

Serving the east-metro  
area including:

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JULY/AUG 2019

# THE CHAMBER Impact NEWSLETTER

**'Cowboy up' and kick up  
some trail dust at  
Chamber Business  
After Hours  
July 25, 2019**



## **Arapahoe County Fair Kick-off Dinner!**

Get ready for a boot stomp'n'  
night of networking, food,  
and drinks.

Grab your ropes and reign in  
new business contacts!

**Arapahoe County  
Fairgrounds Events Center  
25690 E. Quincy Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80016  
(RSVP and ticket required)**

Go to: [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org)  
Click on Calendar on top bar  
and then July 25, 2019

Free to Chamber members  
(up to two people, tickets  
limited to the first 100,  
parking pass included)



facebook

## **South Metro Chamber Team Wins LA Golf Tournament**



*In a sweep, the South Metro Chamber of Commerce Team won the 21st Annual Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament - with a score 20 below par. Left to right are South Metro Chamber President Robert Golden, Jack Parsons, Steve Morgan, and Terry Walsh. Aurora Chamber President Kevin Hougen and Golden made a bet about the tournament, which Hougen lost. However, Golden generously donated the \$100 'prize' back to the Leadership Aurora Scholarship fund. Chamber helping Chamber.*

## **2019 Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon**

The 43rd AFRL took place on May 10th at the Doubletree Hotel Denver. More than 500 people attended this year's luncheon, as the Aurora Chamber's Defense Council honored the men and women who serve in the Eastern Metro Area.

Special recognition was given to junior enlisted members from all branches of service to include

the Guard and Reserve, and our commonwealth partners from Canada and Australia. This year's keynote speaker was Chief Master Sergeant Patrick McMahon, senior enlisted leader, United States Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. ■



*Front Row, left to right: Staff Sergeant Brandon Broughman; Warrant Officer 2 David Kleparek (accepting on behalf of his wife, Staff Sergeant Camille Kleparek); Corporal Juan Quintana-Jurado; Chief Master Sergeant Patrick McMahon (keynote speaker); Petty Officer Second Class Bryan Gibson; and Staff Sergeant James Pennington. Back Row, left to right: Staff Sergeant Amy Cloud; Corporal Peter Hall; Karen Birch (accepting on behalf of her son, Specialist Andrew Ryther); Senior Airman Jaycee Agustin; Petty Officer First Class Amy Bohrer; Petty Officer First Class Alex Spradlin; and Specialist Jameson Lauer. (Photo by Brian Molitoris Photographer)*



**Betsy Oudenhoven, PhD**  
*Board Chair*

# Chair's Letter

## Fellow Board members, Chamber staff, and members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce:

It is my honor to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors this coming year. I have been involved with the Chamber Board for the past six years during my tenure as President of the Community College of Aurora (CCA), and this is a wonderful opportunity for me to give back to a great organization and a great community.

I was immensely lucky when I moved back to Colorado to land in Aurora and work at CCA. CCA has been a longtime member of The Chamber and early on I had the opportunity to meet Kevin Hougen and his wonderful staff. Participation on the board and on the Government Affairs committee has opened my eyes to different perspectives on local, regional, and state issues — as well as business. CCA is one of the largest public employers in the city and while we are certainly a business, my lens is more that of an educator than a business person.

I have learned a lot and I hope that the intersection of my experience as an educator and a member of The Chamber Board will help inform my work with all of you this coming year. Community colleges are local institutions and it is critically important for us to provide opportunities for our

students to gain the education, information, and skills that will position them for well-paying jobs that meet their needs and the needs of our local employers.

Lots of folks move to Colorado with educational credentials achieved in other states and countries, and lots of employers move to Colorado looking for a highly educated workforce. And we can't leave native Coloradans behind. Over 70 percent of jobs in Colorado now require some amount of education beyond high school. It could be a certificate, associate's or bachelor's degree, but it must be a credential that enables individuals to find good jobs.

Over this next year, I hope that we will be intentional about how The Chamber and our Board can support both our businesses and residents, so that we can achieve the best possible match of talent and opportunity. When that is the outcome, we all benefit.

Betsy Oudenhoven, PhD  
Chair, Aurora Chamber Board of Directors  
President, Community College of Aurora

## ChamberBoard

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.....  
Mario Waller | Six & Six, inc. | Newsletter Design

### 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.

### 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](http://www.aurorachamber.org), so you can forward it to every employee in your company!



# An Inside Look at Chamber Committees

## BUSINESS FOR THE ARTS



Tour of the Central Recreation Center.

### Pre-Grand Opening Tour of Central Recreation Center's Integrated Art Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Two days before the official opening of Aurora's new Central Recreation Center on May 9, 2019, the Chamber's Business for the Arts committee got a private tour of the facility. The \$34 million project celebrates wellness with a fully integrated art installation.

City of Aurora Public Art Coordinator Roberta Bloom, talked about how the art components of the facility — fittingly titled "Aspire" — were inspired by wellness and wholeness; while City of Aurora Recreation Superintendent Wynter Stieger addressed the integrated functionality of the Center. They both marveled at how the team worked together to combine ideas, solve problems — and in the end, create one of the most prominent installations of integrated art in a U.S. recreation center.

### Vintage Theatre and the Rise of Drag Tuesday, June 4, 2019

The Business for the Arts committee was treated to a tour of the Vintage Theatre, led by Artistic Director Bernie Cardell. Cardell walked the group through the three performance spaces at Vintage and answered questions about programming, casting, marketing for the theatre, and youth/community programs.

The group then heard from John White with DK Productions, who is the creator and producer of two monthly shows at Vintage Theatre — Drama Queens and Queer Cabaret. White spoke about the growth of Denver's Pridefest, the rise

of Drag in the Denver metro area, and the various ways his character, Dixie Krystals, has helped him to make a positive difference in Aurora and in the LGBTQ community. White closed the meeting with a moving acapella rendition of "I am what I am" from La Cage aux Folles.

For Vintage Theatre program information and tickets, go to <http://www.vintagetheatre.org/>

There is no BFA meeting in July, 2019. The next meeting will be a planning session for 2020, on August 6, 2019, at The Chamber. All are welcome to attend and offer suggestions for programming.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Front Range Passenger Rail and Parking in Aurora Wednesday, May 1, 2019

On Wednesday, May 1, Randy Grauberger, project director of the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission, talked about the commission's multi-fold purposes of:

- Preserving Amtrak's Southwest Chief service across southeast Colorado
- Working with neighboring states to upgrade rail infrastructure
- Pursuing possible service extension into Pueblo from La Junta
- Consider re-routing the service between La Junta and Trinidad by way of Pueblo and Walsenburg (to better serve southern Colorado)
- Facilitating the development of Front Range Passenger Rail service

The renewed interest in passenger rail has been sparked by continued population growth, increased highway congestion, and the fact that younger populations prefer reliable "transit" options over owning a car.

The Commission, which became effective July 1, 2017, was created through Senate Bill 17-153. Funding comes from a \$16 million Tiger IX grant, Senate Bill 18-001, which provides \$2.5 million for studies, staffing and federal grant match, and \$9.16 million CRISI grant for Positive Train Control on 179 miles of track between Dodge City, KS and Las Animas, CO. Grauberger was hired as the project director February 19, 2019.

Following Grauberger, City of Aurora Manager of Parking and Mobility Program, Scott Bauman, talked about all of the components of parking in Aurora.



Randy Grauberger



Randy Grauberger



The Parking and Mobility Program began in January 2015, with the

drafting of a comprehensive Parking Business Plan for the city. The plan includes parking management policies for on- and off-street parking, mobility projects, and hiring staff and magistrates. Off-street parking includes City owned parking structures and resources, and on-street parking encompasses the neighborhood parking permit (NPP) program, the parking bureau, and parking curb lane management.

Next steps for the Program include management of shared mobility rental devices, increasing the parking enforcement officer team, implementing a booting program, fine-tuning several NPP areas, and evaluation potential future NPP areas.

As a helpful takeaway, Bauman offered five ways to avoid a parking citation:

- Ensure that you have unexpired license plate on the front and rear of your vehicle
- Don't park too close to driveways (5'), fire hydrants (15'), or crosswalks, stop signs, and traffic signals (30')
- Don't leave your vehicle parked too long in one location on the street
  - o 3 days if the vehicle doesn't work or has expired plates
  - o 5 days if it's a motorhome or RV
  - o 7 days if it works (longer if parked directly in front of your home)
- If it's time to move your vehicle, move it at least 100 ft.
- Always look for posted signs to determine if permits are needed or payment is required

### Arapahoe County Transportation and Infrastructure Wednesday, June 5, 2019



Bryan Weimer

Bryan Weimer, Arapahoe County Director of Public Works and Development began his June 1 presentation by asking attendees some "did you know" questions about Arapahoe County. These included that Arapahoe County is Colorado's first County — and is the third largest, with a population of 642,052, with 252,593 households and 779 miles of roads to maintain in the County.

Weimer has a lot on his plate with building, engineering services, planning and zoning (animal control) roads and bridges, support services, and transportation — all under his directorship.

He talked in detail about the Public Works and Development structure, mission, functions, programs, and assets, and offered statistics about projected growth in the County. He also talked about funding issues, and current and future roadway and transportation projects.

On a lighter note, he finished his presentation



[continued on page 4]



John White talks with BFA members at The Vintage Theatre

with an invitation to Arapahoe County's Public Works Play Date on June 7, 2019. Billed as "FREE family fun," the event lets kids (and grownups) touch a truck, plan a city, learn about crosswalk safety, scan Milo's microchip, fill a pothole, see a stormwater table, and act as a junior building inspector.

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY

### Post Session Recovery Thursday, May 9, 2019

Many can agree that the 2019 Legislative Session was a long and exhausting one. Representative Mike Weissman and Senator Rhonda Fields attended The Chamber's May Government Affairs meeting and gave updates on the bills they had worked on and their thoughts for the next session.

Bills that were highly discussed throughout the session and opposed by The Chamber were: SB19 - 188 FAMILI; HB19 - 1168 *State Innovation Waiver Reinsurance Program*; and SB19 - 181 *Protect Public Welfare Oil & Gas Operations*.

Meg Dubrey with Axiom Politics provided the bill tracking sheet showing all bills in their current stage, and those that would be signed by the Governor in upcoming weeks.

### The Children are our Future Thursday, June 6, 2019



Kathy Staats

As the Legislative session has ended by June, the Government Affairs committee shifts gears and engages members through presentations, off-site tours, and information provided around education and energy. The committee still receives legislative updates from contract lobbyist firm

Axiom Politics, and continues to get a monthly legislative newsletter.

June's meeting had two presentations, both based on needs for children in the community.

Kathy Staats, prevention and policy specialist with Tri County Health Department, and Zach Zaslow, senior director of Government Affairs with Children's Hospital Colorado, gave presentations on an initiative they are working on at the City level - to provide healthy kids meals in restaurants. They discussed options for restaurants as well as financial assistance that can be provided for transition of menus. They also provided some facts about why they are moving forward with the campaign:

- Children who drink at least one sugary drink per day are 55 percent more likely to be overweight or obese
- Just one sugary drink a day increases a child's risk of heart disease by 33 percent, and type 2



Zach Zaslow

diabetes by 25 percent

- Children of color are more likely to be targets of advertising and to experience health effects from sugary drinks

As this is a new initiative, Staats and Zaslow encouraged questions and provided their contact information for those who would like updates on the Healthy Kid's Meals Campaign.



Wisdom Amouzou



Up next, Wisdom Amouzou, executive director of Empower Community High School gave an overview of the school.

Amouzou began by sharing his personal story of growing up in Togo, Africa, and how he had a dream of opening his own school. Empower Community High School is an innovative high school, co-created by a community design team of more than 40 students, parents, and teachers. There is a maximum of 120 students per grade level and they maintain a maximum of 20:1 student-to-teacher ratio, in order to guarantee that students get the help and attention needed to succeed. To learn more about the school opening in August 2019, visit [www.empowerhighschool.org](http://www.empowerhighschool.org)

*The Government Affairs, Education, and Energy Committee is sponsored by*



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

### Climbing the Leadership Ladder Friday, May 10, 2019

The May 2019 Diversity and Inclusion Council meeting hosted University of Colorado Denver/Anschutz Medical Campus Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion Brenda J. Allen, PhD. Dr. Allen shared key insights into *climbing the leadership ladder*, including her own life stories of personal success and tribulations.

Dr. Allen offers consultations on inclusive leadership, inclusion in the workplace, strategic planning, implicit bias, culturally responsive



Brenda J. Allen, PhD

teaching, and recruitment/retention practices. She reminded the group to always be considerate of people's thoughts and opinions even if they do not align with your own, as one never knows what another person's background is (their struggles or influences); however, we can always listen and learn, and then respond accordingly and respectfully.

There were comments from attendees expressing their gratitude towards Dr. Allen for sharing her advice and personal stories and many stayed after the meeting to continue their conversations.

*The Diversity and Inclusion Council is sponsored by*



### Speed Networking! Friday, June 14, 2019



It was a packed house in June, when the Diversity and Inclusion Council hosted Sue Klaus with Omada7 and Career Success Pathways. Through speed networking, Klaus provided an effective and entertaining way to meet several new people in a limited amount of time.

Speed networking helps to build new relationships while also teaching people how to actively listen and practice telling their own story. With four minutes to talk about themselves in each rotation, by the third rotation, most attendees felt confident in telling their story, and fine-tuning their active listening skills.

Attendees of the Council spent the last ten minutes exchanging business cards with those they weren't able to meet during the speed networking. By the end of the meeting, many valuable connections had been made.

## WOMEN IN BUSINESS

### Recognizing Shining Stars in Aurora Tuesday, April 23, 2019



Marcelina Rivera

The April Women in Business meeting hosted Marcelina Rivera, chief of strategic management for Aurora Public Schools. Rivera shared her expertise on education and her personal story of growth,

*[continued on page 5]*



accomplishments, and lessons learned that helped shape her future and how she became who she is today.

Rivera told inspiring stories of her grandmother and the unity of women in her community who came together to help each other. She shared valuable advice, including "not to forget the people who supported and inspired you along the way, to help get you to where you are today."

As the Chief of Strategic Management, Rivera oversees the strategic work of the CFO, COO, CPO and Director of Accountability and Research. She also leads the implementation of the district's strategic plan and serves as a key advisor to Superintendent Rico Munn, on accelerating progress toward the district's goals and objectives to meet the learning needs of all students.

## The Flavor of Summer Tuesday, May 28, 2019



The Women in Business Committee kicked off summer 2019 with an exclusive wine and cider tasting.

Barb Molitor with WineShop at Home shared samples of California wines, and snacks to pair with each wine. Molitor provided information for participants about the wines so everyone knew what they were tasting, and also offered suggestions about what foods each pairs well with. WineShop At Home offers more unique wine styles, varietals, and appellations from California and throughout the world than any other company. Their wines, many of which are gold, silver, and bronze medal winners – are handcrafted in small batches, making exclusive artisan wines that are also priced for extraordinary value.

Haykin Family Cider is an award-winning, small batch cidery run by husband and wife, Daniel and Talia Haykin. Talia gave each attendee a souvenir cider glass to taste test three ciders: Summer, Jonathan, and Manchurian Crabtree. She explained the precision and consistency that goes into making their cider - for which they have recently won awards in national cider competitions.

With tiny bubbles and a higher carbonation than other products on the market and no adjuncts (sugar, flavorings, or other additives), Haykin Family Cider produces sparkling, wine-like cider in a variety of sweetness levels. Much like



*Women in Business toast to a "bubbly" tasting event in May.*

wineries use grapes, Haykin Family Cider highlights the flavor and complexity of interesting and unique apples.

Attendees were able to network while finishing their samples. It was quite the "bubbly" event!

## WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

### Preventable Cancers and Prevention for Cancer Thursday, May 9, 2019

At the May 9, 2019 Work Well 2.0 Health Series, Keith Singer began his presentation by explaining that skin,



*Keith Singer*

colorectal, and cervical cancers are considered preventable, through sun protection and screenings.

Screenings for colorectal and cervical cancers can detect pre-cancer, which can be treated before becoming cancerous.

Keith Singer is the founder of Catch it in Time, a 501c(3) non-profit focused on the early detection of cancers. Singer talked about how his organization promotes cancer awareness and prevention through video stories of a wide variety of people who have 'caught cancer it in time,' and chose to tell their stories to inspire others. These stories share their experiences in order to promote and raise awareness for the early detection of cancer, which can save lives.

Singer strongly suggests that you be your own best advocate." Ask for a biomarker test – as that's one of the leading ways to look at various mutations," said Singer. "There are also options available to test for your susceptibility to certain cancers. If you have cancer in your family, you should ask your physician for your risk factors. " As a final note, Singer reminded the group of

*[continued on page 6]*

## Recognition Event for Workplace Health and Wellbeing Celebrates Participating Employers

Tri-County's Initiative for Workplace Health and Wellbeing held their annual recognition event to award participating employers for their hard work and commitment over the past year (July 1 – June 30). The event was themed as 'honoring health heroes,' and each attendee received an "I'm a Super Health Hero" cape!

The event was held at the Arapahoe County CenterPoint Plaza, which was generously provided at no cost by participating employer, Arapahoe County. There were more than 60 employers & partners at the event. Attendees received awards (health hero capes), framed personalized certificate, food, giveaways, and a chance at great prizes. ■



Left to right, members and champions of The Aurora Chamber's Work Well 2.0 Coalition, which has bragging rights as the first employer coalition established in 2013: Debbi Couret, Hilton Garden Inn-Denver Airport; Jennifer Birge, RK Mechanical; Regina Edmondson, CEDS; Deborah Hoefler, Community College of Aurora; Suzanne Rick, Colorado Rural Health Center; Morgan Sellers, Colorado Rural Health Center; Cheri Prochazka, Fitzsimons Credit Union; Kristin Perret-Gentil, Project 1.27; and Jennifer Tellis, Tri-County Health Department. Additional members of the Coalition (not pictured here) are the Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter, Asian Pacific Development Center, Juvenile Assessment Center, Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council, and The Aurora Chamber of Commerce.



the top three risks associated with cancer: #1 — smoking; #2 - diet; and #3 - “non-exercise”— or the risk you take if you chose not to move!

## Wellness Walk at Town Center at Aurora Thursday, June 20, 2019



Don Massey

On June 20, a hearty group of wellness enthusiasts met at the Town Center at Aurora for a wellness walk “meeting.”

Town Center General Manager Don Massey led the group through the mall, talking about some of the unique aspects of the mall and sharing future plans. There are more than 130 stores and

restaurants in the mall – and there’s even a nursing mother’s lounge in the women’s restroom in the food court.

As wellness walk participant Denise Denton with Aurora Health Alliance asked, “Where else can you get your high school diploma (Chamber member Goal Academy), take boxing lessons (A1 Boxing), use an Amazon locker (to thwart “porch pirates”), peruse art by local students, walk a mile by completing a lap of each level, AND go shopping – all in one place?”



Food Court Entrance to the Town Center at Aurora.

And, the Town Center at Aurora has been a member of the Aurora Chamber since it opened (as the Aurora Mall) in 1975!

The Work Well 2.0 Health Series is sponsored by



## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

### Growing and Maintaining Wealth Wednesday, April 17, 2019



Prince Dykes present to Young Professionals about financial planning and literacy at the April 17 YP meeting.

In April, The Young Professionals experienced a dynamic presentation by Prince Dykes, a Financial Blogger and Author. Dykes is also active duty military and serves as a Command Financial Specialist, as well as the Founder and President of Global Children Financial Literacy Foundation.

Dykes shared his experiences and expertise in the field of financial planning and literacy. He was able to make it an understandable and significant discussion by relating it to tax returns. The discussion helped attendees realize the opportunities and ways to grow and maintain wealth.

### Understanding the Housing Market Wednesday, May 15, 2019



Courtney Morehouse

Courtney Morehouse with Your Castle Realty gave an update on the residential home market at the May 2019 Young Professionals meeting, providing insight into the booming housing market in Colorado.

Many will be glad to know that Colorado is NOT in a housing bubble! According to

Morehouse, the housing market is good, and for Young Professionals, owning property is a great way to look into growing your value.

Morehouse walked attendees through some trends, as well as giving an idea of what to expect from the housing market in the future. This information was extremely beneficial to the Young Professionals in attendance, as real estate investments can be important to financial success.

### Joint Social with DTC Young Professionals

#### Thursday, June 13, 2019

For the June 2019 Young Professional meeting, The Aurora Chamber YPs co-hosted a joint social event with the DTC YPs. It was a great evening of networking and enjoying drinks and appetizers at Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse.

The Young Professionals are always looking for ways to build relationships and personal networks. Events like this joint social encourage engagement by providing a welcoming and fun atmosphere for people to enjoy — especially Young Professionals!

## DEFENSE COUNCIL

### Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center (HQ ARPC), Buckley AFB Thursday, April 25, 2019



Brigadier General Ellen Moore addresses the April Defense Council at the HQ ARPC.

Brigadier General Ellen Moore, Commander, HQ ARPC, spoke to approximately 100 Defense Council members during April’s meeting. General Moore highlighted HQ ARPC’s role in the Airman lifecycle that focuses on recruiting, developing, and retaining a high-quality workforce. HQ ARPC oversees personnel actions for more than 1.3 million customers including Air Force Active Duty retirees, Air Guard, and Air Force Reserve members.

The meeting was General Moore’s last Defense Council because she has been assigned to the Pentagon. Kevin Hougen, Chamber President/CEO presented General Moore with a coin and thanked her for the tremendous support she provided to the community and the Defense Council.

Breakfast for the meeting was sponsored by Hilton Garden Inn, Denver Airport. ■

## Yep – It’s the Best Class Ever!

Congratulations to the Leadership Aurora Class of 2019, graduating on June 6, 2019 at the Summit Event Center.

This class took on some hefty projects, including remodeling space at the Aurora Municipal Center as a satellite location of the Juvenile Assessment Center; and landscaping the entryway of Aurora Mental Health Center’s Stith Center and Viewpoint locations, to make them more welcoming and peaceful for clients.

As with all classes, the LA 2019 Class has claimed to be “The Best Class Ever,” and has



produced many lifelong friendships and connections!

Applications are being taken for the 2019-2020 Leadership Aurora Class through July 15. Applications can be done online at [www.aurorachamber.org/leadership-aurora/leadership-application/](http://www.aurorachamber.org/leadership-aurora/leadership-application/). ■



# RibbonCuttings & OpenHouses

Ribbon cuttings mean business:  
**340 jobs**



## SpringHill Suites by Marriott @ Anschutz Medical Campus

13400 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora, CO 80011

**SpringHill Suites by Marriott @ Anschutz Medical Campus** recently completed renovations and then celebrated their 8th birthday on May 9, 2019. Guests at the event were treated to a buffet style dinner and cocktails, live music, and were also able to tour the hotel. General Manager Brad Leonard and Director of Sales and Marketing Hope Rapp enjoyed hosting the party, attended by Chamber Ambassadors and Chamber staff member, Tamara Mohamed. Amenities at the hotel include free high-speed internet, free breakfast, a fitness center, and a pool. (5.9.19) [www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/denaf-springhill-suites-denver-at-anschutz-medical-campus/](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/denaf-springhill-suites-denver-at-anschutz-medical-campus/) (720) 859-1101.



## Developmental Pathways 14280 E. Jewell Ave., Ste. A, Aurora, CO 80012

A large crowd gathered to celebrate the Grand Opening of **Developmental Pathways'** newest location. Breakfast and hot coffee were provided while guests toured the facility and networked. **Developmental Pathways** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency serving individuals with developmental disabilities/delays and their families. They support clients by providing intake, eligibility enrollment, and case management. Attendees at the event included Chamber President & CEO Kevin Hougén; Douglas County Commissioner Lora Thomas; **Denver South Economic Development Partnership** Senior Vice President and **Developmental Pathways** Board Member Lynn Myers; **Arapahoe County Commissioner** and **Developmental Pathways** Board Member Nancy Sharpe; **Developmental Pathways** CEO Melanie Worley; Continuum of Colorado Board of Directors Vice President Lesa Stellke; **Developmental Pathways** Board Member Diane Holbert; **Arapahoe County Commissioner** Jeff Baker; Douglas County Commissioner Roger Partridge; and **FirstBank** Sr. Vice President and Board Treasurer for **Developmental Pathways** Beth Klein. (5.23.19) <https://www.dpcolor.org/> (303) 360-6600.



## Workwell Occupational Medicine Clinic, LLC

2550 S. Parker Rd., #150, Aurora, CO 80014

**Workwell Occupational Medicine Clinic, LLC** hosted clients, Chamber members, Ambassadors and staff at their open house and ribbon cutting, to share information about their organization and services. Cutting the ribbon is Director of Operations Judy Peinado and Director of Business Development Nate Johnson. Guests were treated to beer and wine as well as a delicious dinner, catered by Chamber member **NOVA Catering**. **Workwell Occupational Medicine Clinic, LLC** offers expertise and quality service to employers in all areas of occupational, environmental, and preventive medicine. They provide workplace occupational health services including job site analyses, corporate wellness screening, functional job descriptions and physical abilities testing, workers' compensation injury care, after-hours drug and alcohol testing, pre-employment and post-offer physical exams, and much more! (5.23.19) <http://www.workwellworks.com> (720) 512-4408.



### AT&T Aurora Crossing

2250 S. Parker Rd., #130,  
Aurora, CO 80231



**AT&T Aurora Crossing** celebrates their newest location with store employees, and Chamber staff and Ambassadors. Cutting the ribbon are Store Manager Maxx Holland and District Manager Morgan Lamke. Store employees assisted guests with question about the store, including products and services such as cell phones, wireless plans and setup, phone activations, trade-ins, device upgrades and protection, tablets, wearables, TV & entertainment, internet, bill pay and setup, and small business solutions. (5.9.19) <https://www.att.com/stores/colorado/aurora/175555> (303) 745-0025.



BK Martin cuts the ribbon for his new business, **Alliance Mortgage Group**. **Alliance Mortgage Group** utilizes multiple companies to ensure the best possible rates and financing options. (6.24.19) <https://benjamin-martin-mortgage-loan-officer.business.site/> (720) 500-9795.

### Double the Ribbon, Double the Fun!

On June 24, The Chamber celebrated a double ribbon cutting for two members who are also both Chamber Ambassadors. Both ceremonies were attended by other Chamber Ambassadors and Chamber members and staff, as well as family and friends — including Scooby-Doo!



Rob Mathes, owner of **Allstate - The Mathes Agency**, celebrated the opening of his new location at 941 S. Havana St. Ste. 280, Aurora, CO 80012. Insurance products offered by **The Mathes Agency** include auto, house, condo, renter, motorcycle, business, life, ATV and boat. (6.24.19) <https://agents.allstate.com/the-mathes-agency-aurora-co.html> (303) 755 -2600.



## Boys Hope Girls Hope Celebrates College-Bound Seniors



**Boys Hope Girls Hope** recently celebrated 13 scholars who graduated from high school and plan to attend college in fall 2019. This year's seniors, which includes 11 graduates from **Aurora Central High School** and two graduates from Regis Jesuit High School, have been accepted to 47 colleges and universities and were collectively awarded more than \$1.4 million in four-year scholarships, including an Boettcher Scholarship - a highly competitive scholarship awarded to select high school seniors based on academics, service, leadership, and character.

Five additional scholars received Aurora Gives Scholarships, providing select graduating high school seniors with debt-free access to an Associate Degree from the **Community College of Aurora (CCA)**.

Learn more about **Boys Hope Girls of Colorado**: <https://bhghcolorado.org/>

## CEDS Finance Client Testifies before the US House of Representatives

When Representative Jason Crow (CO 6th) asked **CEDS Finance** to identify local small business owners who exemplify the success and impact of local entrepreneurs in his District to testify in Washington, D.C. before the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Small Business, **CEDS Finance**



*Representative Jason Crowe with Joslyn Hopkins and Brittney Reese, owners of Fit & Nu.*

recommended **Fit & Nu, LLC**.

**Fit & Nu** is a habit-based fitness and nutrition company established in 2015, with the mission of helping women of color create healthy habits through personalized fitness and nutrition. Owners Joslyn Hopkins and Brittney Reese recently used debt financing through **CEDS** to expand into a new space to accommodate increased customer demand.

**Fit & Nu** exemplifies **CEDS'** mission in the community of providing access to capital for marginalized communities, and their commitment to fund businesses that uphold values of equity and inclusion. Reese was one of several "Small Business Heroes" who spoke to the Committee, representing Aurora and Colorado.

**CEDS Finance** was founded in 2009 and has invested more than \$4 million into the local economy to help small business owners — who have limited to no access to capital — to start or grow their businesses.

## DeeDee Poole Joins Chamber Staff

DeeDee Poole is the new Director of Business Development and Events with The Aurora Chamber of Commerce. She will oversee the management of strategic partnership development, planning and coordination of special events, and member recruitment and retention.

Throughout her 25-year career, DeeDee has worked with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Reserves, and has most recently served as the Military OneSource State Consultant for Colorado. She looks forward to assisting businesses in the Eastern Metro Area to collaborate with The Aurora Chamber of Commerce, in order to further promote their business.



*DeeDee Poole*

## Richard Lewis named Entrepreneur Finalist

Richard L. Lewis, owner of **RTL Networks, Inc.** was named one of 24 finalists for the 2019 *Ernst and*

*Young Entrepreneur Award*. The Entrepreneur of The Year program celebrates "the unstoppable and the boldness that drives them to do things differently and change the world in the most unexpected ways."

**RTL Networks, Inc.** is a technology solution provider headquartered in Colorado, with a goal of improving project efficiency and effectiveness. Their concentrated services and solutions include staff augmentation, reselling hardware, and products and professional services.



*Richard Lewis*

## STRIDE Awarded \$75K

**STRIDE Community Health Center** has been selected as a founding member of the Colorado Innovation Community, a statewide network of community health



providers collaborating to improve care to underserved Coloradans with effective and affordable patient-centered solutions. As a founding member, **STRIDE** was awarded \$75,000 over two years to improve access to care and advance health equity.

"On a daily basis, we face challenges in innovation and equity among the populations we serve," said Lisa Brown, Vice President of Strategy and Growth at **STRIDE**. "The opportunity to collaborate with others, share best practices, and receive hands-on support from experts will strengthen our collective focus — that every Coloradan has access to affordable and high-quality healthcare in order to live their best lives."

**STRIDE Community Health Center** is a non-profit Federally Qualified Health Center that provides community and refugee medical, dental, mental health, substance abuse, pharmacy, and community-based services to underserved, uninsured and working individuals and families. The Colorado Innovation Community is funded by The Colorado Health Foundation, The Denver Foundation, Rose Community Foundation, and **Colorado Access**. ■

## Tips and Leads 1 Welcomes New Co-Chair

Tips and Leads 1, and its Chair Donna Bonne of AFLAC, recently welcomed a new Co-Chair, Matt Mersfelder of FASTSIGNS of Aurora, Inc. The group is grateful for the vision Mersfelder brings, as well as the inspiration David Gardner of SERVPRO of Aurora previously provided in that position. Gardner will continue as an active group member — offering his leadership and experience in the newly formed Recruitment Committee for Tips and Leads 1.



*Matt Mersfelder*

"I'm excited about the renewed energy and momentum this year. Attendance has been strong, including more new guests and potential members. I'm also glad that the group now tracks not only completed business from members' leads, but also provides recognition for leads provided by members and for one-on-one meetings between members.

Getting to know each member better can only enhance the quality and frequency of

leads in the future. We're also fortunate to have the newly-formed Recruitment Committee, which will help bring in new members when there is an opportunity to strengthen the group and add business disciplines that the group does not currently have," said Mersfelder. "There is a lot to look forward to in the second half of the year!"

Tips and Leads 1 involves members of The Chamber who meet the first and third Tuesday of each month, 11:45 am – 1 pm, with the goal of building relationships and exchanging business opportunities. ■



# MemberContribution

## New Corporate Training Now Available From CCA

Aurora has a new place for employees to get the business training they need. Community College of Aurora (CCA) is now offering custom training for your work site and online training for "just in time" professional development.

Many of the trainings count toward Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits, Professional Development Unit (PDU) requirements, and other industry-recognized certifications. CCA uses business professionals to provide leadership essentials for new managers, and business training courses for the unique needs of corporate professional development.

Custom training is provided at the employer's business site. Professional trainers design and deliver courses including: Entry and Mid-Level Management Essentials; Diversity Training; and English On-the-Job for Specific Sectors. Find trainings at <https://www.ccaurora.edu/business-community/customized-corporate-training>

The online series offers more than 100 online, self-paced professional development courses. Each include videos, scenario-based training and/or application practice. PMI, HR Certification Institute, SHRM, IACET, CPRE, and CPE



courses all provide national professional development credits

### Training Topics Include:

- Agile project management, Six Sigma
- Nonprofit Management
- Communication Essentials
- Digital Marketing, Conversion Rate Optimization, Use of Social Media
- Data Analytics

To see the full list visit CCA's <https://www.ccaurora.edu/business-community>

For more information or to arrange training, contact Jo O'Brien, Director of Industry Outreach at [Jo.O'Brien@ccaaurora.edu](mailto:Jo.O'Brien@ccaaurora.edu) or call 720-662-4702. ■

## Parkside at City Center

14531 E. Alameda Ave., Aurora, CO 80012

In late 2015, the Aurora City Council approved the creation of **Parkside at City Center**, a new 6.8-acre urban renewal area at the northeast corner of South Sable Street and East Alameda Avenue. The development includes an apartment complex and retail center, providing housing for all income levels, along with restaurants and shops.

City officials, community members, Chamber staff, and Ambassadors attended the event celebrating the **Parkside at City Center** groundbreaking on June 4, 2019. Partners involved in the project are Summit Capital Venture Group, Milender White, **Northstar Commercial Partners** and the **City of Aurora**. **Konjo Catering**, **Culinary WAVE Catering and Café**, and Prieto's Catering sponsored food and beverages.



Left to right in photo: **Aurora Chamber** President and CEO Kevin Hougen; Milender White Development Executive Tim Fredrigil; Summit Capital Group President Jason Marcotte; **Aurora City Council** At-Large Dave Gruber; **Aurora City Council** Ward III Marsha Berzins; **Aurora City Council** At-Large Johnny Watson; Milender White President & CEO Bryon White; Northstar Development Partners Managing Partner Don Marcotte; **Northstar Commercial Partners** Founder & CEO Brian Watson; and Milendar White Construction Executive and Senior Vice President Darren Hinton. (6.4.2019) <https://www.apartments.com/parkside-at-city-center-aurora-co/35jdq6g/>.

## MemberRenewals

Acme Distribution Centers, Inc.  
American Medical Response of Colorado - Denver  
Aurora AutoPros, LLC  
Avitus Group  
BAR-K Insurance Solutions, Inc.  
Carm & Gia Metropolitan  
Colorado Early Colleges Aurora  
Colorado State Bank & Trust - Alameda  
Comfort Inn Denver Southeast Area  
Comitis Crisis Center, Inc.  
Concorde Career College  
Courtyard by Marriott - DIA  
Crowne Plaza Denver International Airport  
Cruise Planners-Live 2 Travel  
Denver South Economic Development Partner  
Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)  
Drury Inn & Suites Hotel - Stapleton  
Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver Tech Center  
Escape to Serenity Massage  
Expeditors International  
Fairfield Inn & Suites - Aurora/Parker  
Fine Airport Parking  
Fire Safety Services  
Fogg System Company, Inc.  
Garden Plaza of Aurora  
Gold Compass Real Estate - Mike Lies  
Good Chemistry  
Goodwill Industries of Denver  
Grand Design, Inc.  
Havana Business Improvement District -  
On Havana Street  
Holiday Inn & Suites DIA

ICR (Ideas, Commitment, Results)  
iPlace Seniors  
Jane McGrath  
Jenkins Wealth  
La Cueva Restaurant  
Mainstream Video Production  
Mesa Moving & Storage  
Metropolitan State University of Denver  
Mosaic in Denver  
NAACP - Aurora Branch  
New Vistas Realty - Vickie Nelson  
New-Ride Enterprises (dba New-Ride Design)  
Nothing Bundt Cakes - Southlands  
Office Evolution - Southlands  
Padgett Business Services  
Painting With A Twist  
Publication Printers Corp.  
Regional Transportation District (RTD)  
Residence Inn by Marriott, Denver Airport  
Scott Tierney  
SECOR Cares  
Smitty's Sprinkler Systems  
Specialty Incentives  
Staybridge Suites - DIA  
Stratus Building Solutions  
Tenaker Pet Care Center, Inc.  
The Colorado Health Foundation  
The Equity Project, LLC  
The GEO Group  
The Lost Cajun - Southlands  
Tri-County Health Department  
University of Colorado Medicine

Watson & Co., Inc.  
Westerra Credit Union - 3700 E. Alameda  
WineShop at Home

## NewMembers

5280 Financial Services, LLC  
ANCHOR In, LLC  
Aurora Day Space  
Best Western Plus Denver International Airport  
Coram Deo Financial  
Dream Maker  
Elevations Credit Union  
GOGO Charters Denver  
Leidos  
Les Schwab - Picadilly  
Mile High Snackerz, LLC  
Physicians Mutual  
Row House - Smoky Hill  
Stanley JV, LLC  
The Juicy Seafood

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14305 E. Alameda Ave Ste. #300  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-344-1500 • Fax 303-344-1564  
website: [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org)