conzemius

Conzemius began her pursuit of wellness for herself and others after being diagnosed at 13 with Crohn's disease. At the time, she didn't know how to advocate for herself, but has since learned much about autoimmunity and natural ways of self-care and healing. She works with individuals living with autoimmune diseases as a Stress Management and Resiliency Trainer, a Group Fitness and Certified Yoga Instructor, and an Integrative Health Coach and owner of Abundance Integrative Health Coaching.

The Health Benefits of Volunteering and Gratitude

Thursday, December 10, 2020

By Patti Corcoran, Tri-County Health Department

For the December 2020 Health Series meeting, there were two presenters, who shared easy and practical ways to improve emotional and mental well-being through volunteer and gratitude activities. Justin

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Justin Kruger

Kruger, founder and CEO of Project Helping talked about his journey to volunteering and how it changed his life. Rachel Beck, a benefits analyst with Arapahoe County, discussed the County's program she has implemented that has helped to improve employee health.



Rachel Beck

Kruger was inspired to create Project Helping based on the immediate and lasting improvements that his own experience in volunteering had on his mental health struggles.

The more he volunteered, the better he felt, and the better he felt, the more Kruger realized that volunteering was helping to improve his mental wellness. "Volunteering is gratitude in action," said Kruger.

Project Helping is an impactful organization aimed at leveraging the mental wellness benefits of volunteering. The goal of the organization was to make it incredibly simple to get involved in impactful and hands-on projects, thereby compounding the benefits of helping others while helping oneself.

If you are looking for a "pandemic-safe," yet effective way to connect and give to others, go to Kynd Kit by Project Helping. The kits can be sent to individuals and corporations. You can also go to Project Helping and see a list of volunteer opportunities.

"Gratitude turns what you have into enough." This thought served as the basis for a very successful and meaningful gratitude challenge for employees of Arapahoe County, that was initiated by Beck.

Beck has been with Arapahoe County since September 2017 and is the County's Benefits Analyst. She focuses her time on health and welfare offerings, ensuring that the right benefits are in place to meet employees' needs. This focus includes employee education and offering excellent customer service. She also is the chair of the Well-being Champion Team and oversees all the well-being programming for the County.

The Work Well 2.0 Health Series is sponsored by



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

**Business Success Series:
Empowering Your Own Genius
Wednesday, October 21, 2020**

October 2020 launched the Young Professional's Business Success Series.



Rob DeLange

Owner of Career Climb Consulting, LLC, Rob DeLange conducted this first presentation of the series, focusing on how Young Professionals can find purpose and create value in their jobs. This was an especially important topic, as the

job market and job security can be tough during the pandemic. DeLange's presentation offered ways to handle these changes and how to be ready to adapt.

DeLange has worked with multiple Fortune 500 companies and has experience in dealing with uncertain times - from the 2008 crash to now. The business world is drastically different from what it was a year ago, so it is important that we adapt and change - which is not always easy. His insight provided ways to tackle challenges and keep up motivation during these difficult times.

**Business Success Series:
The One Thing Your Marketing
Plan is Missing**

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

In November, the second Business Success Series hosted BK Martin with AMG Lending. Martin presented on how Young Professionals can utilize lead sharing, marketing, and other strategies to increase business. Martin



BK Martin

emphasized the importance of giving leads and/or introductions, and told attendees that by being a connector, you will eventually (or maybe sooner) be connected!

The meeting also included a discussion about an effective and proven strategy being used by hundreds of business representatives across the country to increase their business. By using the C.A.R.E. model of Creating Abundant Referable Experiences - Martin explained how this is a great way to grow a business by simply being a connector in order to become referable.

DEFENSE COUNCIL

**Aerospace Data Facility
Colorado**

Thursday, October 22, 2020

October's virtual Defense Council featured the Aerospace Data Facility Colorado (ADF-C). Chief Master Sergeant Lee Utsey, ADF-C's senior enlisted leader, presented the site's organizational



construct with three key themes 1) Support to the intelligence community and Department of Defense 2) Connections to the local community, industry and academia 3) And the site's 50 years as a strong contributor and community neighbor.

ADF-C is a multi-mission ground station that provides data to defense, intelligence, and civil agencies supporting the U.S. Government and its allies. ADF-C is also one of many tenants located on Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colorado. Unit, legislative and community reports were also provided to council members.



Chief Master Sergeant Lee Utsey
ADF-C Senior Enlisted Leader



**Virtual Joint Aurora Defense
Council & Colorado Springs
Military Affairs Council Meeting
Thursday, November 5, 2020**

Annually, the Colorado Springs Chamber & Economic Development Council's Military Affairs Council (MAC) and the Aurora Chamber's Defense Council (ADC) gather for a joint meeting.

This year, that gathering took place virtually with 120 participants in attendance. Jim Ross, MAC Chair and Stephen Gourley, ADC Chair hosted the meeting. Guest speakers included the Adjutant General for the State of Colorado Brigadier General Laura Clellen; Deputy Chief of Staff for Lt. Governor Primavera Mark Honnen; Brigadier General Joseph Matos from United States Space Command; Colonel Jim Lovewell from the Space Operations Center; Congressman Jason Crow; congressional staffers from Senator Bennet, Senator Gardner and Congressman Lamborn's offices; Kate Hatten from Homefront Military Network; and Director of the VA's Eastern Colorado Health Care System Michael Kilmer.

Ross and Gourley provided updates on accomplishments and priorities for the two councils. The annual event exemplifies the collaborative relationship between the communities and their shared focus in supporting the military, veterans, and their families. ■



MemberNews

Colorado Thirty Group Supports the Food Pantry on Buckley Garrison

In December, the Colorado Thirty Group donated \$ 1,500 to the Food Pantry on Buckley Garrison. Chamber President and CEO, and member of the Thirty Group Kevin Hougen (far left) presented the check to (left to right) Rachel Crist, who created the Food Pantry, Sara Rodrigue, the Buckley Garrison Spouses' Group president, and Alicia Pepper, wife of Buckley Garrison Commander Col. Devin R. Pepper.

Debra A. Johnson Named New CEO of RTD



Debra A. Johnson

Debra A. Johnson was selected on August 25, 2020 as General Manager and CEO of RTD by the agency's Board of Directors and began on November 9, 2020. She carries top responsibility for RTD's budget, capital projects and service delivery, which include bus, light rail and commuter rail options across the Denver metro region.

Johnson is the first woman to lead the agency in its half-century history, and she believes that human connection is at the heart of good business. Being effectively engaged with employees and customers, she knows, helps meet their expectations and allows for a transit agency to be a mobility provider of choice.

Johnson joined RTD from Long Beach Transit, where she served as Deputy CEO of the Southern California agency from May 2014 to October 2020. Prior to that, Johnson held executive positions at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro), the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)



and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). She moved into public sector service after beginning her transportation career in the private sector in the Bay Area.

STRIDE Recognized as Age Friendly Health System Participant

STRIDE Community Health Center has achieved Level One recognition as an Age Friendly Health System participant, indicating that STRIDE has committed to taking key steps to improve care for its older adult patients.



"I am thrilled that STRIDE has received this recognition. Now, we embark on the journey to implement our plan and show that we can further improve the care of older adults," said Dr. Barbara Morris, an expert

geriatrician who joined STRIDE in February 2020, to help the organization better serve greater Denver's older adult population. "There is simply no better time for us, as an organization, to make the changes necessary to better care for and serve older adult patients, given the unique medical and mental health challenges many of them face during this pandemic," she continued.

"Taking the necessary steps to become an Age Friendly Health System is just one component of our ambitious, multi-dimensional growth strategy," said Ben Wiederholt, CEO of STRIDE. "Receiving this initial recognition is certainly an honor, and we couldn't have reached this milestone without the guidance and leadership of Dr. Morris. At the same time, this is only the beginning of the big developments currently in the works, which will even further increase our accessibility and our reach. ■

RibbonCuttings & OpenHouses

Ribbon cuttings mean business: **13 Jobs**

Goal Academy

4644 Peoria St. Denver, CO 80239
877.776.4625

GOAL Academy opened their newest location serving the Aurora and Denver area with Assistant Principal Jill Boudreau cutting the ribbon – accompanied by Chamber Ambassadors. GOAL Academy High School is both the pioneer and leader of successful online education, with seven drop-in centers in the Metro area. The centers provide student with assistance, including high school and college planning, individual tutoring, social-emotional support, and food. GOAL's vision is to help all students achieve their full potential in a caring, supportive, and personalized environment. (9/9/2020) www.goalac.org (877) 776-4625.



Leadership Aurora at Police Day on November 9, 2020

The Leadership Aurora Class of 2020 has persevered through COVID-19 – and now has the distinction of being the longest class ever, since beginning their journey September of 2019 at the retreat in Breckenridge, CO.

Since then, the class has stuck together through some virtual sessions, and has completed their class project of renovating the basement of the Village Exchange Center. They have also started the Impact Aurora Podcast to inspire unity, change, and service. The podcasts feature Leadership Aurora graduates from across all sectors, sharing their experiences with the program,

as well as their insights into leadership and service.

The Class of 2020 was extended past the traditional graduation in June, with the hope that the remaining sessions could be done in person; but because of COVID-19, that became impossible.

When surveyed about graduating in January or February of 2021 without completing the remaining sessions, about half the class preferred to have that closure. Given that, there will be a virtual graduation in early 2021, with the caveat that all Leadership Aurora class members are able to join the next class at sessions they

missed during their year. There will also be a completion ceremony once the remaining sessions are able to be scheduled.

If you would like to learn more about the Leadership Aurora program or how to get involved in the Aurora community, visit www.aurorachamber.org.



MemberRenewals

CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE RENEWALS

AECOM
Aurora Public Schools
Colorado Access
FirstBank - Aurora, Havana
Fitzsimons Credit Union
Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center
Johnson Controls Security
Painted Prairie

RENEWALS

140th Wing (Colorado Air National Guard)
Adams 14 Education Foundation
Alpine CARSTAR Auto Body
Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter
American Portfolios
Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center
Armitage Bickford Creer, LLC
Aurora Association of Realtors

Aurora Schools Federal Credit Union
Bella Vita Senior Living
Best Western Plus Denver International Airport
Brian Molitoris Photographer
Colorado Enterprise Fund
Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab
Denver Botanic Gardens
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