

Serving the east-metro
area including:
Aurora
Centennial
Central Park
Denver
DTC

THE CHAMBER Impact

JUL/AUG 2022

2022 AFRL honors Military Members of the Year



Left to right: PO1 Andrew Amstutz, Cpl Jovanna Granillorios, MCpl John Richard, accepting the award for SSgt Garrett Teets - Maj Carli Murphy, PO2 Shawn Bittner, PO1 Lance Day, accepting the award for SSG Ana Marques - husband Phillip and daughter Melina, accepting the award for Spec Braxton Murray-McFarland - Sergeant First Class Joshua Fairchild, Cpl Kellen Hamilton, SSgt Grant Koehler, TSgt Arvin Martinez, TSgt Rebecca Absher, and TSgt Kayla Meeks. (Not pictured, recipient of the Bob Cardenas Award, Dick Hinson)

[continued on page 3]

24th Annual Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament

Fun and Fundraising in the Sun!

The 24th Annual Leadership Aurora Golf Tournament started fresh with a fun and colorful Hawaiian theme on the morning of Thursday, June 16, 2022 at Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course.

Many of the golfers got into the spirit by wearing bright colors and Hawaiian attire, but the overall "best dressed" went to the Advantage Security, Inc. men's team wearing matching outfits - complete with hats, shirts, shorts, and socks!

For the third year in a row, the Boeing team held their first-place title, with second place going to the AECOM team. In coordination with the new theme, the first-place team will receive custom-sized Hawaiian shirts with the Leadership Aurora

Golf Tournament logo embroidered proudly above surf boards and flowers, and the second-place team received pineapple golf club covers.

Title sponsorship for the event was generously provided by Adolfson and Peterson Construction, with additional sponsorships for the hearty breakfast burritos by Colorado Association of Realtors Association, Hair of the Dog that Bit Me Bloody Marys by AECOM, and on-course beverage cart by Visit Aurora.

Proceeds from the tournament provide scholarship funds for the Leadership Aurora program. ■

[MORE PHOTOS on page 8]



First place team: Dave Eddy (right), and his Boeing Team, left to right, Jared Reid and Tom Harder - with Leadership Aurora Program Director Rene Simard.

Chair's Letter

Opportunities, Dreams, and Long-Term Success for The Chamber and our Community

As we move into the summer of 2022 and I start my term as the Aurora Chamber Chair, I started thinking about opportunities, dreams, and long-term success. A large driver for these things is the U.S. economy — so I took a quick look back at the U.S. economy over the last few years. The economic relief and stimulus passed by the government since the pandemic began is truly astounding! To provide relief to so many impacted individuals and businesses was critical when the economy was shut down at the beginning of the worst pandemic in 100 years.

To move forward and help drive the opportunities and dreams for businesses the Eastern Metro Area, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce will continue to focus on community first, business always, and our



Brian Sowl
Chair
Nelnet

primary objective of creating a positive business environment and encouraging growth and long-term economic success for our members.

In February 2022, The Chamber Board of Directors held a retreat to discuss planning for the future and defined three areas of focus for the next 12 months to help drive the success of The Chamber and our members:

- **Increase Membership:** Focus specifically on emerging business sectors in our community and work with The Chamber CEO to determine how we might develop a referral bonus program for our members as we all work together to increase membership of The Chamber.
- **Connect Large Businesses with Small Businesses:** Develop a mentoring program between our large business members and our smaller chamber members. Chamber staff will facilitate and promote the connection with board members that are willing to brainstorm/problem solve with smaller business owners to help drive more opportunities for our community.

- **Succession Planning:** Work with executives of The Chamber to establish a succession plan. The Board will use the plan to ensure we have an overlapping period with replacement of key roles.

The Board will be developing sub committees to support these areas of focus. Chamber members with experience in these areas are welcome to be part of one or more of these committees. Reach out to me or The Chamber staff if you are interested.

It is my honor to serve as the Chair of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. I am inspired by our members and Chamber staff as we drive opportunities to turn dreams into reality. Thank you for all that you do, and for your commitment to the long-term success of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and of our community.

Brian Sowl
Nelnet Director of Security Compliance
2022-2023 Aurora Chamber Chair

ChamberBoard

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD
Brian Sowl | Nelnet

CHAIR-ELECT
Kristi Kleinholz | Mesa Moving and Storage

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR
Chad Nielsen | Wagner Equipment

PAST CHAIR ONCE REMOVED
Rebecca Kelley | Plante Moran

TREASURER
Open

SECRETARY
Open

VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Joel Boyd | Town Center at Aurora

VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES
Beth Braaten | Colorado Technical University

VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES
Tyrone Adams | Colorado Association of Realtors

DIRECTORS

Alan Antolok | Adolfsen and Peterson Construction
David Barber | RE/MAX Leaders
Dr. Mordecai Brownlee | Community College of Aurora
Katie Denman | Children's Hospital Colorado
Chris Fasching | Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
Liz Gardner | Xcel Energy
Stephanie Glover | Colorado Access
John Gustafson | Kaiser Permanente
Beth Klein | FirstBank
Rich Kolberg | The Boeing Company
Timothy Kunkleman | Lumen
Karen Lovett | UCHHealth
Greg McDonald | Heritage Christian Center
Kelly Phillips-Henry | Aurora Mental Health Center
Michael Sheldon | The Aurora Highlands
Yvonne Valdez | Citywide Banks
Hallie Woods | HCA Healthcare

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Mike Coffman | Mayor, City of Aurora
Lt. Col. Thomas A. Banker | Colorado National Guard
Bruce Dalton | Visit Aurora
Bill Holen | Arapahoe County Commissioner
Steve O'Dorisio | Adams County Commissioner
Col. Jamie Pieper | Inspector General
Suzanne Pitrusu | Community Banks of Colorado
Donald Sheehan | City Councilman, City of Centennial

STAFF

Kevin Hougen | President & CEO
Rene J. Simard | Executive Vice President
Katie Anthony | Workforce Development Professional
Naomi Colwell | Finance Director
Beau Martinez | Membership Development
Lynn Myers | Director, Community Relations
Alicia Rose | Director of Business Development
Mitzi Schindler | Senior Director of Communications

ASSOCIATES

Colorado Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC)
Six & Six, inc. | Incredible Newsletter Design
Great Western Printing, Inc. | Newsletter Printer

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.



Executive Director of the Colorado Freedom Memorial Rick Crandall, CEO of DEN Phil Washington, and Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougén.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Defense Council held its 46th Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon on Friday, May 13, 2022, 11 am-1 pm - to honor military serving in the Metro area. Awards were given to 13 military members from each branch of service, including their Reserve and Guard components, and a civilian from the community. The event was at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center, 13200 E. 14th Place, Aurora, CO 80011.

"This ceremony is how we recognize members of the armed forces – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard - throughout Northern Colorado including the Denver-Aurora area," said Chamber Executive Vice President and Chief of Military Affairs Rene Simard. "They make

an incredible contribution to our community and to our nation."

This year's keynote speaker was retired Army Command Sergeant Major and CEO of Denver International Airport Phil Washington. For the 17th consecutive year, Rick Crandall, executive director of the Colorado Freedom Memorial, served as the Master of Ceremonies, and for the 10th consecutive year, Colorado Technical University was the title sponsor.

"This event would not be possible without the tremendous support we receive each year from our community," said Tom Grayson, Chair of the Chamber's Defense Council. "This is a wonderful opportunity for the civilian community to say thank you to the men and women in uniform for their service and sacrifice." ■



More than 400 attended the 2022 Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon to honor Military serving in the Metro Area.

The 2022 winners and their sponsors:

Award	Winner	Sponsor
Air Force Active Duty	Staff Sergeant Garrett Teets	City of Aurora – Mayor and City Council
Air Force Reserve	Technical Sergeant Kayla Meeks	Community College of Aurora
Air National Guard	Technical Sergeant Rebecca Absher	Citywide Banks
Army Active Duty	Specialist Braxxton Murray-McFarland	Denver International Airport
Army Reserve	Staff Sergeant Ana Marques	Wagner Equipment
Army National Guard	Staff Sergeant Grant Koehler	Denver Springs
Navy Active Duty	Petty Officer First Class Andrew Amstutz	DeNOVO Solutions
Navy Reserve	Petty Officer First Class Lance Day	Ent Credit Union
Marine Corps Active Duty	Corporal Kellen Hamilton	Fitzsimons Credit Union
Marine Corps Reserve	Sergeant Jovanna Granillorios	Lockheed Martin Space Systems
Space Force	Technical Sergeant Arvin Martinez	Geico Aurora – John Sanchez
Coast Guard	Petty Officer Second Class Shawn Bittner	Ideas, Commitment, Results (ICR)
Commonwealth Partner	Master Corporal John Richard (Canada)	Leidos
Bob Cardenas Award	Dick Hinson	Aurora Chamber of Commerce

ChamberCommittees

An Inside Look

ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION

Colectiva – Culture * Art * Cuisine

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

By Reneé Leon, Arts + Business Connection Chair



Rachel Garcia

Founding Member of Colectiva Rachel Garcia recognizes the need for authentic representation of the Latinx culture in the Denver metro area. She and other Latinx creatives use their social capital and community connections to connect the arts with businesses seeking to

attract new and more diverse audiences to their brands. These connections also help the artists to expand their business reach. Through creative promotion and arts organizations that activate interest, Colectiva has been able to support both businesses and artists.



Colectiva is a 501(c)3 collective of Latinx creatives curating culturally inspired experience to elevate and promote Latino creatives via culture, art, and cuisine.

One of Colectiva's recent activations was connecting Origo Brands with Chef Edwin Sandoval, who created special dishes to highlight Origo's unique culinary products (BBQ Salsa, Agave Powder, and others).

Colectiva also worked with Breckenridge Colorado's BRECKCreate to bring authenticity to their Dia de los Muertos event with "Calaveras en mi Ciudad." Artists painted colorful calaveras to be on display in front of local businesses as part of the celebration. Breckenridge businesses have many Latinx employees, and the intention was to recognize and include them in the celebration. BRECKCreate was established by the town of Breckenridge to support and promotes arts, culture, and creative experiences.

While thus far, many of the artist/business collaborations and activations have focused on the Latinx community, Colectiva is helping to bridge arts and business with LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities, as well.

ACAD's Colorado Creative Industries Designation: What it means for Aurora

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

By Reneé Leon, Arts + Business Connection Chair



Stephanie Hancock



We asked Aurora Cultural Arts District (ACAD) Board President Stephanie Hancock to explain the process of getting the Colorado Creative Industries

designation, as well as what it means for ACAD and Aurora - and WOW did she deliver!

The road to Creative District designation was a long one for ACAD. After previous unsuccessful attempts, this finally triumphant undertaking took two years to complete. Applicants are reviewed using the following criteria: district characteristics, management and planning, and community buy-in. Designated districts must meet a rigorous set of minimum standards to achieve certification including recognition by local government, a high concentration of creative organizations and businesses, sustainable funding sources, paid staff, and a strategic plan. The designation lasts for five years (and can be renewed), and includes an initial grant to pay artists and to fund arts events.

To kick off the long coveted Creative District designation, ACAD began hosting the Colfax Arts Jams on the first Saturdays of the month, 12-4 pm. These free community events in Fletcher Plaza include music, art, and performances – all with local artists and makers. In addition, ACAD is working to incorporate Wayfinding QR codes along Colfax for all to easily know what is going on in the area.

Hancock shared that ACAD is a "diamond in the rough" with over 100 languages to celebrate and support. In that vein, they are working on a language project that will educate and celebrate various cultural foods, dances, music, textiles, and art. In addition, ACAD is partnering with Aurora Sister Cities for an Art Exchange, that will bring an artist from a Sister City to exhibit their work, stay with a host family, and learn



about Aurora – and will send a local artist to the Sister City to do the same.

ACAD is currently looking for a permanent space with a gallery for installations to aid them in marketing local artists' work. In the future, they want to host outdoor movie nights, an iceless rink, and are excited to generate creative activity throughout the arts district.

Hancock, along with ACAD Executive Director Bliss Coleman, and the ACAD board, intend to raise the visibility of the district throughout the state, country, and the world! Chamber and community members can help by getting the word out about ACAD, the Colfax Art Jams, and by attending events in the District.

TRANSPORTATION

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas in Colorado

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair



After a few comments about Star Wars Day (May the Fourth be with you!), the Committee heard from Theresa Takushi, CDOT's specialist for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Climate Action and Kelly Blynn, the transportation climate change specialist at the Colorado Energy Office (CEO). Both speakers and the agencies they represent are actively involved in developing policies and procedures to comply with air quality legislation to meet the goals set forward in the Colorado GHG Roadmap.

Blynn is leading efforts relative to the increasing number of zero-emission vehicles, which include charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, developing guidance for hydrogen fuel, and implementation of measures to address GHG reductions are in development. CEO is also looking at potential incentives for better land use planning to help reduce GHG emissions from transportation – which is the #1 contributor to GHG levels.



Theresa Takushi



Kelly Blynn

Takushi spoke about the Planning Rules approved by the Transportation Commission in December 2021, and the soon-to-be approved CDOT Policy. Both efforts are for implementation of

[continued on page 5]

measures for GHG reductions outlined in last year's Senate Bill 260 and the GHG Roadmap. CDOT, along with DRCOG, are running models of GHG emissions related to proposed transportation improvements, and then adjusting the program of projects, if necessary, to achieve the GHG target levels set in the Roadmap. She emphasized that the modeling, the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and even the formal policy, will be "living documents" evolving over time as more information on this groundbreaking effort is gathered.

The Annual Arapahoe County Transportation Update

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair



Bryan Weimer

For the June 2022 Transportation meeting, Bryan Weimer, director of Public Works and Development for Arapahoe County gave his annual update regarding trends, recent successes, and upcoming improvement projects in the County.

To begin his presentation, Weimer was happy to report that the department has been re-accredited by the American Public Works Association, recognizing their effectiveness and efficiencies.

He then shared that traffic volumes and related travel times on critical corridors have been increasing, rising closer to pre-COVID levels. They are also seeing longer periods of peak traffic volumes due to more flexible work schedules. The County will be receiving approximately 50 percent more funds for projects in the next few years due to recent state and federal legislation.

Arapahoe County has been, and will continue to be, busy and actively working with DRCOG and other local agencies to update various Transportation Improvement Plans (TIPs) detailing identified uses for those funds. The County draws projects from their



Widening of Gun Club Road south of Quincy

2040 Transportation Plan to populate the TIPs and has record-high funding levels for roadway and bridge maintenance projects this year.

Currently, major projects in various phases of development include the I-25 and Belleview interchange, I-70 interchanges at Airpark Road and Watkins, Iliff Avenue between Quebec and Parker Road, and the widening of Gun Club Road south of Quincy.

Looking to the future, Weimer shared that Arapahoe County will be developing a Countywide Fiber Master Plan.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY (PUBLIC ISSUES)

House and Senate Bills Followed Through the End of the 2022 General Legislative Session

Thursday, May 5, 2022

At the Government Affairs committee meeting On May 5, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Vice President of Government Affairs Adam Burg, and Senior Director of Government Affairs and Executive Director of Colorado Competitive Council, Rachel Beck, reviewed House and Senate Bills that the Denver Metro Chamber was following as the end of the session arrived. (The session ended Wednesday, May 11, 2022)

Burg and Beck highlighted bills representing the greatest possible harm to Colorado's economy and business climate. Some of these bills included, but were not limited to:

- HB22-1122: The legislation will increase insurance premiums for workers by increasing payments to pharmacies.
- HB22-1362: These proposed building codes will overlap and complicate existing building requirements; negatively impact the expedited development of affordable housing; and delegate regulatory authority to the Colorado energy office to create and enforce building codes for both residential and commercial properties, a function currently beyond their purview.
- SB22-230: Collective bargaining will drive up costs for citizens and businesses through unfunded mandates and rob local governments of local control. Employee strikes are not expressly prohibited, and it is unclear what problem this legislation will solve.



Adam Burg



Rachel Beck

Aurora Public Schools and After-Session Legislative Wrap-up

Thursday, June 2, 2022

Superintendent of Aurora Public Schools Rico Munn spoke at the June 2 Government Affairs meeting. He briefed members on the challenges the district faced during COVID and summarized the allocation of funds.

Colorado House Representative, District 56, Rod Bockenfeld also provided a legislative wrap-up.



Rico Munn



Pictured Left to Right: Chamber Director of Community Relations Lynn Myers; Rod Bockenfeld, District 56 Colorado House of Representatives; VP of Public Affairs for Pinnacol Assurance Edie Sonn; Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen; and Chamber Event and Work Force Specialist Katie Anthony.

The Chamber Government Affairs/Public Issues Committee is sponsored by



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

Health Equity and Colorado Public Health

Friday, May 20, 2022



Theo Abbey, disease intervention specialist with the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment, highlighted the many definitions of health equity, and talked about racism and its



Theophilus "Theo" Abbey

[continued on page 6]

impacts on health equity. Abbey also touched on the various stages of the equity journey; the dire need to prioritize equity work; and the way forward to improving health equity for all — regardless of race, ethnicity, age, socio economic status, sexual orientation, or geographic location.

Abbey celebrates the progress being made to repair health equities and champions applying tools and strategies to improve equities on a broad scale.

Center on Colfax – Johnny Humphrey

Friday, June 10, 2022



In June, Director of Inclusivity Services with The Center on Colfax Johnny Humphrey presented to the DE&I Council about creating more inclusive cultures for the LGBTQ+ community.



Johnny Humphrey

Humphrey discussed group norms, first impressions of LGBTQ+ people, and explained the umbrella term of Genderbread Person, as a person whose gender identity does not correspond with what is socially expected based on their sex assigned at birth. He talked about conversational DOs & DON'Ts, and reviewed core vocabulary. Humphrey said that while broad social acceptance for LGBTQ+ community is at an all-time high, there are still subtle (and not so subtle) biases that remain, which can cause employers to lose talent engagement.

The Center on Colfax opened in 1976 with the mission of engaging, empowering, enriching, and advancing the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community of Colorado.

The Chamber's Diversity and Inclusion Council is sponsored by



WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Women in Business did not meet in March 2022.

The Evolution of Women's Roles in Society

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

At the April 2022 Women in Business meeting, Lead Faculty of Sociology at Colorado Technical University (CTU) Lara Seng spoke on the topic of Exploring the Evolution



Lara Seng

of Women's Roles in Society. In her presentation, she discussed the history of women's roles from the 1950s to today. For example, typical roles and professions for women in the 1950s included homemaker, secretary, bank teller, salesclerk, teach, and nurse. In the past 70 years, those roles have expanded greatly to include many professions that were exclusively men.

As an example, of the evolution of these changes, she shared the story of how her grandmother challenged society's expectations. Born in 1910 in rural Indiana to a dentist and homemaker, Leah graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1932, went on to earn a master's degree in 1934, had two children, taught elementary school, and started an apartment and motel business – Lea Mar Apartments – in 1950 (while still teaching until 1964).

Seng then talked about how our family roles help shape and define our path, and how CTU is empowering today's students through personalized educational experiences, flexible scheduling, small class size, and on campus and online options.

Workin' it at The YMCA Aurora Wheatlands

Tuesday May 24, 2022

On May 24, the Women in Business committee meeting was hosted by the Aurora YMCA at Wheatlands. The presentation highlighted the eight dimensions of wellness and the Women on Weights program offered by the YMCA. The eight dimensions include: emotional, financial, environmental, intellectual, occupational, physical, social, and spiritual wellness.

The staff of the Aurora YMCA then gave a full tour of the facility and offered a door prize of a month free of membership and one session of the HIIT Studio Y small group personal training class. Following the tour there was a Q&A during which YMCA staff answered questions about fitness classes, personal training, equipment uses, the diabetes prevention program, youth, volunteer programs – and so much more.

Women in Business is sponsored by



Left to right: Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Development Director John Burtness, Aurora Chamber Senior Director of Communications Mitzi Schindler, Simon, Alvin, and Theodore Chipmunk, Center for a Strong America Deputy Director Melanie Worley, Northwestern Mutual Denver Tech Center Financial Representative Vincient Sweet, and RMHC Marketing and Corporate Partnerships Manager Jonna Busack.

WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

The Workings of the Aurora Ronald McDonald House

Thursday, May 12, 2022

The Aurora Ronald McDonald House is “home away from home” for families with critically ill children. Families come to the house through the hospital systems. Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) serve five countries, thirty-three states – and are in areas with a medical center with pediatric specialists.

“Y’all here in Aurora have an incredible Children’s Hospital,” said Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Development Director John Burtness. Locally, the Aurora Ronald McDonald House works closely with Children’s Hospital Colorado to help families who have traveled to Colorado and need housing while their child is being treated at the hospital.

For those taking care of the families they serve, RMHC provides full, paid benefits for their employees, including medical dental and vision.

Volunteer opportunities at the Aurora Ronald McDonald House include teams to supply and cook meals (eight person maximum), and front desk greeters. For more information about the Aurora Ronald McDonald House, go to <https://rmhc-denver.org/what-we-do/aurora-colorado/>.

The Work Well 2.0 Health Series did not meet in June of 2022. The next meeting on August 11, 2022, will be an informational overview of Medicare – how it works and trends, presented by Matt Engstrom with Kaiser Permanente.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The Young Professionals (YPs) have actively been meeting, to learn about the community as well as to enhance their skills and to network.

[continued on page 7]

Stop The Bleed

Thursday, March 31, 2022

In March, the YPs met at Falck Rocky Mountain, the ambulance provider for the City of Aurora, where EMS professionals provided Stop the Bleed

Certification. The training consists of three quick techniques to help save a life before someone bleeds out: 1-how to use your hands to apply pressure to a wound; 2-How to pack a wound to control bleeding, and; 3-How to correctly apply a tourniquet.



We Are All in Sales

Wednesday, April 22, 2022

For the April YP meeting, Kathleen Windsor-Games with Sandler Training, talked about selling your best ideas every day – even if you aren't in sales. Her session shared best practices to building trust and discovering win-win solutions. Takeaways from the session included ways to reframe your thinking from "convince mode" to "discovery mode," and how to build trust and uncover the other person's priorities.



Kathleen Windsor-Games

Touring Centennial Airport

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

The Young Professionals traveled to Centennial Airport at the end of May, for a tour by Airport Executive Director Mike Fronapfel. The airport opened in 1968, is the second busiest general aviation facility in the nation, and currently generates over \$2 billion of economic impact annually.



YPs at Centennial Airport

A new Administration building was completed in 2020, additional hangers are under construction, and the airport is actively pursuing federal funding to construct a new control tower. The airport also has a strong environmental sustainability program related to lighting, recycling, and alternative energy.

Touring the LivWell Marijuana Cultivation Center

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

For their June meeting, a group of the Young Professionals toured the LivWell Marijuana Cultivation Facility at 5141 Franklin Street in Denver, CO. The exclusive tour highlighted how the product is made from "seed to sale."



DEFENSE COUNCIL

DC Hosted at Elevation Christian Church

Thursday, April 28, 2022

April's meeting was held at Elevation Christian Church in Aurora. Lead Pastor Scott Bloyer provided welcoming remarks and showed an inspirational video on the upcoming Global Leadership Summit they will be



Scott Bloyer, Lead Pastor of Elevation Christian Church welcomes Defense Council members.

hosting, Aug. 4-5, 2022. Angela Marquez, PhD, vice president for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at CCA also provided welcoming remarks. Elevation Church along with the Community College of Aurora (CCA) sponsored the breakfast.

The program featured a tenant unit panel. There are currently 104 tenant units on Buckley Space Force Base and the council had the opportunity to hear from three of them – Space Training and Readiness Command, The Selective Service System, and The Office of Special Investigation. Council members appreciated learning about these important units on the base.

Unit reports were also provided for Buckley Garrison, Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center, Space Delta 4, the 140th Wing, Combat Logistics Battalion 453, and the Colorado National Guard. Representatives from U.S. Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper were also in attendance and provided congressional updates. Finally, Executive Director of the Colorado Freedom Memorial Rick Crandall, discussed the upcoming capital campaign for a visitors' center at the Memorial. ■



Left to right: Aurora Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen; Buckley Garrison Commander Colonel Marcus Jackson; Buckley Garrison Command Chief, Chief Master Sergeant Rob Devall; Aurora Chamber Executive Vice President and Chief of Military Affairs Rene Simard; and Defense Council Chair Tom Grayson.

Aurora Mental Health Center Named Top Workplace

Aurora Mental Health Center (AuMHC) was named a 2022 Top Workplace in Colorado by the Denver Post. This

is the first time AuMHC has participated in the program, and CEO Kelly Phillips-Henry said she is thrilled to be recognized among the "best large companies to work for in Colorado."

The program is based on a 24-question, anonymous employee survey that invites employees to assess pay and benefits, leadership, culture, and other factors. Employee feedback is the sole basis for determining which employers make the list.



Children's Hospital Colorado Once Again Recognized Among Top 10 Children's Hospitals in the Nation

According to U.S. News & World Report 2022-23 Best Children's Hospitals Rankings

Children's Hospital Colorado (Children's Colorado) has been recognized as the No. 7 pediatric hospital in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report, the global authority in hospital rankings and consumer advice. Released today, Children's Hospital Colorado made the 2022-23 Best Children's Hospitals Honor Roll, ranked No. 1 in both the region and state of Colorado, and ranked in all 10 specialties with five in the top 10.

The nonprofit pediatric health system is the only nationally ranked children's hospital in Colorado and in an 850-mile radius. Out of the ten recognized specialty areas, five of the Children's Colorado specialties ranked among the top 10 including:

- Gastroenterology and Gastrointestinal Surgery, No. 4
- Diabetes & Endocrinology, No. 4
- Pulmonology & Lung Surgery, No. 6
- Urology, No. 7
- Cancer, No. 8

"This is a remarkable achievement, only possible thanks to our teams' tireless dedication to improving our patients' lives," said Jena Hausmann, president and CEO of Children's Colorado. "I'm proud that we're once again ranked in the Top 10 in the nation, as well as number one in Colorado and in the region."

For the 2022-23 rankings and ratings, U.S. News ranked the top 50 centers in each of these 10 pediatric specialties: cancer, cardiology & heart surgery, diabetes & endocrinology, gastroenterology & gastrointestinal surgery, neonatology, nephrology, neurology & neurosurgery, orthopedics, pulmonology & lung surgery and urology. For the second year, the Best Children's Hospitals rankings featured expanded offerings that include state rankings and multi-state regional rankings.

"Choosing the right hospital for a sick child is a critical decision for many parents," said Ben Harder, chief of health analysis and managing editor at U.S. News. "The Best Children's Hospitals rankings spotlight hospitals that excel in specialized care."

U.S. News introduced the Best Children's Hospitals rankings in 2007 to help families of children with rare or life-threatening illnesses find the best medical care available in consultation with their doctors and other medical professionals. The rankings are the most comprehensive source of quality-related information on U.S. pediatric hospitals.

The Best Children's Hospitals methodology factors objective measures such as patient outcomes, including mortality and infection

rates, as well as health equity and available clinical resources and compliance with best practices. To calculate the Best Children's Hospitals rankings, U.S. News gathered relevant data from children's hospitals in early 2022 and from pediatric physicians and other healthcare organizations as well as available clinical resources, compliance with best practices, and efforts to promote diversity, equity and inclusion among patients and staff in 2022.

RTI International, a North Carolina-based research and consulting firm, collected and analyzed data from 119 children's hospitals and surveyed thousands of pediatric specialists. More than 100 pediatric specialists and other experts provided input through methodology working groups.

For more information, visit Best Children's Hospitals and use #BestHospitals on Facebook and Twitter.

Nelnet is BEST Award Winner

Nelnet is a 2022 Association for Talent Development (ADT) BEST Award recipient. The winners' circle includes small and large private, public, and not-for-profit organizations from around the world. Award winners show that they are BEST by: Building talent; Enterprise wide and; Strategically driving a; Talent development culture that delivers results. ■



Nycchi Jones, Nelnet director of Corporate Training and Organizational Development, accepts the BEST Award on behalf of her team.

GOLF (Continued from page 1)



Best Hawaiian theme-dressed team went to the Advantage Security, Inc. men's team. And you can see why.

Second place AECOM team, left to right: Chris Imparato, David Center, (Leadership Aurora Program Director Rene Simard), Nathan Pepple, and Tony DeVito.



Colorado Technical University last but not least team, left to right: Beau Martinez, membership development with the Aurora Chamber; VP of Community Relations for Colorado Technical University and Chamber Board Member Beth Braaten; Associate with Husch Blackwell Strategies Tamara Mohamed; and Campus Director of Admissions with CTU Jenna Nord.

From Retreat to Graduation for the Leadership Aurora Class of 2022

The 10-month journey of the Leadership Aurora Class of 2022 came to a grand conclusion on June 2, with a Mardi Gras themed graduation at the Summit Event Center.

As classes before them have done, they experienced the Aurora Community through lenses of local nonprofits, and City government – from representatives of City administrative departments to Fire

and Police. In addition, they learned first-hand about the military at Buckley Space Force Base, healthcare and education in the Eastern Metro Area, and about local media outlets.

The Jadoo* about Leadership Aurora is that although graduation marks the end of the monthly sessions, the friendships, connections, and memories continue. Ask any graduate of the program. ■



June 2022 graduation class photo, complete with Mardi Gras theme!



At the June 2 LA Graduation, LA Program Director and Chamber Executive Vice President Rene Simard (right) honored Jennifer Evans with Advantage Security (center) for her year as LA Board Chair, and the gavel (bit not this one) was turned over incoming Chair Alan Antolak with Adolfson & Peterson Construction.

September 2021
Class Retreat in
Breckenridge, CO.



*The Class of 2022 was often heard chanting
“Two claps and
a Jadoo”
which means magic
in Hindi.

Mehran Ahmed Aurora Public Schools
Amanda Anthony UC Health
Miguel Arellano Citywide Banks
Casey Bloyer Launchpad Brewery
Dan Clarke Mamabird Interviews
Erin Currier Juvenile Assessment Center
Jennifer Dale Community College of Aurora
Sherry Davis Pickens Technical College
Katlynn Del Dotto Aurora Public Schools
Mike Dineen Boy Scouts of America
Leah Fishman 140th Wing, CONG
Zella Goettsch Adolfson and Peterson Construction
Isaac Greenlee Nelnet
Daniel Halkett Falck Rocky Mountain
Jessica Hegewald 140th Wing, CONG
Danielle Jackman Aurora Mental Health Center

Nycci Jones Nelnet
Anne Keke Self Employed
Nathan Larson Colorado Technical University
Yvonne Madril-Brawner City of Aurora
Miguel Mendoza Castaneda FirstBank
Justin Nimock Leading Evolution Group
Anthony Oyewole Flintco, LLC
DeeDee Poole Aurora Chamber
Jason Read RTB Technologies, LLC
John Schneebeck Aurora Police Department
David Spencer Colorado Army National Guard
Kelly Stewart Stewart Agency, LLC
Pete Torres Advantage Security
Ana Valles Fitzsimons Credit Union
Julius Vaughns Aurora Public Schools
Lynne Winchell Community College of Aurora

RibbonCuttings & OpenHouses

Ribbon cuttings
mean business: 110 Jobs



Legacy at Fitz

(managed by Legacy Partners)
1363 N. Victor St. Aurora, CO 80011

Senior Managing Director of Denver for Legacy Partners R. Lane Cutter cuts the ribbon to mark the Grand Opening of Legacy at Fitz. The new, luxury apartment community is located across Colfax Ave. from the Anschutz Medical Campus. Legacy at Fitz offers studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments with luxury amenities, including a pool and spa, a rooftop sky lounge with mountain and city views, and a speakeasy-style resident lounge.

Apartments feature stainless steel appliances, quartz countertops with tile backsplash, and in-home washer and dryer. (5/25/2022)
<http://www.legacyatfitz.com>
(720) 722-3158

FUSION

LEGAL • BOOKKEEPING • TAX



Fusion Legal & Tax

44 Cook St., Denver, CO 80206

Principal of Fusion Legal & Tax Peter McFarland, JD, LL.M., cuts the ribbon to mark a name change, new ownership, and rebranding for the company. He is accompanied by his team of experts, along with many friends, Chamber staff and Ambassadors, and clients. Fusion Legal & Tax provides tax law, CPA, and monthly bookkeeping services to small and medium-sized businesses. They specialize in maximizing profits by legally saving clients as much as possible on taxes. (6/1/2022)
<https://www.fusiontaxlaw.com/>
(720) 922-2925.

Tint World Aurora

(Store #107)

3155 Chambers Rd., Aurora, CO 80011

Ray Ruiz and Lisa Hunter, managing partners of Tint World, cut the ribbon together to mark the grand opening of the business in Aurora. Tint World is an automotive styling center specializing in aftermarket services for vehicles, offering window tinting, auto detailing, auto lighting, audio and video, remote start and alarms, paint protection film, nano ceramic coating, and vehicle graphics. (5/4/2022)

<http://www.tintworld.com/>
(720) 388-6677





HighPointe Academy of Saddle Rock

7326 S. Gartrell Rd., Aurora, CO 80016

Center Director Mindy Neel, and Assistant Director Bailey Velikaneye, cut the ribbon to mark the grand opening of the new Childcare Center of HighPointe Academy of Saddle Rock. The Academy provides families with exceptional childcare for children ages six weeks to pre-kindergarten - in a safe, fun, and nurturing program. They prepare children for kindergarten and beyond, by utilizing The Creative Curriculum, designed to help children become independent, self-confident, inquisitive, and enthusiastic learners. They also provide before and after school care, as well as holiday break care for school-age children. (5/23/2022)

<https://highpointeacademyco.com/saddle-rock/> (720) 206-0123

Hands of the Carpenter

10401 E. Idaho Pl. Aurora, CO 80247

The Chamber hosted a grand opening and ribbon cutting for the new Hands of the Carpenter in Aurora, CO. Left to right, cutting the ribbon: Brenda Georgopulos, vehicle donation coordinator, and wife of Hands of the Carpenter CEO Dan Georgopulos (behind Brenda); Ari Sharp, west service advisor; and Crystal Scott, automotive services director. Mayor Mike Coffman and City Council Member Juan Marciano also attended the event. Hands of the Carpenter is a faith-based nonprofit organization that provides automotive placement, repair, and maintenance services for single working women with children. During the ribbon cutting, a new car was revealed and given to a single mom - and guests were able to be a part of that life-changing experience. This is a second location, and the organization plans to continue expanding. (5/14/2022)

<https://www.handsofthecarpenter.org/> (303) 526-4488.



"Turning the Dirt" for a New Hotel

A new Hampton Inn Home2 Suites is being built at the corner of Oswego Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard - so a groundbreaking for the 5-story, 130,531 square foot was celebrated on June 2, 2022. The dual brand hotel will have 227 rooms, with amenities including meeting space, pool, fitness areas, on-site guest laundry, and exterior patios with fire pits and BBQ grills. Left to right, "turning the dirt": Brian-Douglas Stanwood of Visit Aurora; Om Patel, Ravi Patel & Bob Patel all of Hawkeye Hotels; Bruce Dalton President and CEO of Visit Aurora; Kevin Hougen President and CEO of The Aurora Chamber of Commerce; and Jay Bhakta of Hawkeye Hotels.

MemberContribution

STRIDE Community Health Center is a non-profit healthcare organization in the community that provides comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and community-based services to the underserved, uninsured, and working families who cannot afford these services. No families or individuals are turned away because of their inability to pay.

Since 1989, STRIDE (formerly known as Metro Community Provider Network, or MCPN) has grown from a single clinic into an integrated health care delivery system providing care to more than 55,000 patients annually. STRIDE's patients represent all of Colorado: locals and immigrants, refugees, the elderly, LGBTQ+, children, youth, and teens. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, STRIDE started to see more and more patients with commercial insurance and remains a resource for all community



STRIDE
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

members regardless of their status.

Accessible care is available throughout the Aurora community with clinics located on Del Mar Parkway, East Colfax, Hampden and Chambers, Horizon Community Middle School, Overland High School, Parker, Peoria, and on Potomac Street.

STRIDE also operates three mobile health units that provide health maintenance, counseling, education, disease prevention, and diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses largely to people experiencing homelessness.

In addition to providing health care

to all, STRIDE alleviates pressure on local hospitals and emergency rooms, providing more than \$10 million in savings to taxpayers each year. As a federally qualified health center, at least half of STRIDE's Board must be comprised of patients.

Visit stridechc.org to learn more or call 303-7STRIDE (303-778-7433) to schedule an appointment or refer a new patient. Businesses and individuals can support STRIDE with a tax-deductible contribution, in-kind donation, or event sponsorship. Email events@stridechc.org to get involved.

MemberRenewals

Action Appliance Inc.

BBSI

Common Ground Golf Course

Edward Jones - Kendra Thibault

Lendlease

Lincoln Tech

Lumen

Renaissance Denver Central Park Hotel

Republic Services

The Green Solution

West & Main Homes - Bev Marsh

NewMembers

Front Range IBN LLC

Hands of The Carpenter

HighPointe Academy of Saddle Rock

Luminate Home Loans

Melissa Green CPA, LLC

Pomodoro Pizza & Pasta

Professional Employment Group of Colorado

Stride Southlands

Susan Duncan, ReMax Masters Millennium

U.S. Renal Care Altitude Dialysis



My Electric Home LLC

People and pet friendly electric energy
solutions for a healthier home and planet.™

- Consultation
- Project Management
- EV Chargers / Panels
- HPWH + HVAC
- Solar + Battery Back-up

Jason Altshuler
Founder & CEO

MyElectricHomes@gmail.com
720-288-0064



**Earn Your MBA
100% Online**

Are you looking to obtain one of the highest sought-after credentials for executive positions? Check out CSU Global's new online Master of Business Administration.

- Flexible, Affordable, 100% Online
- Applied, Industry-Relevant Courses
- No GMAT/GRE Required
- Over a Dozen Graduate Specializations Available

800-920-6723
CSUGlobal.edu

Advertisers: Chamber members can use the IMPACT to advertise products and services to other members. Advertising space only available to members. The IMPACT also accepts preprinted inserts. Contact The Chamber for details.

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