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THE CHAMBER Impact

MAR/APR/MAY 2020

President's Letter

May 1, 2020

First and foremost, we hope this newsletter finds you, your families, and your colleagues, safe and healthy.

During this time of crisis and hardship for our communities and businesses, The Chamber is stepping into new frontiers of business and economic support. Our businesses and their employees are suffering the excruciating pain of watching their life-long careers and investments seemingly disappear in an instant. Our compassion for these pillars of our economy and our commitment to lift them — many of them who have become close friends — knows no boundaries.

What is most impressive to us is how much you — our members — are working for and with each other to ensure our regional economy rebounds from this nightmare pandemic. We know there are many challenges facing employers and companies, and we are advocating for additional resources for our smallest businesses and are hearing that Congress is close to a new deal to renew funding.

Hopefully, you have seen our website resources and bi-weekly email blasts that Mitzi Schindler, our Communications Director



Kevin Hougen

has been sending. Along with webinars and online committee meetings, we are involved daily with Response and Recovery Task Forces. In addition, The Chamber Board of Directors and Chamber staff have started a new "Economic Recovery Task Force" that you will be hearing more about in the next few weeks.

This is just the beginning of what will be a long-haul effort by The Chamber, working in collaboration with other business support organizations, government agencies, and nonprofit partners, to get local businesses through this crisis and back on their feet.

Each day, COVID-19 has forced all of us to work and think differently. Phrases like *social distancing*, *flatten the curve*, *stay-at-home*, and *safer-at-home* have become common in our daily conversations.

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WIB - Unsung Heroes Luncheon



SEE PAGE 12 ►

Please go online to:

The [Chamber Calendar](#) to view upcoming meetings and events.

Title Sponsor



BLACK TIE & SAPPHIRES



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65TH ANNUAL
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2019 Chamber Award Recipients

Stephanie Piko, Mayor of the City of Centennial: Woman of the Year
Robert Olislagers, executive director of Centennial Airport: Man of the Year

The Medical Center of Aurora (TMCA): Business of the Year

Bye Aerospace: Small Business of the Year

Chad Nielsen with Wagner Equipment: Chamber Leadership Award

Kynn timer Martin with Xcel Energy: Chamber Community Leadership Award

Hassan Latif, executive director of The Second Chance Center: Humanitarian of the Year

Bruce Dalton, president and CEO of Visit Aurora: Business Person of the Year

The Town Center at Aurora: Arts + Business Connection Award

Ken Melcher Ambassadors of the Year:

Oma Mohamed; Farouk Mohammed; and

Benjamin (BK) Martin with Alliance Mortgage Group

An Awards presentation ceremony will be rescheduled.

SEE PAGE 4 ►

► PRESIDENT'S LETTER (con't)

Our hearts go out to everyone who is experiencing hardships during these rapidly evolving and uncertain times. The Chamber is here for you, our team has been working remotely until the week of May 11, when we will be back in the office.

The Chamber has a duty to work to save jobs and to then save lives by working together. This is a new way of life, which can bring out the best in all of us by working together with our neighbors, co-workers, friends, families, and community members.

Our world is facing an unprecedented challenge. I recently read an article that talked about how we need to rid ourselves of the culture of contempt that was starting to tear us apart and start conversations of "curiosity" instead of "animosity." We need to see the humanity in all of us, put ugly politics behind us and work for a better living and a better life!

Please contact our dedicated staff for assistance, and be sure to rely on the tremendous companies and employees in our business community. What we have learned from this tragedy, is that moving forward, we will all have to work together more than ever before!

Onward,
Kevin Hougen
President/CEO

COVID-19 News

There are so many stories of help and hope that have emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. People and companies assisting in creative and kind ways. Here are just a few of those stories:

Citywide Banks Donates \$100k



Citywide Banks donated \$100k to help fund medical supplies, healthcare worker support, emergency meals, and grants for small businesses. This is part of a \$1.2 million support initiative across 12 states by Citywide's parent company, Heartland Financial USA, Inc. Citywide has also been fully engaged in helping clients through the PPP program and other financial programs.

Havana BID Provides Resources and Connections

During COVID-19, The Havana Business Improvement District (BID) has been promoting that On Havana Street is "OPEN for BUSINESS."



The BID has more than 1,000 businesses, including auto services and dealerships, restaurants, international markets, and retailers and shops. On Havana Street has connected its businesses to resources and funding updates; has hosted one on one phone calls with business owners and the Mayor and City Council; and has purchased cloth masks for essential workers in the corridor.

The Havana BID, On Havana Street, is a special district dedicated to the economic vitality of the 4.3-mile corridor in Aurora, CO.

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► ChamberBoard

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

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.

Arapahoe County Converts Fairgrounds

In mid-April, The Arapahoe County Fairgrounds were converted to a tier 4 alternate care facility for COVID-19 patients to help alleviate crowding at regional hospitals. The temporary facility hosts cases that don't require acute or critical care and will not accept walk-up patients. The site can initially hold 54 individuals and can increase capacity up to 150 if the need arises. The medical shelter is the product of a multi-agency response team that completed the transformation in a matter of days with the help of the Colorado National Guard.

The facility is being managed by the Arapahoe County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), with paramedics and medical students providing care and observation.

"We are grateful to have the expertise and resources to provide this much-needed facility for Arapahoe County," said Nancy Sharpe, chair of the Board of County Commissioners. "Reducing patient loads on our hospitals means that those who need critical care can get it, and the temporary facility will provide observation and care for individuals recovering from the disease."



Commissioner
Nancy Sharpe

The Emergency Operations Center — which operates under the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office — is managing the County's response to the pandemic, working in partnership with the Board of County Commissioners, Tri-County Health Department, state and local officials.

Assisting with the transformation of the site was the South Metro Fire District, Sable Altura Fire Department, the Colorado National Guard, Xcel Energy, Rocky Vista University and Concorde Career College.

Lockheed Martin Helps Local Restaurants and Shows Appreciation for Employees

Lockheed Martin has about 8,000 employees in Colorado, so they reached out to some locally owned restaurants about being a part of the company's effort to help - by offering all employees a \$20 voucher to spend at a local restaurant.

"It's an opportunity for us to thank employees and to give back to the community, going through this really tough time. We want to see these restaurants survive just as much as anyone," said Lockheed Martin spokesperson Chris Pettigrew. "We know that every little bit helps, and we're just excited to be able to try and make it a little bit of a difference." ■



MemberNews

Bye Aerospace Receives Large Order for eFlyers, for Pilot Training



Quantum Air and OSM Aviation Group have announced that Quantum has chosen OSM Aviation Academy as a preferred

pilot training partner pursuant to a comprehensive agreement. The Quantum-branded pilot training program at OSM Aviation Academy will refer a steady supply of pilots trained to FAA commercial standards.



Bye Aerospace's eFlyer in flight

Both Quantum and OSM have placed large orders for the eFlyer all-electric aircraft from Bye Aerospace in Denver, Colorado. In total, 160 zero-emission aircraft with significantly lower noise pollution and enhanced altitude performance will be delivered to the two companies starting at the end of 2021.

George Bye, CEO of Bye Aerospace, said he is impressed with the collaborative partnership between OSM and Quantum. "Electric aviation, including our eFlyer family of electric aircraft, is the springboard for a movement that we believe will breathe new life into the aviation industry," he said. "That includes implementing creative ways to improve effective, economic access to pilot training. The OSM-Quantum model, which focuses foremost on new professional pilot training safety, aligns perfectly with Bye Aerospace's principles."

Merrick and Company Earns Award for South Platte River Run

In March of 2020, Merrick & Company of Denver, Colo., earned a National Recognition Award for exemplary

engineering achievement in the American Council of Engineering Companies' (ACEC) 53rd annual Engineering Excellence Awards for Platte River Run Park in Sheridan, Colo.

As the lead design firm, Merrick focused on overcoming low-flow conditions to create a resilient river channel that both provides habitats and water recreation without affecting flood control and



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▶ 2019 Award Recipients

Aurora Chamber honors 12 as 2019 Awardees

On Friday, March 13, 2020, 12 awards were scheduled to be presented by The Aurora Chamber of Commerce at its Annual Awards Banquet at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver. However, due to Gov. Polis' ban that day on gatherings of more than 250, the event was cancelled.

Although the event didn't occur, The Chamber honors these businesses and individuals for their commitment to the business community and the community at-large.*

The Man and Woman of the Year Awards go to individuals who advance the community's civic, cultural, and/or governmental interests and objectives, and inspire others toward that vision. These individuals consistently make contributions through vision, character, unimpeachable good judgment, and unfailing high standards as leaders.



Stephaine Piko, Mayor of the City of Centennial:

Woman of the Year. The City of Centennial has received numerous accolades under Piko's leadership, including being recognized as the safest city in Colorado by 24/7 Wall Street, and No. 2 on SmartAsset's Most Livable Mid-Sized City in the U.S. Prior to being elected as Mayor, Piko served on Centennial City Council for six years, and strongly believes that connecting with citizens and focusing on community engagement is vital for Centennial's continued success. She regularly attends Chamber events, including ribbon cuttings and Defense Council meetings, and is a strong supporter of the aerospace industry. For her commitment to community and her vision for the future, Mayor Stephanie Piko is a deserving recipient of The Chamber's Woman of the Year Award.

Robert Olislagers, executive director of Centennial Airport: Man of the Year.

Olislagers was the principal author of four Colorado State Laws incentivizing aviation companies, saving them millions in the process. Under his leadership, the total economic impact of Centennial Airport increased from \$518 Million in 2003 to \$2.1 Billion in 2020. Olislagers also served on the boards of Skyridge Medical Center and The Denver South Economic Development Partnership. In addition, Olislagers is a published author of many articles on aviation security and aviation history, as well as a book entitled Fields of Flying; a History of Airports, with a foreword by Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager. Robert Olislagers' numerous accomplishments and contributions make him a deserving recipient of The Chamber's 2019 Man of the Year Award.



The Business of the Year Award is presented for excellence in business standards, contributions to the community through involvement, employee participation and satisfaction, and for being a positive influence in the business world.



The Medical Center of Aurora (TMCA):

Business of the Year. For more than 40 years, TMCA has been committed to the care and improvement of human life. TMCA recently received a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and has also been recognized as a Best Regional Hospital by U.S. News and World Report. In addition, TMCA is dedicated to making a positive impact through staff involvement in numerous community boards and employees volunteering personal time for community projects. The physicians, nurses, and staff at TMCA are responsible for providing the highest quality of care, by actively listening to patients' needs, and creating an environment that inspires trust, safeguards dignity, and promotes healing. For outstanding business accomplishments and community support, The Medical Center of Aurora is The Chamber's 2019 Business of the Year.

The Small Business of the Year demonstrates outstanding service by their involvement in the community, their organizational affiliations, and through special service and business growth in the Eastern Metro area.



Bye Aerospace: Small Business of the Year.

Bye Aerospace, an aerospace engineering company headquartered at Centennial Airport, is developing the eFlyer family of all-electric aircraft. The company was named one of Colorado's 2019 "Top Makers" in the Aerospace and Aircraft category by ColoradoBiz, was named a 2018 award winner in the Small Business category by Denver Business Journal, and was the wreath sponsor for The Colorado Freedom Memorial's 2019 Colorado Remembers Ceremony on Memorial Day weekend. Bye Aerospace supports The Chamber through involvement in Leadership Aurora, Young Professionals, Women in Business, and the Annual Awards Dinner. In addition, CEO George Bye spoke at a 2019 Transportation meeting about the eFlyer and the revolutionary changes in aviation. Bye Aerospace, through its commitment to economic growth and involvement in The Chamber and in the community is the deserving recipient of The Chamber's 2019 Small Business of the Year Award.



The Chamber Leadership Award goes to an individual who consistently furthers the mission, goals, and objectives of The Chamber through their exhibited leadership and participation. The recipient sets the example that others strive to follow; an example that brings great credit upon themselves and The Chamber.

Chad Nielsen with Wagner Equipment: Chamber Leadership Award. Nielsen is a member of the Chamber's Board of Directors' Executive Committee and is vice chair of Member Services. He has also been active as an Ambassador. His passion and commitment to Chamber members is extraordinary. He led an analysis to determine the best approaches for growing membership and retaining members and harnessed the energy of the Ambassador Team to inform members about opportunities to get involved and to broaden their networks. He has also been the catalyst for Wagner's consistent support of the Leadership Aurora program and the Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon. Chad Nielsen takes tremendous pride in supporting The Chamber, which is why he is deserving of the 2019 Chamber Leadership Award.



The Community Leadership Award recognizes extensive and inspiring civic participation. The recipient demonstrates the highest level of service and commitment to the community, and an unfailing ability to bring others together for the common good.



Kynnie Martin with Xcel Energy: Chamber Community Leadership Award. Martin is a 2019 Leadership Aurora graduate and was VP of her class. She was also class project chair, managing the completion of two impactful community projects: remodeling a new satellite Juvenile Assessment Center that annually serves 700 youth; and revitalizing the entryway of the Aurora Mental Health Center's Stith Center, providing clients with a welcoming environment. She now serves on the Leadership Aurora Board and continues to demonstrate her compassion for the community by serving on many other boards and committees, including the Colorado Nonprofit Association, Colorado Succeeds, American Red Cross of Colorado Heroes Selection Committee, Women Veterans of Colorado, and Campaign Chairs Council of Mile High United Way. For all that she does in the community, Kynnie Martin is deserving of The Chamber's 2019 Community Leadership Award.

The Humanitarian Award is presented for exemplary contributions in the human services field by a community member who demonstrates the highest standards of excellence, has tackled difficult issues, fostered collaboration, and has offered creative problem-solving in matters involving medical, philanthropic, educational, social, economic and/or religious interests.



Hassan Latif, executive director of The Second Chance Center: Humanitarian of the Year. Latif began SCC out of the trunk of his car — subsequently growing it into a thriving hub of services and inspiration for people transitioning from incarceration — with a recidivism rate under 9 percent. Latif has also been the leader and guiding light behind Providence House, a new facility which will house many who are homeless and in need of help as they re-enter society. Along with directing the daily activities pertaining to client services, he also conducts mentoring and re-entry trainings for government and non-profit providers. Hassan Latif's dedication to serving those in need, his endless energy, and passion for his work, make him deserving of The Chamber's 2019 Humanitarian of the Year Award.

The Business Person of the Year Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service by enhancing the area's economic base and notably contributing to a better quality of life for residents, employees, and visitors.

Bruce Dalton, president and CEO of Visit Aurora: Business Person of the Year. Since his arrival in 2017, Dalton has guided Visit Aurora to become one of the country's fastest growing destination marketing organizations. He managed the organization through the opening of The Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center; has grown the staff by three-fold; and has built a reputation for Aurora as a must-come-to city for meetings and conventions. As one board member said, "It has been a pleasure for members of The Visit Aurora Board of Directors to have a front row seat to what Bruce and his team have accomplished in three short years — and we're just getting warmed up!" For his passion and commitment, Bruce Dalton is deserving of The Chamber's 2019 Business Person of the Year Award.



The Arts + Business Connection Award recognizes an individual or business that demonstrates and promotes the value of integrating the arts as a business tool.



The Town Center at Aurora: Arts + Business Connection Award. The Town Center at Aurora has creatively incorporated the arts into their business model — enhancing the shopping experience of mall guests, as well as increasing exposure for the arts. This has had a positive effect on Town Center at Aurora businesses, the arts, and the artists. During 2019, the mall highlighted and displayed a broad range of art, including visual and performing arts. Partnerships included the Aurora History Museum's Festival of Wreaths; KidX Club Events; the City of Aurora's Día De Los Muertos; ACAD Santa and Easter photo set refreshes; APS Festival of the Arts; the live artists' Canvas Project; Lotus School of Excellence S.T.E.A.M. festival; and Grand Design community performances. For dedication to integrating business and the arts, The Town Center at Aurora is the recipient of The Chamber's Arts + Business Connection Award.

The Ken Melcher Ambassadors of the Year are selected by their peers for demonstrating the finest qualities of representatives of The Chamber and of the community. These Ambassadors consistently exhibit high standards of professionalism, exceptional participation in Chamber events, and a welcoming demeanor — all which promote the objectives of The Chamber.

Oma Mohamed: Ken Melcher Ambassador of the Year.

As an Ambassador, Mohamed enjoys meeting people, engaging in conversations, and sharing the benefits of The Chamber with new and prospective members. She regularly attends Chamber events, including almost every ribbon cutting. She loves cooking, reading, hiking, volunteering for non-profit organizations, and sewing. In fact, she decided, on her own, to sew a sheath for the very sharp ribbon cutting scissors! She also loves gardening, especially flowers — but her favorite passion is her family, and spending time with her grandsons. Oma Mohamed epitomizes the definition of a Chamber Ambassador by her kindness, participation, and commitment, and is deserving of the 2019 Ken Melcher Ambassador of the Year Award.



Farouk Mohammed: Ken Melcher Ambassador of the Year.

Mohammed enjoys photography and is often seen at Chamber events behind his camera, capturing special moments. He values his interactions with other Chamber members, learning about them personally and professionally, and takes pride in educating others and answering their questions about The Chamber. Mohammed also enjoys cooking and baking, growing vegetables, and taking on new challenges. His biggest personal achievement, though, is raising two wonderful daughters, and he loves taking pictures of and spending time with his two grandsons. Farouk Mohammed epitomizes the definition of a Chamber Ambassador by his quest for knowledge, participation, and commitment, and is deserving of the 2019 Ken Melcher Ambassador of The Year Award.

Benjamin (BK) Martin with Alliance Mortgage Group: Ken Melcher Ambassador of the Year.

Martin takes pride in fostering relationships between current, new, and prospective members, by sharing opportunities and ideas. His dedication to The Chamber led to the development of a leads group that has provided additional benefits for members. With Martin as chair, the group has passed more than 200 leads and has generated \$160,000 for the associated organizations in the past two years. In 2020, he has taken on the role of chair of the Ambassador Team.

BK Martin epitomizes the definition of a Chamber Ambassador by his actions, participation, and commitment, and is deserving of the 2019 Ken Melcher Ambassador of the Year Award.



A huge THANK YOU to the sponsors of this event that was called off at the last minute*:

Title Sponsor: The Aurora Highlands

Corporate Sponsor: Colorado Technical University

Company Sponsors: Aurora Mental Health Center
Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport, UCHHealth

Ice Sculptures Sponsor: Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport

Décor Sponsor: Children's Hospital Colorado

Silent Auction Sponsor: Anchor Network Solutions, Inc.

Table Sponsors: Adams 14 Education Foundation, Arapahoe County, Aurora Credit Union Alliance, Aurora Economic Development Council, Aurora Public Schools, Bye Aerospace, Centennial Airport, CenturyLink, City of Aurora, City of Centennial, Citywide Banks, CSU Global, Community Banks of Colorado, Community College of Aurora, Denver International Airport, DoubleTree by Hilton, FirstBank, Goal Academy, Holiday Inn Denver East – Stapleton, Kaiser Permanente, KeyBank, Koelbel, Nelnet, Pickens Technical College, Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel, Second Chance Center, Inc., South Metro Fire Rescue, The Medical Center of Aurora – HealthONE, Town Center at Aurora, Visit Aurora, Xcel Energy.

**An Awards presentation ceremony will be rescheduled.*



River Run Park in Sheridan, CO.

has the capacity to support a signature high-performance surf wave amenity for whitewater enthusiasts. Developing the design involved detailing hydraulic modeling, bank stabilization measures, and integration of river structures to sustain the active waterway without promoting erosion or compromising safety.

The resulting design features regional trails, facilities, and other features that attract hundreds of visitors. In addition to economic development benefits, the project reframes what had been viewed as a flood-prone risk to the community into an asset to be protected.

Sue Way is Guest of Congressman Jason Crow at State of the Union

Congressman Jason Crow, who has made lowering prescription drug costs one of his priorities, took Aurora resident Sue Way to the State of the Union in February 2020. Way is a retired nurse, who saw the cost of her insulin increase by over 500 percent last year and was forced to ration her medication as a result.

"I was 14 years old when I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes and I always wondered if I would be able to afford medication for the rest of my life. Last January, my worst fears came true when my insulin increased from \$100 for a three-month supply to over \$500 for the same amount," said Way.

"Sue's story is all too familiar as drug prices in this country continue to rise and hurt Colorado families and seniors," said Crow. "Congress must continue to work together to find solutions so every Coloradan can have the access they deserve to affordable health care and prescription drugs."

Visit Aurora's Brian-Douglas Stanwood Promoted and Honored

Brian-Douglas Stanwood, "BDS," has been appointed as the new assistant director of sales for Visit Aurora. "With his 20 years of hospitality experience and professional portfolio, BDS was an obvious choice to help lead the sales team and destination to the next level," said Visit Aurora's President and CEO Bruce Dalton.

On Mar. 9th, 2020, Stanwood was also named "Best Supplier" and was inducted into Colorado's 2020 Hall of Fame at the Colorado Meetings + Events Best of Awards. The awards are a celebration of the hard work and exceptional service of suppliers in the meetings and events industry.

"Go the extra mile in your role and become a 'yes' person. Keep your integrity in check, listen, be sincere and authentic, and find your passion," Stanwood explains. ■



Brian-Douglas Stanwood

Member Contribution

Cancer Screenings More Important than Ever

The presence of COVID-19 has changed life as we know it. Many of our daily routines have been interrupted and some activities have ceased. Unfortunately, cancer has not. It has been proven that finding cancer at an earlier stage often results in a more successful treatment outcome and saves lives.

We are actively educating the Aurora community to better understand the importance of cancer screenings, as well as helping to navigate through the uncertainties of our new reality. The Sarah Cannon Cancer Network at the Medical Center of Aurora is a leading expert in cancer care, and our team of clinicians and navigators are here to help.



For more information about the importance of cancer screenings, visit <https://sarahcannon.com/blog/entry/the-importance-of-cancer-screening>.

Please call 303-338-7120 if you have further questions about the different types of cancer screening services we offer, or if you would like to schedule an appointment. ■

Ribbon Cuttings & Open Houses

Ribbon cuttings
mean business: **110 Jobs**

KeyBank at Parker and Peoria

12101 E. Dartmouth Ave., Suite 100,
Aurora, CO 80014

On December 16, 2019, KeyBank held a Chamber ribbon cutting for the new branch in Aurora. Attending the event were Sandra Cafuentes, branch manager; Japera Lane, experience leader & assistant vice president; Michael Katz, commercial sales lead RSTR-MP; Michael Walters, regional retail sales leader; Judith Donaldson, experience leader; Blanca Zamarrripa, branch manager (with scissors); Walter Stanley, area retail leader; Nina Chalchessa, relationship manager; and Kevin Hougen, Aurora Chamber president and CEO. KeyBank focuses on financial wellness for members and is committed to community involvement. (12/16/2019)

www.keybank.com (303) 306-4760.

KeyBank 



Poonam's by Design, LLC - 6290 S Main St., #108, Aurora, CO 80016

On February 21, 2020, Poonam's by Design, LLC hosted a Chamber ribbon cutting for their new business in Aurora. Attending were Poonam's Founder Pam Moore, owner (with scissors) and staff; Kevin Hougen, Aurora Chamber president and CEO; and Debbie Stafford, Legislative Liaison/Faith-based Coordinator at Aurora Mental Health. Poonam's goal is to stir up creativity and enthusiasm in their clients and expose them to interior design. They value the importance of listening to their clients and then guiding them through the process. (2/21/2020)

www.poonamsbydesign.com/ (720) 274-5620.



GradePower Learning - 6155 S.

Main St., Suite 200, Aurora, CO 80016

Owners Rob and Olga Mead (with scissors) celebrated the opening of their upgraded GradePower Learning Center with a ribbon cutting on February 6, 2020. Attendees at the event included Council Member Françoise Bergan (Ward VI), Chamber members and Ambassadors. At GradePower Learning, students are taught how to mentally organize new information so that it makes sense, which is a critical first step towards good grades. (2/6/2020)

<https://gradepowerlearning.com/locations/tutor-aurora-colorado/> (303) 928-7644



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Job Store Staffing

2101 S. Blackhawk St., Suite 190N, Aurora 80014

On March 11, 2020, Job Store Staffing staff celebrated a Chamber ribbon cutting, with enthusiasm! Attending this event were Julie DeGulier, president; Karla Donahue, VP of Operations; Barb Brinson, Aurora area manager; Sonny Snow, recruiting manager; Chris DeGraff, recruiter; Melissa Melendez, bilingual recruiter; Glenda Rasmussen, CO Springs area manager; Lynette Hardy, on-site manager; Shannon Castanon, benefits administrator; Whitley Yemm, recruiter; Jackie Chisholm, recruiting manager, and Madeline Schroeder, marketing specialist. Photo y Kelsey McCarthy, lead recruiter. Job Store Staffing connects people and builds opportunities – helping more than 85,000 candidates and 9,500 client companies. (3/11/2020) www.jobstorestaffing.com (303) 755-6449.



SCHWAN'S
HOME DELIVERY

Schwan's Home Delivery - 5805 E. 42nd Ave., Denver, CO 80216

On January 29, 2020, Schwan's Home Service celebrated their new store in Denver with a Chamber ribbon cutting. Mark White, general manager of Schwan's (with scissors), enjoyed the event accompanied by staff members, friends, family, and Chamber ambassadors. Schwan's is committed to using premium ingredients that meet the highest standards for taste and quality – delivered directly to your home. (1/29/2020) www.schwans.com (720) 941-6440

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ROW HOUSE

Row House Smokey Hill - 5616 S. Gibraltar Way, Centennial, CO 80015

On January 31, 2020, Row House celebrated the opening of their new location in Centennial with a Chamber ribbon cutting. This was a proud moment for Row House Owner John O'Roake (with scissors). Staff members, friends, family, Chamber ambassadors, and special guests attended the event, including Arapahoe County Commissioner Jeff Baker and City of Centennial Mayor Stephanie Piko. A rowing-based fitness program burns calories, improves posture, and can strengthen your whole body. (1/31/2020) www.therowhouse.com (720) 699-7788

► **More ribbon cuttings...**

A ribbon cutting was also held for **L&L Hawaiian MixPlate** at the **Walmart Supercenter**, on February 8, 2020. This event will be featured in the next issue of The Chamber's Impact newsletter.

Aurora's Creative Community is Aligning, Connecting, and Activating the Arts

By Satya Wimbish, Trash as Art



Satya Wimbish

Did you know there is budding arts district in Aurora? It was originally comprised of sixteen city blocks: west by Clinton St.; north by Aurora City Park; East by Geneva St.; and south by 14th Ave. in Ward 1 of Aurora, Colorado. Over the years activity and partnerships expanded

reaching places like as the neighboring Stanley Marketplace and the Anschutz Medical Campus.

For over a decade, artists and other creative organizations have dedicated themselves to creating art, programming art, and other opportunities that promote artistic and cultural creativity. These local artists continuously bring an exemplary array of festivals, dance performances, art shows, concerts, plays, and other artistic experiences to North Aurora.

Artists, arts organizations, and local businesses are now actively and collectively pursuing designation as a State Certified Creative District through Colorado Creative Industries (CCI). Obtaining certification requires the community coming together and developing a shared vision and plan of action to inclusively and equitably develop this North Aurora creative community. Steps to develop this plan have begun with the help of CCI and the Creativity Lab which helped launch the successful 40 West Arts District as a Certified Creative District.

Additional community and business involvement is needed to help develop a vision and continued programming that accurately reflects the community. Please take a moment to complete this survey — [this online survey](#) — so that we can continue to build and acknowledge valuable creative assets and community values.

Together, let's align, connect, and activate the arts in North Aurora.. ■



Aurora Chamber honors 20 at Women in Business Unsung Hero Luncheon

On Friday, February 7, 2020, 20 women were honored at the 20th Annual Women in Business Unsung Hero Luncheon. The annual event recognizes dynamic women in the community — who do their job and go above and beyond to make a positive difference in the community.



Terry Spencer

The Keynote Speaker was Maddie Philley, community impact director with the American Heart Association Southwest Region. As a health and wellness leader, Philley provides workplace health strategy, aids with local and organizational policy development, and fosters community engagement. She is dedicated to supporting a healthy, equitable and inclusive culture throughout communities in Colorado.



Maddie Philley

Following Philley's inspirational presentation about heart health, Women in Business Committee Chair Terry Spencer with Colin Spencer Productions and members of the WIB Executive Committee announced the nominees, finalists, and the 2020 Unsung Hero recipient. The members of the Executive Committee are Terry, Antoinette Dow with Providers Resource Clearinghouse, Jan Gordon With Special Olympics Colorado, Kristi Klienholz with Mesa Moving and Storage, Lorna Carlson with Keller Williams, Beth Klein with FirstBank, and DeeDee Poole with The Chamber. ■

Makisha Boothe, founder of Sistahbiz Global Network was named the 2020 Unsung Hero recipient at this year's Luncheon. SistahBiz Global Network is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support and success of Black women entrepreneurs, locally, nationally, and internationally, by helping them to build scalable, sellable businesses through cohort-based trainings and free, one-on-one coaching, supplemented by workshops.

To date, Boothe has worked with 400 businesses, provided 151 free coaching sessions, has positively influenced the creation of 24 new start-ups, and has graduated 30 business owners from her cohorts.

Her hard work and dedication to countless women and businesses exemplifies that one individual can help a village, making her a well-deserving recipient of the 2020 Woman Making a Difference Hero Award.

A sincere thank you to all the companies that purchased tables. Their involvement is appreciated and shows much appreciated commitment to the community and to The Chamber. ■



Makisha Boothe

The five finalists were:

Heidi Baskfield, vice president of Population Health & Advocacy,
Children's Hospital Colorado

Makisha Booth, founder/head business coach, Sistahbiz
Global Network

Laura Conti, program director,
Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado

Lacey Golonka, inclusion & diversity consultant,
Xcel Energy

Sandy Zimmerman, school/community liaison,
Mission Viejo Elementary

The 15 nominees were:

Roxie Crow, director of sales, Summit Event Center

Karlottal Davis, chairman of the board, Aurora Symphony Orchestra

Sarah Feldman, social media chair, Denver Crime Stoppers

Shaunna King, clinical manager, Falck Rocky Mountain

Rachelle Lukusa, owner, Lakusa Business Concierge Services

Denise Magdelano, general manager, Movie Tavern

Jennifer Mathes, marketing director/co-owner, The Mathes Agency, Allstate

Tamara Mohamed, lobbyist, Axiom Politics

Patti Moon, chief communications officer, Aurora Public Schools

Debra Parcheta, founder and president, Blue Marble Enterprise, Inc.

Maria Segura, president of the Women's Council, Denver Global Chamber

Cheryl Ternes, director of Human Services, Arapahoe County



Left to right, back row: Sandy Zimmerman, Lacey Golonka, Heidi Baskfield, Rachelle Lukusu, Ann Bagwell, Roxie Crowe, Debra Parcheta, Natalie Artibee, Tamara Mohamed. Left to right, front row: Karlotta Davis, Deniece Magdelano, Shaunna King, Cheryl Ternes, Makisha Boothe, Jennifer Mathes, and Laura Conti. Not pictured: Denise Cooper, Sarah Feldman, Patti Moon, Maria Segura.

(Photos courtesy of Elemintal Photography)

Corporate Sponsors:

American Heart Association

Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver Stapleton

Plante Moran

Town Center at Aurora

Visit Aurora

Table Sponsors:

American Association of University Women (AAUW); Advantage Security; Arapahoe County Government; Aurora Credit Union Alliance; Aurora Dentist Office and Orthodontics; Aurora Mental Health Center; Aurora Public Schools; Aurora Symphony Orchestra; Axiom Politics; Children's Hospital Colorado; City of Aurora - City Management; City of Aurora - Court Administration Office; Colorado Technical University; Crowne Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center; Falck Rocky Mountain; FirstBank; Lorna Carlson, Real Estate with Heart & Keller Williams; Nelnet; Westerra Credit Union; Xcel Energy

Chamber Committees

An Inside Look

ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION



Arts + Economic Development Tuesday, January 7, 2020

The first meeting with the new format for the Arts + Business Connection committee started off with a bang! The Arts + Economic Development panelists each shared a brief story about how they utilize the arts as a business tool to positively affect their bottom line and to benefit economic development.

Jennifer Buckley, director of Destination Services with Visit Aurora explained how Visit Aurora gives city tours to groups and event planners, hoteliers, and journalists from around the country, in order to highlight the community and to introduce visitors to the many attractions in Aurora. These tours are carefully plotted and are wonderfully creative so that all will be enticed to return with events and guests.

Gordon McKennon, owner of Peak To Peak Tap & Brew, dove into how the arts are involved in every aspect of his business of brewing beer: label art; the food they serve (they are the only 'Brew Pub' in Aurora, meaning they have their own kitchen to cook and serve food); events they host; and décor in both brewery locations. Even the tables are handcrafted art by McKennon.

Bryant Palmer, chief storyteller for Stanley Marketplace, explained that Stanley Marketplace was designed to be a cultural destination - and that they are constantly seeking and developing arts partnerships to meet that goal. They use these arts partnerships to drive social media hashtags and nationwide attention.

Tim Fredregill, Real Estate Developer with Milender White, shared his story of initially being forced by a City of Aurora ordinance to dedicate .5 percent of his project costs to public

art. This was a bother until Roberta Bloom (Aurora Public Arts Coordinator) took them through the process with an art consultant. Through this, Fredregill realized that the benefits of including art in the building plans are immense. It was decided to two art consultants, and they are actually spending more than required to bring three art installations to the currently named Parkside at City Center building project (Alameda & Sable).

"I don't think I'll ever design another project without including art!" said Fredregill.



It was a full house for the January Arts + Economic Development meeting. (Photos by Mark Smith, PhotoSmith Colorado)

Arts + Veterans Tuesday, February 25, 2020

The Arts + Veterans program, held at the VA Hospital Aurora, featured a panel of passionate speakers sharing how they utilize the arts to support Veterans. They each talked about the positive impact the arts have in the Veteran community and beyond. Dr. Edgar Villarreal, Suicide Prevention Program Manager, VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System, was instrumental in helping to organize the event, but was unable to attend. Khristie Barker, Public Affairs Specialist with the system, also helped in arranging the meeting at the VA Medical Center.

Barker spoke about the Veteran Art Council and shared stories about how Veterans appreciate the art in the hallway of the VA Medical Center, that resonates and relates to shared experiences.

Michael Gropper, Veteran and owner of Full Battle Rattle Deli Food Truck, shared the vision for his company: Training homeless Veterans in the



Left to right: Jennifer Buckley, Gordon McKennon, Bryant Palmer, Tim Fredregill

[continued on page 11]



Left to right, Khristie Barker, Marian Robinson, Michael Gropper, Rod Ford, Laurice Quinn.

culinary arts, so they can become employed and engage in the community. Through this training and employment, the culinary arts also provide camaraderie with a sense of purpose and hope.

Marian Robinson, board member of Task Force: ISO, shared how ISO trains Veterans to use photography for healing and connecting with others. ISO empowers Veterans by letting them see the world through a different lens, using positive imagery and the art of photography.

Rod Ford, Veteran and artist, spoke about the benefits of finding a focus, in order to help relieve Veterans from mental health struggles. His own journey involved creating robots and other sculptures, which channeled his creativity enabling him to find hope and purpose. Rod helps others find their inner artist and teaches workshops in local elementary schools.

Laurice Quinn, Veteran and performer with Phamaly Theatre Company, shared how while she was in the service, she discovered that she could sing. She spoke about how when she became disabled, she was no longer useful in the military — and how she lost her identity. Her discovery of her voice, the performing arts, and Phamaly, gave her a place to belong, an identity, and revived her sense of usefulness.

Phamaly provides a creative home for theatre artists with disabilities, to model a disability-affirmative theatrical process.

The Arts + Business Connection (ABC) committee demonstrates and promotes the value of integrating the arts as a business tool, by exploring how business and industry can — and does — benefit from the arts.

Arts + Health Thursday, March 12, 2020

The March 2020 ABC meeting was combined with the Work Well 2.0 Health Series for Arts + Health. Four inspiring presenters talked about how they use the arts as a tool for health.

Teri Karjala, founder and



Teri Karjala

executive director of Creative Counseling, and Talking With Teri, shared talked about the various art therapies she uses in her practice, that help address trauma for clients. She also reminded us that creativity is like a muscle in our brain — that needs to be exercised. The more we use it, the better we are with finding solutions. She offered a few exercises/games to encourage creativity and to facilitate “whole brain hook-up.” To learn more, go to <https://creativecounselingcenter.com/> or <https://talkingwithteri.com/>.

Damon McLeese, executive director for Access Gallery, and Amy Siegel, marketing/sales/design for Access Gallery, each shared inspiring stories about the artistic opportunities they've created for students with developmental disabilities.

Access Gallery focuses on what the students CAN do, rather than what they can't. As a result, participants develop better self-esteem and are socially uplifted as they create art and collaborate with professionals in a workplace setting.

When Amy Siegel was working at Gensler, she saw how Access Gallery programs helped with employee retention; and that employees partnering with student artists from Access Gallery found it rewarding and eye-opening. Amy has recently joined the Access Gallery staff. Both Damon and Amy have seen first-hand how the arts help increase self-worth and have found that creativity is often best expressed with collaboration.

Curtis Robbins, senior manager of Arts Integrated Resources with Kaiser Permanente, spoke about the educational theatre and experiential learning programs that are used to inspire people to make healthy choices.

“Ghosted” is a play that addressed mental health concerns for high school students. The play focuses on anxiety, depression, and suicide prevention, and is followed up with in-class workshops. RISE UP (Resilience in School Environments, Understanding and Practice), is a learning session designed to help educators foster resilience using a trauma sensitive approach to interact with students. Teaching artists with Kaiser Permanente facilitate the 2-hour sessions employing theatre, experiential learning, and arts integration techniques to engage participants in their own discovery and practical implementation.

These programs are built into Kaiser Permanente's budget and are free to schools, nonprofit organizations, and community groups in the Colorado service areas. More info at kp.org/artsintegratedresources.



Damon McLeese



Amy Siegel



Curtis Robbins

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► **WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES**



Something we all dream about - sleep!
Thursday, January 9, 2020



Matthew Pennetti

Matthew Pennetti, DC, co-owner of Prime Chiropractic, talked about the importance of sleep, and how we can get more of it. Dr. Pennetti is a neuro-structural chiropractor, focusing on identifying and correcting core problems in the spine and nervous system.

Without enough sleep, our brains, bodies, and most importantly our nervous systems do not work as well as they should. He shared that everyone should get eight hours of sleep every night, and that a lack of sleep can

reduce life expectancy, as well as increase the risk of cancer.

One suggestion he made is to “disconnect” from any screen — phone, TV, computer — at least one hour before going to bed.

**American Heart Association
Workplace Health Symposium**
Thursday, February 13, 2020

In place of the February Health Series meeting, members were invited to attend Rewriting the Script: Wellness to Wellbeing, the American Heart Association’s Feb. 13 Workplace Health Symposium. Topics included Maximize the Mental Wellbeing of



Work Well Coalition members at the February 13 American Heart Association Workplace Health Symposium.

Your Workforce; Employers Impacting Social Determinants of Health; and Supporting a Multigenerational Workforce.

Arts + Health

Thursday, March 12, 2020

The March Work Well 2.0 Health Series was a joint meeting with the Arts + Business Connection committee and was held on March 12, 2020. The subject was Arts + Health. (See Arts + Business Connection March 12 meeting for details)

Resiliency and Wellness
Thursday, April 9, 2020

Addison McGill, LSW, and Director of Business Development with The Medical Center of Aurora’s Behavioral Health and Wellness Center gave a timely, online presentation about resiliency and wellness. His focus was to improve understanding of stress relief management and/or emotional and mental health.

He described some steps that organizations are

taking to improve stress vs. wellness for employees and discussed some personal stress relief options, and the importance of resiliency.

McGill describes resiliency as the ability to recover from or adapt easily to misfortune or change. He emphasized that resiliency is an important tool for managing stress response and for having healthy coping skills.

He also talked about the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, and how the number of those adverse experiences in childhood have increasingly negative, lasting effects on health and wellbeing. These experiences include abuse, neglect, and

household challenges such as domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness, divorce, and an incarcerated parent. 67% of the population have at least one ACE, and four or more ACEs are indicators of drug abuse, smoking and lung disease, depression, liver disease, and other negative impacts, including suicide.

Wellness initiatives within organizations including education on well-being and managing stress, family-friendly benefits, and financial assistance and resources, have been shown to increase job satisfaction and organizational commitment. These initiatives also improve productivity, reduce absenteeism and health issues, and can serve as a recruitment tool.



Addison McGill, LSW

Health ONE Behavioral Health & Wellness Center
A Campus of The Medical Center of Aurora

.....
The Work Well 2.0 Health Series is sponsored by



[continued on page 13]

► TRANSPORTATION

RTD

Wednesday, January 8, 2020



RTD currently serves a 2,342-square mile service area with bus, light rail and commuter rail. The annual ridership has reached 97 million with nearly 3,000 employees.

FasTracks is approximately 70 percent complete with four remaining unfinished corridors: remainder of NW rail (B Line) to

Boulder/Longmont; the last six miles of the NM rail (N Line) to SH seven; a short extension of SW rail (C,D Lines) to Highlands Ranch; and a short extension of Central Rail (L Line to 38th and Blake.

Operator shortage, due to the low unemployment rate (at the time of this presentation), has caused service delivery issues for RTD, as well as fatigue for operators mandated to work six days/week every week.

Over the past three years RTD has made substantial recruitment and retention efforts, however because of the shortage, reductions in service are being proposed.

In order to move forward and evolve with transportation needs, population, and transit demand changes, RTD recently kicked off Reimagine RTD. The two-year open and transparent project is a comprehensive redesign of RTD's service, programs, and funding opportunities, in order to address future demands.

For more information, go to www.RTD-Denver.com/Reimagine.

City of Centennial and ROADIS

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

At the February meeting, Centennial Public Works Director Jeff Dankenbring updated the committee on transportation issues in the City of Centennial. There was also a brief presentation about ROADIS.



Jeff Dankenbring

The City of Centennial is working on a 10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that includes corridor studies, and new construction of streets and intersections, sidewalks and trails, traffic signals, and the implementation of intelligent traffic systems. The budget is estimated at \$10-\$15M, annually.

Corridor studies include Arapahoe Road (Yosemite to Buckley); Colorado Boulevard multimodal; Easter Avenue, and Smoky Hill Road.

Current CIP projects are Arapahoe Road over Big Dry Creek Bridge, Orchard Road widening and trail, Quebec Street southbound right turn lane at County Line Road, orchard Road trail, and general street rehabilitation.

Centennial's Traffic Management Center is slated to have full operation capabilities by 2021.

.....

ROADIS is a multinational operator of toll highways, that is proposing a joint operating agreement with the E-470 Public Highway Authority, of \$9 billion to the Authority and its eight owners.

Under the proposed plan, ROADIS would enter a 50-year agreement with the Authority that could retire the Authority's outstanding debt obligations. It would also provide funding to accelerate completion of the capital improvement program for the highway, offer a rewards program that could lower tolls for frequent E-470 users, and provide an additional \$4.2 billion that could be distributed to finance additional infrastructure projects in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties.

CDOT Update

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

At the March Transportation meeting, CDOT Region 1

Transportation Director

Paul Jesaitis gave an online update on CDOT projects that impact the Aurora area (Aurora, Arapahoe County, Centennial, etc.), Director of Aeronautics Division of CDOT Dave Ulane, talked about what the division is currently involved in.



Paul Jesaitis



Dave Ulane

Jesaitis explained that Region 1 covers eight counties, 60 local agencies, and serves the needs of 2.8 million people in Colorado. The Region includes 3,689 lane miles with 38 million miles daily, and their work includes pavement, striping, signage, repairs, snow removal, rockfall mitigation, trash removal, operations and capital improvement.

The ongoing challenges for CDOT are the population boom, no increase in revenue source since 1991 (gas tax), and aging infrastructure (built in the 1960s). These challenges create \$2,000 per year in time lost in traffic and poor driving conditions for commuters.

"We can't build out of congestion," said Jesaitis. "It will take investing in all modes of transportation and moving more people with fewer vehicles by providing safe and reliable transportation choices.

As the director of the Aeronautics Division of CDOT, Ulane supports its mission of supporting Colorado's multi-modal transportation system by advancing a safe, efficient, and effective

state-wide air and space system through collaboration, investment, and advocacy.

The Colorado Airport System includes 14 commercial service airports, 51 publicly owned and operated airports, eight privately-owned airports that are open to the public, one seaplane base, 25 non-NPIAS airports, and 13 mountain automated weather observing systems.

The economic impact of each airport is defined by the number of full and part-time employees, payroll, business revenues earned minus the costs of purchasing goods and services from other businesses (value added), and business revenues - also referred to as business "output" or sales.

The 2018 economic impact study of Colorado airports showed

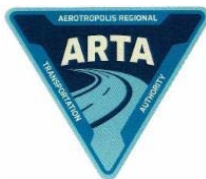
[continued on page 14]

345,881 jobs, \$16.2 billion payroll, and business revenues of \$48.6 billion. These numbers were an average of 30 percent higher than study results from 2013.

For more information, go to
<https://www.coloradoaviationsystem.com/>.

ARTA update Wednesday, April 8, 2020

The Aerotropolis Regional Transportation Authority (ARTA) encompasses roughly 3,000 acres south of Denver International Airport (DEN). The Board of Directors consists of three voting member jurisdictions: Adams County, the City of Aurora, and the Aerotropolis Area Coordinating Metropolitan District (AACMD).



The Aurora City Council, Adams County Board of County Commissioners, and the AACMD executed an intergovernmental agreement establishing that ARTA oversees the budget and phasing plans for critical regional transportation infrastructure and regional transportation improvements for better access in Aurora and Adams County.

These include additional connections from Interstate 70 to DEN, new interchanges on E-470, and extensions of several critical arteries throughout the district.

Matt Hopper, ARTA board president and Todd Johnson, ARTA project manager, provided the online update about the progress, and talked about future plans and potential timing for the project. The area regional improvements have a price tag of between \$800 million and \$1 billion and includes The Aurora Highlands property.

Hopper and Johnson indicated that COVID-19 hadn't affected progress or construction (at the time of the presentation).

► **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY**

Legislative Breakfast Monday, January 6, 2020

The Legislator's pre-session breakfast was hosted by the Community College of Aurora (CCA). CCA President Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven, welcomed and thanked The Chamber's Government Affairs Committee members for attending. Congressman Jason Crow (6th Congressional District) addressed the group, and talked about the important work ahead for the state legislators.

Senator Nancy Todd (SD 28), Senator Rhonda Williams (SD 29), Representative Daphna Michaelson Jenet (HD 30), Representative Mike Weissman (HD 36), and Representative Dominique Jackson (HD 42) discussed their priorities for the coming session.

Attendees also heard from Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman and Centennial Mayor Stephanie Piko.



Congressman Jason Crow spoke to members of The Chamber's Government Affairs Committee at the Legislators Breakfast.

Public Issues/Government Affairs Thursday, January 17, 2020

Scott Siegfried, PhD, Superintendent Cherry Creek School District (CCSD) and Michael Beasley with 5280 Strategies, presented concerns about the proposed school financing legislation and how it could severely impact CCSD.



Dedicated to Excellence
 Cherry Creek Schools



Riley Kitts, Colorado Children's Campaign (CCC), discussed why his organization is in favor of the proposed legislation.

Committee members also received updates from Eastern Metro Legislators and Elected Officials.

Public Issues/Government Affairs Thursday, February 6, 2020

Monica Colbert, Partnership for Accountability and Transparency in Healthcare (PATH), discussed Colorado's proposed government sponsored public option and why PATH, the business community and hospitals believe it will be detrimental to the State's healthcare system and the economy.

Dr. Scott Siegfried, Superintendent of the Cherry Creek School District (CCSD), attended The Chamber's Public Issues meeting again in February 2020, to share the district's strategic plan including innovation and workforce preparation, and the next steps for the district. Dr. Siegfried also mentioned CCSD's central mission "to inspire every student to think, to learn, to achieve, to care."

The district serves more than 55,000 students and more than 300,000 residents in eight municipalities.



Scott, Siegfried, PhD

The March 5 Public Issues meeting was cancelled, as a mid-term Legislative Breakfast was scheduled for April 6 at The Medical Center of Aurora — which was cancelled due to COVID-19.

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



[continued on page 19]

► DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

Planning meeting

Friday, January 10, 2020

In January, the Diversity and Inclusion Council met to discuss the Council's interests, focus and schedule for 2020.

Understanding Cultural Appropriation in the Workplace

Friday, February 14, 2020



Quill Phillips

Ever wonder if adopting someone else's culture is offensive? Have you been challenged when someone brought the offense to your attention? In this workshop, Equity Officer Quill Phillips, and Inclusive Excellence Training Coordinator Mike Roderique, discussed learning opportunities surrounding the topic of cultural appropriation in the workplace. The workshop engaged participants in an understanding of the topic as well as provided strategies to navigate those

potentially difficult situations when addressing colleagues who may be involved in cultural appropriation.

Cultural appropriation has been defined as "The taking from a culture that is not one's own- of intellectual property, cultural expressions or artifacts, history and ways of knowledge." (Ziff & Rao, 1997); "Any instance, which means commonly associated with and/or perceived as belonging to another, are used to further one's own ends." (Shugart, 1997); and aspects of marginalized/colonized cultures that are taken and used by a dominant/colonizing culture in such a way to serve the interests of the dominant.

Throughout this discussion, we explored the concept of cultural appropriation, identified the difference between cultural appropriation and appreciation, reviewed the impact of cultural appropriation on employees in the workplace, and identified strategies to avoid cultural appropriation.

There were no Diversity and Inclusion Council meetings in March or April of 2020.

The Diversity and Inclusion Council is sponsored by



Mike Roderique

PINNACOL
WORKERS' COMP INSURANCE

► WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Michelle Anne, The Master's Course School of Business

Tuesday, January 28, 2020



Michelle Shakti Anne

Michelle Shakti Anne, is a guru, coach, and speaker in the art of relationships, leadership, and human transformation. She has 30 years of corporate experience, training in the neurosciences from Harvard University, studied with an internationally revered yogi, and is a published author.

Anne presenting to the Women in Business Council to discuss Stress Mastery for Increased Capacity & Resilience, which offered attendees evidence-based tools to rewire their relationship with stress — at every level. Did you know that by properly attending to

stress, you will increase resilience, increase self and social awareness, intuition, agility, and positivity? Stress mastery can also lead to increased influence and achievement.

Attendees learned about how to understand the physiological and biological impacts of stress, and how stress affects communication, trust, productivity, engagement, loyalty, sales, and relationships. They also heard about how mindfulness tools can increase awareness.

The Women in Business Unsung Hero Luncheon was held on February 7, 2020, so there was no WIB meeting on Tuesday, February 25. (See pages 6-7).

The Tuesday, March 24, 2020 joint WIB, D&I, and YP speed networking meeting was cancelled, and there was no WIB meeting in March.

The Women in Business committee is to serve as a voice for all women in business, acting as an advocate on issues that affect their professional growth and long-term economic vitality.

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► YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Health Screening by Anytime Fitness Monday, January 27, 2020

At the beginning of 2020, the Young Professionals explored some technology advancements and workouts in the fitness industry. Hosted by the new Anytime Fitness on Parker and Chamber, the YP group explored full body health scans, group workouts, and state-of-the-art fitness machines.

Attendees began the session with a medical body

screening, identifying strengths and weaknesses - which helps to establish a personalized workout plan. The group also participated in a team workout, providing insight into some of the ways that organizations can get involved with fitness and with their employees.

There were no Young Professional meetings in February, March, or April of 2020.

The Chamber Young Professionals is a program designed for emerging leaders, ages 21-40. It is the go-to-organization for young professionals looking to engage in the Eastern Metro Business community — wanting to learn about issues, interact with regional leaders, and give back to the community. This dynamic group of future leaders is open to all young business professionals, cultural, entrepreneurial, politically interested people.

The January 2020 Defense Council was cancelled for State of the Base, held on January 22, 2020.

Buckley Air Force Base Installation Commander Reports on “State of the Base” Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Colonel Devin Pepper, Commander of the 460th Space Wing & Buckley AFB Installation Commander addressed more than 260 military and community leaders at the annual State of the Base at the Radisson Hotel, Denver-Aurora on January 22, 2020.

Col. Pepper highlighted the men and women of the 460th Space Wing, and the five major base partners representing “Team Buckley” that play such an important role in the our nation’s defense: Aerospace Data Facility Colorado; 140th Wing (Air National Guard); Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center; Naval Operational Support Center; and the Army Aviation Support Facility.

He also announced that in 2019, Buckley’s fiscal impact on the local economy was almost \$2.3 billion. Additionally, Team Buckley helped create more than 5,500 jobs in the community, worth an estimated salary value of over \$329M. Col. Pepper also discussed the newly created Space Force and the stand-up of U.S. Space Command, and how the 460th Space Wing will align within the new structure.

He praised the special relationship the base shares with the community by saying “ It remains and will always be our priority to make Buckley a great place to live and to work, not

► DEFENSE COUNCIL



Prior to his State of the Base address, Colonel Devin Pepper meets with Defense Council Chair Stephen Gourley. Also shown are Colonel Shannon Phares, 460th Medical Group Commander (center) and Colonel Kelli Smiley, Commander, Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center (right). (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sergeant Jazmin Smith)

only for our service members, but also for the members of this community.”

The annual luncheon was organized jointly by the Aurora Chamber Defense Council and the Rotary Club of Aurora. Table sponsors were Aurora Police Department, City of Aurora, Colorado Technical University, FirstBank, Leidos, Visit Aurora, and the Rotary Club of Aurora.

The February, March, and April 2020 Defense Council meetings were cancelled.

Member Renewals

225 Self Storage
Act IV
Action Appliance Inc.
Adams 14 Education Foundation
Adams County Board of Commissioners
Adolfson & Peterson Construction
Advanced Circuits, Inc.
Advanced Traffic Services LLC
Allstate - Gabriel Torres-Duvic
Alpine CARSTAR Auto Body
Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter
American Automation Building Solutions, Inc.
American Portfolios
American Sentinel University
Anadarko Petroleum Corp
Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners
Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council
Arapahoe County Security Center, Inc.
Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center
Aurora Federal Credit Union
Aurora Gateway Rotary Club
Aurora Public Schools
Aurora Singers
Avitus Group
Beck, Payne, Frank & Piper, P.C.
Bella Vita Senior Living
Bellco Credit Union - Aurora City Place
Bo Kusick
Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado
Bradley M. Pierce Legal Services, Inc.
Cambria Hotel Denver International Airport
Centennial Airport/A.C. Public Airport Authority
Center for Work Education and Employment
CenturyLink
CHFA - Colorado Housing and Finance Authority
Cold Stone Creamery
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage - Laura Noe
Colin Spencer Productions, LLC
CollegeAmerica
Colorado Academy of Family Physicians
Colorado Access
CommonGround Golf Course
Community College of Aurora - Bookstore
Community College of Aurora Foundation
Community Living Alternatives, Inc.
Cops Fighting Cancer
Country Financial
Craig Wagner Trial Law
Denver Business Journal
Denver International Airport- DEN
DoubleTree by Hilton Denver-Aurora
DoubleTree by Hilton Denver-Stapleton North
Drury Inn & Suites Hotel - Stapleton
Education Foundation for the Colorado National Guard
Edward Jones - Victoria Wildhaber
Edward Jones Investments- Ev Sequeira
Embassy Suites Hotel Denver Stapleton
Employers Council
Enernet Design
Euflora
Fairfield Inn & Suites - Denver Aurora/ Medical Center
Fairfield Inn & Suites - Denver Tech Center
Fairmount Funeral Home & Cemetery

Falck Rocky Mountain
Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
Finish Line Car Wash
First Command Financial Planning
FirstBank - Aurora, Havana
Fitzmartin Consulting
Forum Fitzsimons Apartments
Freund & Company
Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center
GEO Secure Services
Gilmore Construction
GOAL Academy High School
GOGO Charters Denver
Good Chemistry
Great Western Printing, Inc.
Harvard Square Retirement Community
Heather Gardens
Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club
Hyatt House Denver Airport
Iron Mike Construction LLC
Karnopp, Martha
Ken's Auto Service, Inc.
KeyBank - S. Buckley Rd.
King Soopers - Corporate Office
LeaderQuest
Legends of Aurora Sports Grill
Len Lyall Chevrolet, Inc.
M & M Auto Reconditioning, Inc.
Majestic Realty Co.
Merrick & Company
Mesa Moving and Storage
Metro Transportation Planning & Solutions
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Michael Baker Corporation
National Technology Transfer Inc.
Navy Federal Credit Union
New-Ride Enterprises
Northrop Grumman
Parker Adventist Hospital
Parkside Animal Health Center
Pickens Technical College

Pinnacle Assurance
Pradia Collaborative Solutions
RE/MAX Unlimited - David J. Barber
Ready to Work Aurora
Red Lion Inn & Suites Denver Airport
Regis University
Renaissance Denver Hotel
Republic Services
Residence Inn - Denver Airport
RTL Networks, Inc.
Salud Family Health Center
Sessions Group - Real Estate Services
Sheraton Denver Tech Center #3895
Shipley Do-Nuts
SKM Resources
Smile Generation
Sooper Credit Union
South Metro Fire Rescue
Southlands
Springhill Suites Denver at Anschutz Medical Campus
Spydersec
Stratus Building Solutions
STRIDE Community Health Center
Sunny Homes and Assoc. Inc.
Terrapin Care Station
The Aurora Highlands
The Center on Colfax
The Green Solution
The Salvation Army
The Weitz Company
Todd, Nancy - State Senate
Travel N Relax Inc.
UCHealth
UCHealth ER - Tallyn's Reach Medical Center
US Storage, Inc.
Visit Aurora
Wagner Equipment Co.
Walker-Dilworth LLC
WSP USA Inc.
Xcel Energy

New Members

2WR of Colorado
AECOM
Amy Z Zukowski - Home Smart Cherry Creek
Autistic Minds, Inc.
Budget Blinds of East Aurora
Buff City Soap
Cadence Academy
Counter Terrorism Education Learning Lab
Ebert's Terrace
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