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THE CHAMBER Impact

NOV/DEC 2021

Facing Challenges and Opportunities

Fall is in the air and the holidays are right around the corner. With that comes thoughts of family, gratitude, and thankfulness — with an eye towards the new year along with reflections of the past year. Like many of you, I thought 2021 was going to be a fresh start with the problems and challenges of 2020 in the rearview mirror. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

2021 was at best a “mixed bag.” We saw the release of COVID vaccines, a welcome reduction in COVID cases, a robust housing market, a growing economy, the COVID Delta Variant, and a string of other welcome and not so welcome events. It’s



Chad Nielsen
Chamber Board Chair
Wagner Equipment

a healthy reminder that life, as in business, is full of varied challenges and opportunities. The Chamber staff and Aurora community leaders work together to identify challenges and opportunities, as well as to find ways to tackle challenges and leverage opportunities.

Consider the Chamber’s “Community First, Business Always” motto; then take for example the Arts + Business Connection (ABC) committee and their July 2021 meeting at the 7/20 Memorial with guest speakers Heather Dearman, executive director of the 7/20 Memorial Foundation, Andrew Duvall, community and sales manager

with Resolute Brewing, Lisa Battan, victims advocate with the Aurora Police Department, and Roberta Bloom, Public Art Coordinator with the City of Aurora. The meeting highlighted how the arts have been integrated into the powerful Memorial, and how that has provided moments of healing for the community. This is just one example of how The Chamber is committed to the Community.

The motto of “Community First” stems from these types of relationships, meetings, phone calls, physical engagement, and shared vision. ***These relationships in turn drive business/organizational growth for all involved.***

The Chamber’s motto proves itself each

[continued on page 3]

Champions of the Community



Honoring Our Community Champions – “We’re All In This Together!”

On Friday, October 15, 2021, The Chamber held a special celebration luncheon, “Honoring Our Community Champions,” at the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton Hotel. Executive Director of the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation was the Master of Ceremonies, and CEO of Aurora Mental Health Center Kelly Phillips-Henry, PsyD, MBA, the keynote speaker at the event.

The event acknowledged men, women, and businesses in the community that demonstrated the finest qualities and highest standards of professionalism and excellence and played a role in assisting our community throughout the pandemic by going above and beyond with innovation, kindness, creativity, resilience, and community spirit.

[see page 8]

To see upcoming Chamber meetings
as well as Chamber member events –
go to the calendar!

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ChamberCommittees

An Inside Look

ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION

Arts + Economic Development

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

By Reneé Leon, Arts + Business Connection Chair



Milender White
Development
Executive
Tim Fredregill



John Grant with
Public Art Services

On a crisp September Tuesday morning, Tim Fredregill, development executive with Milender White Construction, gave ABC members a tour of the stunning art adorning the new Parkside Collective apartments and business spaces on the northeast corner of Alameda Ave. and Sable Blvd. As a special bonus, the incredible Colorado-based artist, Detour (Thomas Evans), along with John Grant with Public Art Services, talked about their involvement in the project.

As the group toured, Fredregill offered the inside scoop on the process that he and the Milender White



ABC meeting attendees in front of the art at the entrance to the Parkside Collective

team underwent to make it all happen, while City of Aurora Public Art Coordinator Roberta Bloom, Grant, and Detour shared more stories and facts about the art selection and installation/execution.

On the south interior wall of the apartment complex

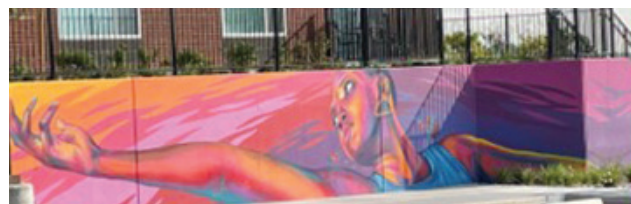
courtyard, attendees got to see the colorful "acid drip" graphic, which is not visible from the parking lot. There is also geometric art in the apartment entryway - similar to the logo for the development, mirrored tiles art on the entryway to the apartments, and an interactive light pond gathering area next to the Parkside Eatery. Fredregill stated that his company will always include art in their future projects.

Detour shared about his collaboration with Patrick Kane McGregor on the bulldog mural on the south wall of the Eatery, and then talked about how he intentionally created the largest mural (on the long southern retaining wall) to create movement and draw the viewers eye along the wall and into the complex. Many



Colorado-based
Artist, Detour

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Mural at Parkside @ City Center of Aurora's former Poet Laureate Assetou Xango

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

THE CHAMBER'S MISSION



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

of the attendees recognized his subject as Aurora's former Poet Laureate, Assetou Xango.

Arts + Creative Hiring

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

By Reneé Leon, Arts + Business Connection Chair

On October 5, 2021, ABC committee members took a field trip to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, where attendees were inspired by how the museum has creatively altered their hiring and employee retention practices.

DMNS Manager of Experiences and Partnerships Justine Zollo, began by saying that when she started seven years ago, the educator performer (EP) team had a turnover rate of 55 percent. She knew that

these employees serve as the "front line" face, engaging with guests, and that kind of turnover rate was a costly challenge for



DMNS Manager of Experiences and Partnerships
Justine Zollo

the Museum. Zollo talked about how she followed her gut – as well as her years of experience working in the cultural arts — and set about reimagining the entire experience, from hiring and training to compensation and professional development.

How was this done? Zollo began with internal investment in the team. Their morning meetings up to this point had been about schedules and logistics, run by supervisors. Zollo championed the idea that the meetings should be run by team members and should also include time and space for social connections to strengthen morale and teamwork. Next, they built an EP Brain Trust, by gathering ideas from within the team, including tips, tricks, and examples of how to achieve the "catalyst

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CHAIR LETTER (CONT'D)

month in the pages of "The Chamber Impact" newsletter. Do you want to generate more revenue in your business? Pursue community involvement, deepen your community relationships — and increased business is sure to follow. Need help getting started, finding time, and balancing out how you use your precious

time? Please look at the accompanying graphic (below), which illustrates a self-development exercise called Your Wellness Wheel (J. Flowers Health Institute). I learned of this exercise from Kelly Phillips-Henry, PsyD, MBA, CEO of Aurora Mental Health Center. Challenge yourself and take stock of how you are

using your time and what areas of your life are out of balance.

Finally, for those of you who don't know; this newsletter is masterfully assembled by the incomparable Mitzi Schindler. Thanks, Mitzi, for the consistent delivery of this great publication. ■

YOUR WELLNESS WHEEL

Score your current level of happiness in each of the sections on this wheel. The scale is 1-5. 1 is your lowest level of happiness and 5 is your highest level of happiness. You can either fill the corresponding section in or you can write some reasons for your score in that section — either way works. Then you can draw lines connecting each section like the example provided by the dotted lines. This is your wheel and it can show you quickly what is working and what still needs improvement. Good luck on your wellness journey.

Key

1. I am very unhappy with this part of my life.
2. I am unhappy with this part of my life, but I haven't hit rock-bottom.
3. This part of my life is pretty good but could still use some improvement.
4. I am content with this part of my life, but I can see a few tweaks that would make it even better.
5. I am completely happy and fulfilled in this part of my life — there is no room for improvement.



J. FLOWERS
HEALTH INSTITUTE

Occupational Wellness
Personal satisfaction and enrichment derived from one's work

Financial Wellness
Satisfaction with current and future financial situations

Social Wellness

Developing a sense of connection, belonging, and a well-developed support system

Emotional Wellness

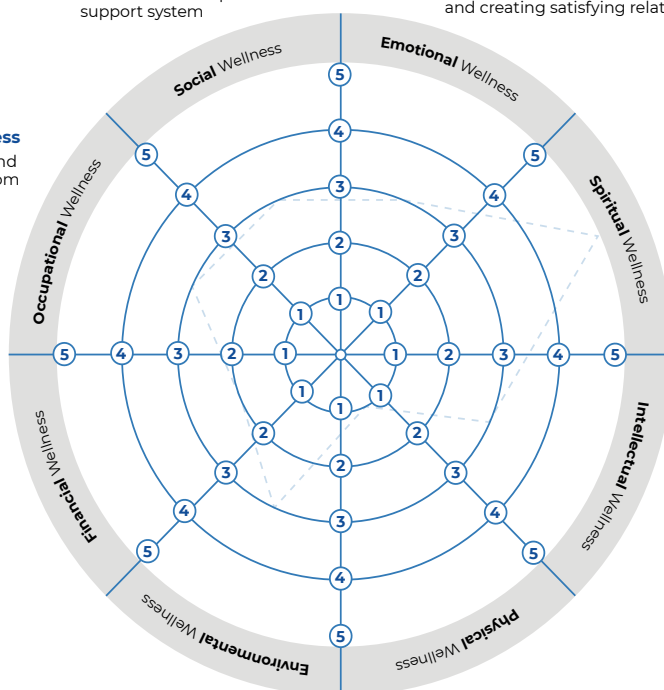
Coping effectively with life and creating satisfying relationships

Spiritual Wellness

Expanding our sense of purpose and meaning in life

Intellectual Wellness

Recognizing creative abilities and finding ways to expand knowledge and skills



Environmental Wellness

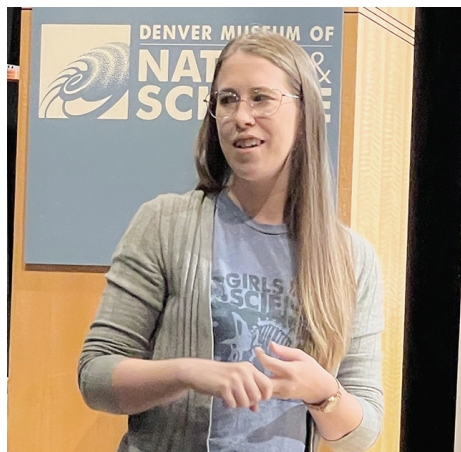
Good health by occupying pleasant, stimulating environments that support well-being

Physical Wellness

Recognizing the need for physical activity, diet, sleep, and nutrition

moment” of igniting the guest’s passion and/or understanding of nature and science. They also organized the EP Summit, a professional development conference during which EPs learn skills from their peers. The summit successfully increased skills, helped discover valuable resources within the team, and built more connection amongst the team.

Zollo remarked that, “I can’t teach someone to be interesting, curious, and self-reflective,” and that throughout employee auditions, she’s looking for people who are curious and can problem solve. Knowledge of science is important but being able to engage a guest and get them excited and curious about the science is more important for an EP. That’s why she says that she doesn’t restrict the hiring pool. She seeks talent and life experience, not necessarily degrees.



DMNS Specialist of Program Operations Sierra Berry

Specialist of Program Operations Sierra Berry described the DMNS collaborative, five-step hiring process:

- 1 Clear and engaging job posts
- 2 Application to include cover letter, essay questions, and resume
- 3 Phone screening to check language skills and ensure applicant understands the true scope of the job
- 4 Audition, which is a 3-4-hour fun, group experience designed to share how the team works together and to give the applicants a chance to reveal their talents while participating in games/challenges.
- 5 One-on one-interviews



DMNS Educator Performer Jose Zuniga in an educational video called “Science Smash with Jose”

Educator Performer Jose Zuniga talked about how the performer/educators’ daily goal is to make the Mission of “Be a Catalyst” a “moment” for guests; creating a sense of wonder, curiosity, or to spark understanding for them. He shared stories about the various challenges that come up while interacting with guests and how the team trains to handle these moments while still honoring the mission, vision, and core values of the Museum.

Zollo’s hiring advice? 1) think carefully about what you need and value, and 2) find employees who will live your mission.

To see the EPs in action, check out their [videos](#).

TRANSPORTATION

Emerging Traffic Trends

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair

The September 2021 Transportation meeting welcomed three presenters to talk about emerging traffic trends in the Metro Area — as drivers have adjusted their driving behaviors during the pandemic.



CDOT State Traffic Engineer San Lee

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) State Traffic Engineer San Lee presented information about statewide traffic volumes, as well as volumes on major highways in the Aurora area. Lee shared the data, showing that traffic on interstates dropped as much as 50 percent in the spring of

2020 but have now returned to pre-pandemic levels; that recreational traffic in the I-70 mountain corridor remained relatively stable after the initial drop during the lockdown period and is now exceeding pre-pandemic levels; and that traffic levels on major highways in Aurora (I-225, SH 83, I-70) are still slightly lower than pre-pandemic levels and are significantly lower in the middle of the day.

CDOT Director of the High-Performance Transportation Enterprise Nick Farber, talked about express lane traffic trends, which dropped almost 70 percent on I-25 during the initial stages of the pandemic, but are now exceeding pre-pandemic levels. He went on to say that the eastbound mountain express lane on I-70 near Idaho Springs is now experiencing record high volumes and the volume in the C-470 express lanes is on an upward trend, reaching a peak in the last week of August.

E-470 Public Highway Authority Executive Director Tim Stewart covered traffic trends and the financial health of E-470. He stated that traffic volumes are now 22 percent

above 2020 levels, but still 20 percent below 2019 levels. Projections are that volumes will return to 2019 levels in 2023. The drop in traffic volumes on E-470 was more significant north of, rather than south of I-70, showing the impacts of operations at Denver International Airport on traffic volumes. E-470 is currently in design development for widening from I-70 to 104th Ave., with construction anticipated from 2022-2024. Work is also moving forward on redevelopment of four of the toll plazas, which are scheduled to open at the end of 2023.



E-470 Public Highway Authority Executive Director Tim Stewart

CDOT Projects and Federal Funding

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair

At the October 2021 Transportation meeting, three executives from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) provided updates on recent and potential legislation affecting CDOT’s funding or programs, as well as information about current and upcoming projects.

CDOT Chief Finance Officer Jeff Sudmeier addressed the federal legislation being debated in Congress at the time of the presentation. If passed, it’s estimated that it will provide an additional \$190 million per year for highways along with smaller funding increases for transit and electric vehicle services.

Sudmeier and Director of Transportation Development Rebecca White jointly discussed legislation (SB21-260) passed last session by the Colorado legislature that aims to raise \$5.4 billion over 10 years for transportation through General Fund transfers and new fees. The law also directs changes to the project planning process to comply with new standards for reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; create or modify state enterprises within CDOT; and establish new branches within the CDOT organization. CDOT is in the process of developing GHG rules through extensive



CDOT Chief Finance Officer Jeff Sudmeier



CDOT Director of Transportation Development Rebecca White



CDOT Director of the High-Performance Transportation Enterprise Nick Farber



CDOT Region 1 Director Paul Jesaitis

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public engagement, which will result in updating the 10-Year Plan of future projects to comply with those rules.

CDOT Region 1 Director Paul Jesaitis explained the boundaries and responsibilities of the Region and current challenges impacting the Region, including that traffic volumes continue increasing and capacity expansion has been very limited over the past two decades; the aging infrastructure can cause emergency repairs and highway closures; the cost and hazards related to clean-up of homeless encampments; and the increasing number traffic fatalities in the metro Denver area.

Major project updates included the good news that the Central 70 project will be in its' final configuration in 2022; I-25 improvements between Castle Rock and Colorado Springs will finish in 2022; and final design and construction of modifications to I-270 could begin in 2023, subject to funding decisions. Closer to home, CDOT is replacing damaged concrete on Parker Road between Arapahoe Road and E-470 and repaving Colfax Avenue between Peoria and Sable.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY

Economic Analysis of Homelessness

Thursday, September 2, 2021

The September 2021 Government Affairs meeting featured Brenda Dickhoner, PhD, from the Common Sense Institute. Dr. Dickhoner discussed the Economic Footprint of Homelessness in Colorado. The Common Sense Institute and Colorado University's Inworks Innovation Initiative partnered to conduct an economic analysis of Homelessness in the Denver Metro area. The analysis includes a 3 phased approach.

Phase 1 is an economic analysis which included a compilation of current resources dedicated to the homelessness ecosystem. The point in time count took place in 2020. The data showed approximately 48 percent of people experiencing homelessness stayed in emergency shelters while 28 percent were in traditional housing and 26 percent were unsheltered. There are over 47 charitable, non-profits providing shelter and services to individuals experiencing homelessness resulting in \$481.2M spent annually on shelters, services and healthcare in the Metro Denver region with \$434.6M of that total amount being spent within the city and county of Denver.

Phase 2 will identify factors within the ecosystem that have an outsized impact and will provide insights into where additional interventions and investments might address the root causes of persistent problems and



Brenda Dickhoner, PhD, with the Common Sense Institute

accelerate the positive dynamics within the system. The goal of the forthcoming research will be to identify key areas for further investment that can maximize total impact and contribute to the resolution of homelessness in the Metro Denver area.

The final phase will include the creation of a dynamic online dashboard that provides data and projections regarding the current and future state of homelessness.

AuMHC's Safety Net Campus and Crown Castle's Infrastructure for Communications

Thursday, October 7, 2021

October's meeting featured presentations by Kelly Phillips-Henry, PsyD, MBA, the CEO of Aurora Mental Health Center (AuMHC); and Crown Castle West Regional Manager/Public Affairs Mark Guillen, and Government Affairs Manager Scott Harry.

Dr. Phillips-Henry discussed the AuMHC Safety Net Campus & Acute Care Facility Plan. Safety net services provide critical care to



individuals with the most severe illnesses.

The dramatic increases in substance abuse, homelessness, and suicides, especially with youth makes it imperative to act now, stated Dr. Phillips-Henry. AuMHC is proposing a three phased approach to try to tackle the problem.

Phase 1 would include a new facility to bring together acute care services. Phase 2 includes partnering with STRIDE Community Health Center to have primary care safety net services on campus. Phase 3 will explore the potential for affordable multi-family housing. AuMHC is working with Arapahoe and Adams County, the City of Aurora, Congressional Community Funding, and others for funding. The Aurora Housing Authority is another potential campus partner.

Guillen and Harry discussed Crown Castle's role of connecting people, businesses, and communities.

Crown Castle owns and operates the nation's most comprehensive portfolio of communications and infrastructure. The infrastructure includes approximately 80,000 small cells and more than 40,000 low-powered antennas that are key to 5G networks and smart city technologies. Their fiber network provides a high-bandwidth backbone for a wireless infrastructure that delivers high speed data. Crown Castle is working with the City of Aurora to fortify existing networks and to integrate small cells into public space in a variety of ways.



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



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

D&I Video Resources

September 2021

Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation Vice President of Communications and Engagement Jocelyn Cohen was interviewed for the September D&I Video Resources by Dennis Stretar of Our Community Broadcasting Network. Cohen talks about the organization and its research. The video can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/5994883>



Jocelyn Cohen

Educational Equity: Creating a Colorado for All

Friday, October 8, 2021



CDHE Chief Educational Equity Officer Roberto Montoya, PhD



"Creating a Colorado for All" means that we acknowledge that our State must have an intentional and specific focus on race and ethnicity to erase educational equity gaps. This is an historic time in America, one in which

the choices we make set the stage for how Colorado will look in the coming years, and how far we go in the fight for equity.

On October 8, 2021, The Colorado Department of Higher Education's (CDHE) Chief Educational Equity Officer Roberto Montoya, PhD, provided the Diversity & Inclusion Council an overview of the Office of Educational Equity (OEE), an introduction to the Equity Champions Coalition (ECC), and potential action for partners. He outlined recommendations for a better future by building on our accomplishments and redirecting efforts to make the necessary change to better support students.

According to Dr. Montoya, "We must live and breathe equity, infusing it in all of our work. If we fail, others will perceive us as neutral on the topic, and follow suit. Success allows us to build coalitions and collaborative networks on campuses to better support students of color and eliminate gaps in who enrolls, persists, and completes higher education and who does not."

Dr. Montoya brings more than 20 years of corporate, governmental, and higher education experience to the CDHE. Before joining the CDHE leadership team, he worked for Government Alliance on Race and Equity at

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Race Forward, partnering with state and local government to implement policies, practices, and procedures that focus on racial equity.

*The Diversity and Inclusion Council
is sponsored by*



WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Woman's Health Day

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

On a beautiful day in late September, The Aurora Chamber Women in Business Committee hosted a Women's Health Day at Ebert's Terrace, located at The Green Valley Ranch Golf Club.

It was an opportunity for attendees to be outside and to participate in activities including some light yoga led by Karen Ehrhard from The City of Aurora. The fresh air and mountain views were a great combination for the successful yoga session.



After yoga, a delicious, healthy lunch was provided by Kelly Tuley and the staff at Ebert's Terrace. During lunch, Susan Howk, a registered dietician with Tri-County Health Department, offered some useful nutritional tips, including practical ideas on how to make healthy meals and snacks fit into a busy lifestyle. She discussed meal planning, how to read the nutrition food label, grocery shopping tips, how to find hidden sugar in snacks and beverages, and how to make healthy food choices for mind and body.

After all that, there was a wine tasting provided by Breakthru Beverage, during which participants sampled and learned about some wines from Italy. Attendees also received door prizes provided by Ebert's Terrace, Green Valley Ranch Golf Course, and



TCHD Registered Dietician Susan Howk



Breakthru Beverage.

It was an uplifting event, complete with networking, food, laughing, relaxing, tasting wine, and getting some great health tips!

Special Olympics Colorado

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

In October, the Women in Business Committee hosted a presentation by Hanna Joy Atkinson and Stephanie Levine of Special Olympics Colorado.

Atkinson is the Unified Leadership Fellow & Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM) of Special Olympics Colorado. As one of 10 athletes across the globe, she is responsible for public speaking, writing monthly blogs, and overall spreading the message of inclusion. She also became a Denver 7 contributor in 2015. Stephanie Levine has served as the athlete leadership and family services manager of Special Olympics Colorado since August of 2019.

Throughout the presentation, Atkinson & Levine talked about how to take a more unified approach in the workplace, and life in general.

Atkinson & Levine discussed basic information about what the Special Olympics of Colorado does, what an intellectual disability is, and what the Unified Leadership approach is and how to use it. They provided resources to help people be more comfortable around people with disabilities and provided suggestions on how to be a better advocate for and alongside people with disabilities.

For more information about Special Olympics, go to <https://specialolympicsco.org/>



Special Olympics Unified Leadership Fellow & Sargent SSIGM Hanna Joy Atkinson



Special Olympics Athlete Leadership and Family Services Manager Stephanie Levine

WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

Back to Basics: Healthy Living and Equity During COVID and Beyond

Thursday, September 9, 2021

By Patti Corcoran, TCHD Workplace Policy Specialist

September of 2021 seemed like a good time for the Work Well 2.0 Health Series to provide helpful information about how to

make good nutrition and physical activity a priority for everyone, and to offer resources for those experiencing food insecurity.

Tessa Cushman, RDN, diabetes educator with Tri-County Health Department talked about how the free TCHD Diabetes Prevention Program "Journey to Wellness" — an evidence-based, cost-effective healthy lifestyle change program — offers goal-oriented, group support over the course of a

year. Cushman emphasized that lifestyle changes taught in the program, including nutrition, weight loss, physical activity, stress management, getting better sleep, coping with triggers, and staying motivated, can not only prevent the onset of diabetes, but can improve overall health and lower the risk of other chronic diseases and conditions. She also discussed the importance of instituting written guidelines for healthy food and beverages to sustain the wellness efforts that organizations have put so much time and effort into over the years.

A representative from Maiker Housing Partners shared some of the fun and engaging nutrition challenges used in their organization to encourage healthy eating. These included employees sending photos of their healthy plate, which is divided appropriately with fruits, vegetables, grains, proteins and a side of dairy, for the MyPlate Healthy Eating Challenge; and the Shake your Shakes recipe contest — both of which offered cash incentives for participants.

While these programs and challenges can lead to a healthier life, there are many people who don't have the resources, time, or employment to access proper nutrition.

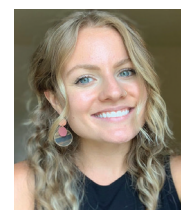


Hunger Free Colorado Director of Communications Ellie Agar

Ellie Agar, director of communications for Hunger Free Colorado, shared that food insecurity increased from 10-33 percent between 2019 and 2021 because of the Pandemic. Food insecurity is described as "limited or uncertain access to adequate nutritious food over the last three months." There

are also the more severe categories of very low food security, and acute food scarcity, which is not having enough to eat in the last 7 days.

Agar said that there are continuing threats to food security, including the unstable labor market, on-going health risk of the pandemic, rising food prices — especially for fresh produce and meat, and the likely end of additional food benefits by the end of the year. For food resource information, contact the statewide and toll-free Food Resource Hotline: 855-855-4626.



TCHD Diabetes Educator Tessa Cushman, RDN

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Addressing Informal Caregiver Stress

Thursday, October 14, 2021

By Patti Corcoran, TCHD Workplace Policy Specialist

Informal caregiving is described as the unpaid work of taking care of loved ones outside of one's employment. This can include taking care of aging parents, or relatives/friends with dementia or special needs. For these caregivers, there is little respite from the demands involved, and understandably this can negatively affect work performance as well as opportunities. Over one-third of informal caregivers end up leaving their paying jobs altogether due to conflicting job requirements and/or inflexible work conditions.



Alzheimer's Association
Director of Diversity
& Inclusion Rosalyn Reese

Alzheimer's Association Director of Diversity and Inclusion Rosalyn Reese, and Aurora Mental Health Center Counselor Brian Tallant, LPC, NADD-CC, each provided insight and realistic resources and support suggestions to help employers recognize and help with the needs of these informal employee caregivers.

Reese oversees D&I strategies statewide and regionally, while engaging community partners in shared missions. The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

Tallant has worked in mental health administration for over 24 years. He is a member of the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress Trauma & IDD Expert Panel and serves on the Board of Directors for NADD. He conducts workshops nationally and internationally on adapted mental health treatments and caregiver resilience.

The Work Well 2.0 Health Series is sponsored by:



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Tour and Tasting at Branch and Barrel Distillery

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

In September, the Aurora Young Professionals enjoyed touring and networking at the Branch and Barrel Distillery in Centennial, CO. The distillery works with

local companies to source their materials and ingredients. Their barley is used for the whiskey and then they send it off to a farm in northern Colorado to feed livestock. Attendees learned about industries working together like this – and got to taste the whiskey! After the tour of the facilities, the group networked and exchanged business connections.



YPs at Branch and Barrel Distillery

Networking Event at Spice Trade Brewing

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

For their October 2021 meeting, the Aurora Young Professionals attended a networking event in the Denver Tech Center, at Spice Trade Brewing. Since the closing of the DTC Chamber, the Aurora Chamber is offering membership to those businesses that were members of the DTC Chamber. The Chamber also welcomes all businesses in DTC to explore the benefits of being a member.

DEFENSE COUNCIL

Defense Council, Sept 23, 2021

At the September 2021 Defense Council meeting, hosted by Colorado Technical University (CTU), CTU Vice President of Community Relations Beth Braatan provided an update about the University, including that CTU has more than 600 students at their Aurora Campus and more than 24,000 students online. She shared that 28 percent of the student population are service members/families and fifty-seven percent have a military affiliation. CTU provides military education benefit specialists, dedicated admission advisors and student success coaches to military/veterans and their family members, and CTU's Patriot Scholarship Program awards 50 scholarships annually to wounded service members, spouses, caregivers and college ready dependent children of wounded service members. "To date, 650 scholarships valued at \$14.5 million have been awarded," said Braatan.

CTU's tremendous support of our men and women in uniform is unprecedented. One example is their Title Sponsorship of the Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon event for the past nine years.

The DoubleTree by Hilton, Aurora-Denver provided breakfast for the meeting.



Plaque presentation for CTU's sponsorship of the 2020 AFRL virtual event and the 2021 AFRL luncheon. Left to right: Chamber Executive Vice President Rene Simard; CTU Vice Chancellor Jeremy Walker; CTU Vice President of Community Relations Beth Braaten; Chamber President and CEO Kevin Houghton; Defense Council Chair Tom Grayson; and AFRL Chair Sharlene Fairbanks-Kyte.

Colorado Freedom Memorial

Thursday, October 28, 2021

At the October 2021 Defense Council meeting, Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation Executive Director Rick Crandall discussed the history of the Memorial and the launching of a capital campaign to build a visitor center adjacent to the Memorial.

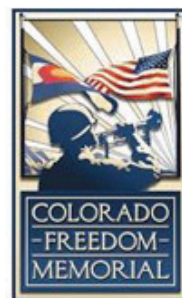
Constructed of glass panels that reflect Colorado's mountains and blue skies, the Memorial holds the names of 6,218 Coloradans killed or missing in action. Over half of the men and women honored on the Memorial never returned home. For families that never had a cemetery to visit, the Colorado Freedom Memorial has become a place of grief and of healing. In the eight years since the monument was dedicated, thousands have come to visit, to shed tears, to reminisce, to pay tribute, or to just sit and remember. The Colorado Freedom Memorial touches each visitor in a special way.

The meeting was hosted by the City of Aurora's Beck Recreation Center, with breakfast sponsored by Courtyard Denver Airport.

If you would like to volunteer, contribute, or have questions about the Colorado Freedom Memorial capital campaign, visit - <https://coloradofreedommemorial.com>. ■



Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation Executive Director Rick Crandall provides a tour of the Memorial to Defense Council members.



Champions of the Community

Honoring Our Community Champions – “We’re All In This Together!”



Kirsten Anderson

*Chief Clinical Officer
Aurora Mental Health Center (AuMHC)*
Anderson’s deep knowledge of AuMHC and the Aurora community enabled her to identify opportunities, make connections, create partnerships, and inspire the possibilities for new, and creative ways to serve and help others.

The Aurora Public Schools (APS) Foundation

The APS Foundation helped families and students by providing food for those in need and distributing chrome books to students so they would have remote access to learning.



Amanda Blaurock

*Founder and Executive Director
The Village Exchange Center*
Blaurock made sure that the Center was providing culturally appropriate groceries, meals, and locally grown produce. The Center also helped to provide 1,500-dollar grants to 155 community members from 12 countries and launched the Community Cares program.

Cherry Creek School District



Brandon Durio

Executive Chef



Shannon Lalone

*Coordinator of
Operations*



Christy Dahlen-Pagano

*Coordinator of
Resources*

Durio, Lalone, and Dahlen-Pagano were an instrumental team in making sure that Cherry Creek School District students and their families had nutritious, delicious, and easily available meals during a most difficult time. Durio created the meals, Lalone ensured that the food and packaging products were available, and Dahlen-Pagano ensured that staff stayed healthy and safe while preparing and distributing the meals.

Colorado Access

Colorado Access, the local, nonprofit health plan, implemented three strategies to support the community: providing direct financial support to community organizations and health care providers; expanding telehealth services for behavioral health care counseling; and developing a population-based outreach approach, that included calling people with higher risk of contracting COVID.



Mary Desta

*Pharmacist Owner
Apex Pharmacy*

Desta put growing her new, independently owned business on hold, to make her pharmacy almost exclusively a vaccination site for immigrants in the community, vaccinating up to 125 people per day. She put in long hours and provided a service that was much needed.

Papa Dia

CEO, African Leadership Group (ALG)

Dia connected the immigrant community with needed resources such as food, clothing, and monetary donations, and even delivered the food. While going through neighborhoods, he also sought out other immigrants needing resources, and when the vaccine became available, set up a vaccine clinic.



Falck Rocky Mountain

Throughout COVID, Falck’s EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers and support staff were inspiring with their commitment of service before self. The EMTs and paramedics worked tirelessly, while wearing full personal protective equipment, to treat those directly or indirectly impacted by COVID.



Fitzsimons Credit Union

Fitzsimons Credit Union has gone above and beyond to protect employees and to ensure that employees and members retain their financial security. The credit union also sponsored free pastries and coffee once a week for eight months at National Jewish Hospital, UCHealth, and the Veterans' Administration Hospital.



Rob Mathes

Owner

The Mathes Agency

Mathes reached out to his clients to assist them, and also sent gift cards and thank you notes to clients in the medical field to express his gratitude for their work. He donated food to Food Bank of the Rockies and the food pantry at his children's school.



Brandon Fletcher

*Vice President of Operations
CSU Global*

When COVID hit in March 2020, Fletcher was instrumental in rolling out a seamless transition from a hybrid to fully remote environment for faculty, staff, and students. He also sourced home office equipment for employees to work from home and facilitated state and federal grant and scholarship opportunities for students.



Chance Horiuchi

Executive Director

Havana Business Improvement District (BID)

Throughout the pandemic, Horiuchi tirelessly advocated for local businesses, advised the community of available resources, volunteered her time, and encouraged responsible patronage of local restaurants and support of fundraisers.



Anne Keke, DCJ

Volunteer

African Leadership Group (ALG)

During the Pandemic, Dr. Keke has worked diligently to assist immigrant families in need by helping provide resources and food and played a major role in the facilitation of the vaccine clinic hosted by the African Leadership Group.



Deepali Lindblom

*Founder and Artistic Director
ROSHNI*

Through ROSHNI, Lindblom provides opportunities for marginalized communities to experience the performing arts. She continued this work throughout the pandemic. Using Zoom, participants in the community and from around the world learned and performed a range of creative dance styles which gave participants a sense of structure and belonging.



Mark Smith

Owner

PhotoSmith Colorado

Smith recognized the loneliness and isolation that seniors were experiencing during COVID and was inspired to participate in the Wise Photo Project – which involves taking professional photos of seniors and giving them a framed print of the photo at no cost. Smith used his gift for photography to bring happiness to seniors and their families, in a creative and heartfelt way.



Steve Sundberg

Owner

Legends of Aurora Sports Grill

Throughout the pandemic, Sundberg posted creative and entertaining social media, offering adjustments to COVID restrictions – like an adult happy meal. He also prioritized charitable giving by donating meals to Comitis Crisis Center, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Aurora Police Spouses Association.



Elena Vasconez

*Associate Director and Business & Economic
Development Supervisor*

Aurora-South Metro SBDC, City of Aurora
During the pandemic Vasconez was supervising two full-time consultants who assisted citizens with consulting, webinars, and business resources. She worked with the Aurora Economic Relief, Recovery Resiliency Grant Program, and the Restaurant programs - awarding more than \$11 million in grants. Elena has been compassionate and resilient during the overload of need for business services during the pandemic.



Rick Crandall

Executive Director

Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation

During COVID, Crandall has continued to be a champion for the Colorado Freedom Memorial and a leader for the veteran community, especially the Gold Star families. He has also persevered as that consistent, friendly voice that gives a virtual hug every time he speaks or laughs.



The Chamber thanks all those who joined us in celebrating these people and organizations for their amazing efforts and accomplishments during the difficult times of the pandemic.

The Chamber also recognizes and appreciates the sponsors of this heartfelt event:

Title sponsor - The Aurora Highlands

Award Sponsor - Colorado Technical University

Our Audio-Visual Sponsor - Colorado State University

Our Dessert Sponsor - Emily Griffith Technical College

Centerpiece Sponsor - Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners

Refreshment Sponsor - Xcel Energy

Printing Sponsor - Minuteman Press - Aurora

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center Named 'Partnership of the Year'

The Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC) acknowledged A/D Works! Workforce Center as a 2021 EDIE award winner in the category of "Partnership of the Year." The EDCC's Annual EDIE Awards recognize outstanding economic development achievements by members, organization volunteers, communities, companies, and legislators. A/D Works! was recognized for:

- Initiating a Business Recovery Taskforce for both Arapahoe and Douglas Counties in 2020, encouraging collaborative discussions with economic development, workforce, and local government partners in the Denver South region for business support and recovery efforts related to the pandemic. Both taskforces continue to meet today.
- Leading efforts for both Arapahoe and Douglas Counties in the execution and distribution of CARES Act funds and is playing a pivotal role to strategically utilize ARPA funds.

The entire A/D Works! team is a passionate partner in the Denver South region and plays an integral role in how Economic Development Organizations retain and grow primary employers. A/D Works! advocates for and ensures businesses have access to talent, while continuing to explore innovative programs to improve the talent pipeline for businesses in the Denver South region.

"This year's winners represent the forefront of economic development achievement and premier talent that contribute to the overall health and vibrancy of our Colorado's communities," said 2021 EDCC Board Chair and Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, Executive Director, Laura Lewis Marchino.



A/D Works! Workforce Director Kelly Folks and Business Services Manager Stephanie Mufic accept the EDIE Award for "Partnership of the Year."



Left to right: Ready to Work Aurora Executive Director Paul Egan, MS, CAC II, Ready to Work Aurora Supervisor Krystella Watts, and Aurora AutoPros Owners Edgar and Renee Leon.

AutoPros commits sales to Ready to Work Aurora

Aurora AutoPros Owners Renee and Edgar Leon, decided to commit 10 percent of September 2021 brake-related sales to a local non-profit and fellow Chamber member, Ready to Work Aurora. Aurora AutoPros has been servicing vehicles for Ready to Work Aurora since 2019.

"We are grateful that the Ready Aurora to Work Executive Director Paul Egan, MS, CAC II, chose to trust Aurora AutoPros with maintaining their vehicles and, along the way, we've gotten to hear about the great work they're doing for those who want help transitioning out of homelessness. When we decided to run a donation promotion, it was easy to decide on Ready to Work Aurora as the recipient."

Aurora AutoPros credits Chamber connections for helping pave the way for new customers — and new community support opportunities. "Starting our business and getting involved in The Chamber has really opened my eyes to the many incredible organizations striving to uplift and celebrate Aurora. It feels great to give back in this way!"

Renee is a graduate of Leadership Aurora 2015-2016 and is chair of the Arts + Business Connection committee.

Anne Overstreet is a "Boss Babe"

Anne Overstreet was one of 50 women involved in a project called "Denver Boss Babes," in which Rachel Sorbet, a photographer in the Metro area interviews, photographs, and acknowledges women business owners and bosses.



Minuteman Press Co-owner Anne Overstreet

Overstreet is the co-owner Minuteman Press, a print shop in Aurora. Her focus is business development, marketing, and sales. Overstreet says that the business serves not only as a printing company, but more so as a marketing solutions provider. "Our company provides marketing solutions to business problems; we put on our creative hats and offer ideas to help businesses achieve their goals," said Overstreet.

She believes that really listening to understand what people need, along with empathy and

customer service, are what people are looking for — especially during COVID when many businesses have suffered.

Centennial Airport Names New Executive Director

Director of Planning and Development Mike Fronapfel tapped to become the next airport director.

The Arapahoe County Public Airport Authority has named Michael Fronapfel as its next executive director, replacing outgoing executive director Robert Olislagers. The appointment was effective October 17, 2021.

Fronapfel, who holds a B.S. in Aviation Management from Metropolitan State University of Denver and began his career at Centennial Airport in 1998 as an operations intern. He then went on to become the airport's very first noise officer and would play an integral role in establishing many of the public outreach programs within the airport's noise office and programs.

"I am truly honored to follow in the footsteps of director Robert Olislagers," Fronapfel said. "He has brought so much, not only to this airport, but to the entire aviation industry. I look forward to the opportunity to lead Centennial Airport and to continue the very successful legacy that Robert leaves behind."

Fronapfel, is a noted speaker on airport planning, development as well as being a pioneer in the use of drones for on-airport inspections. He developed Centennial Airport's drone program; one of the first in the nation to be recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration.



Mike Fronapfel
Photo by John Leyba

[continued on page 11]

"Mike's extensive knowledge of the airport, its history, development and tenants, as well as working with the surrounding communities, make him the most qualified candidate for this position," said Olislagers. "We've worked very hard over the years to build longstanding relationships both on and off the airport, and Mike will help ensure a stable and smooth leadership transition."

Fronapfel was confirmed Oct. 14 by a unanimous vote of the ACPAA Board of Commissioners following interviews and an extensive review and recommendation by ADK, an executive search firm specializing in airport and aerospace executive recruitment and placement.

Speaking for the board, Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Sharpe, Chair of the Arapahoe County Public Airport Authority thanked Robert for his 21 years of outstanding service to the airport. Olislagers will serve in an advisory capacity to the board and staff until January 15, 2022, assisting in the transition and several on-going real estate projects.

CCA Event Introduces Dr. Mordecai Brownlee and Honors Sen. Rhonda Fields

With more than 150 local business leaders, political officials, school representatives, and other community members in attendance, new Community College of Aurora (CCA) President Mordecai Brownlee, EdD, was formally introduced to the greater Aurora-Denver community in October 2021 at CCA's annual Celebrating Connections event.

Immediately prior to coming on board at CCA, Dr. Brownlee was vice president for student success at St. Philip's College in San Antonio, where he steered the nation's only college federally designated as both a historically Black college (HBCU) and a Hispanic-serving institution (HSI) to record enrollments and four of the college's largest degree- and certificate-awarding classes in its 123-year history.



Right to left at the October 19, 2021, Celebrating Connections event: Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman, Colorado Community College System Chancellor Joe Garcia, Colorado State Senator Rhonda Fields, and CCA President Dr. Mordecai Brownlee.

State Senator Rhonda Fields, was also honored at the event with the Legislator of the Year Award, which is given annually by CCCS to legislators who "make an extra effort to understand and champion our issues." Garcia praised Fields for her work on the Colorado General Assembly's Capital Development Committee, which secured \$75 million in state funding during the 2021 legislative session for capital construction projects and controlled maintenance at CCCS colleges.

National Guard Minuteman transitions to owning Minuteman Press in Aurora



Minuteman Press Co-owner Darin Overstreet



Darin Overstreet retired from the Colorado National Guard – America's oldest military force, that is symbolized by a Minuteman, who were men who volunteered to be ready for service at a minute's notice. Today, Overstreet, who also served in the U.S. Air Force, owns a Minuteman Press, with his wife Anne.

During his time of service, Overstreet was involved in several missions both at home and abroad. He recalls the mission in 2013 when the Colorado floods ripped through a dozen counties. "I was part of the CONG's Joint Staff. We coordinated everything from sandbagging and evacuations to emergency road reconstruction. After the floods, our team was brought in to help rebuild the highway leading to Estes Park. The dedication and expertise of the Guard members even got the road paved, which was beyond the scope of the original mission."

Overstreet says he is most proud of being a part of a team that made a difference and helped people when they needed it most. During his 15 years in Public Affairs, his team received 75 national military awards. "Helping

others achieve their best and be recognized for it has been my reward," said Overstreet.

He also enjoys community relations, which is something he is doing today – in a bit different capacity, as the owner of Minuteman Press, a Veteran-owned family business in Aurora, providing local businesses and non-profits with design, printing, marketing, and mailing services.

Minuteman Press in Aurora is located at 14190 East Jewell Avenue, Unit 1, Aurora, CO 80012. <https://minuteman.com/us/locations/co/aurora21>

Loren Furman Elected as President and CEO of Colorado Chamber

Senior Vice President of State and Federal Relations of the Colorado Chamber Loren Furman has been elected by the CC Board of Directors to be the next President and CEO of the organization, effective January 1, 2022, after the retirement of current President and CEO Chuck Berry.



Colorado Chamber President and CEO Loren Furman

"I'm honored to have been selected to lead the Colorado Chamber at such a critical time," said Furman. "The voice of business is key to ensuring the Colorado economy is poised to recover from the challenges of the pandemic — and the Chamber's role of engaging with business leaders, lawmakers, and local communities is more significant than ever. I look forward to working with our members, state leaders, and Chamber staff to build on our important work."

Furman has been widely recognized for her leadership and accomplishments as the voice of business at the Colorado state capitol. She was named one of Colorado's "Most Influential Women: Up and Coming" by The Denver Post in 2012 and was named a "Top Business Newsmaker" in the Denver Business Journal Power Book Awards in 2013, 2014 and 2015. Her record of coalition building, legislative strategy and advocacy will be an asset to the Colorado Chamber's membership and the broader business community as the state works towards economic recovery.

"Furman has been instrumental in shaping the Chamber's vision throughout the last 13 years. She has served as a leading force for business at the State Capitol and her expertise is unrivaled. I'm confident that she will hit the ground running on day one and elevate the Colorado Chamber's reputation as the leading voice for business," said Barry.

Colorado Association of REALTORS® CEO Tyrone Adams Selected as a Most Admired CEO

Colorado Association of Realtors® CEO Tyrone Adams was selected as one of the Denver Business Journal's (DBJ) 2021 Most Admired CEOs because of his extensive history of volunteerism and his leadership of a rapidly growing association focused on strategic growth, property rights, support of the Colorado real estate industry, and advancing realtors as industry leaders in knowledge, ethics, and professionalism.



Colorado Association of Realtors CEO Tyrone Adams

[continued on page 12]

When asked what he was most optimistic about, Adams noted, "I am most optimistic and incredibly proud of the collaboration that is taking place with industry and business partners to help solve many of the challenges that are impacting our communities."

The DBJ's 2021 Most Admired CEO awards program honored 21 top-ranking execs whose forward-looking leadership is shaping their organizations, sectors, and greater community.

HealthONE CEO Sylvia Young Honored

Sylvia Young, president and CEO of HealthONE and HCA Healthcare's Continental Division, recently received The Girl Scouts of Colorado's Women of Distinction honor, which is bestowed annually upon 10 exceptional women in the community who have been selected by the Girl Scouts of Colorado's Nomination



President and CEO of HealthONE Sylvia Young and Girl Scouts of Colorado CEO Leanna Clark

Committee, comprised of Women of Distinction alumni.

The women selected to be honored have shown great leadership and a commitment to girls and women's issues. The honorees embody Girl Scout leadership values and serve as role models and inspirations for girls as they work to become the leaders of tomorrow. HealthONE has worked with Girl Scouts of Colorado in a variety of ways to connect the scouts to our leaders and to healthcare careers.

Health Links Awards for Michele Haugh with TCHD and The Chamber

Each year, Health Links celebrates Colorado employers committed to workplace health, safety, and well-being. This year's virtual event, Celebrating Total Worker Health®, honored the award winners

and finalists for their achievements in the workplace.

Michele Haugh, workplace prevention and equity lead with Tri-County Health Department, received the Director's Award for her dedicated demonstration of leadership in Total Worker Health. The Aurora Chamber of Commerce received the Certified Healthy Workplace Champion of Well-Being Award for their outstanding workplace health practices and commitment.

You can watch the videos about Haugh and The Chamber. ■



TCHD Workplace Prevention and Equity Lead Michele Haugh



Left to right, Chamber staff: Executive Vice President Rene Simard, Director of Project Management and Special Events DeeDee Poole, Senior Director of Communications Mitzi Schindler, President and CEO Kevin Hougen, and Workforce Development Professional Katie Anthony.



Leadership Aurora Class Member Leah Fishman Promoted

Leah Fishman (center), 140th Wing, Colorado Air National Guard was promoted to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt) during a ceremony on October 28 at Buckley Space Force Base. Friends, family, co-workers and some of her Leadership Aurora classmates attended the ceremony to celebrate the promotion. Fishman joins a very exclusive group as only 2 percent of the entire enlisted corps in the U.S. Air Force can serve in the rank of SMSgt.

Ribbon Cuttings & Open Houses

Ribbon cuttings
mean business: **30 Jobs**



Christian Brothers Automotive

8201 S Holly St Centennial, CO 80122

The Aurora Chamber welcomes Christian Brothers Automotive Littleton/Centennial to the community with a ribbon cutting and grand opening event in October 2021. Owner Chris Longo, his wife Leslie, and their son Asher, cut the ribbon — accompanied by friends, Chamber members and Ambassadors. Christian Brothers Automotive has a team of auto shop pros dedicated to getting their customers back on the road as quickly as possible. Christian Brothers Automotive provides car repair services for customers, offering honest, cost saving solutions. (10/7/2021)

<http://www.cbac.com/littleton>
(720) 828-6873

Optimal Wireless - Cricket

1154 S. Abilene St., Aurora, CO 80012

The Chamber welcomed Optimal Wireless - Cricket to the community with a ribbon cutting in mid-October 2021. Branch Manager Johnathan Hebert cut the ribbon for the new store, located in a busy retail area of Aurora, accompanied by Chamber members and staff. Cricket Wireless matches customer with phones and plans that fit their lives and budgets. (10/14/2021)

<https://www.optimal-wireless.com> (720) 502-4943



Avenir Optical Gallery

9600 E Arapahoe Rd Ste. 250, Greenwood Village, CO 80112

Avenir Optical Gallery is welcomed to the community with a ribbon cutting in late September. Left to right: Jordan Kahn, John Keunning, Owners Karen Keunning, OD, and Alyssa Keunning, Deborah Wilson, and Kiara Olivares. Avenir Optical Gallery is a comprehensive eye care practice that utilizes cutting-edge technology, including a full suite of dry eye treatments and the best digital eye exam technology available, including retinal imaging. They also carry a wide array of glasses and sunglasses, along with other products such as Latisse and RevitaLash for longer lashes, Fog Stopper for glasses, fashion glasses chains, and much more. (9/28/2021) <https://www.aveniraopticalgallery.com/> (720) 500-3937.



FieldhouseUSA

14200 E Alameda Ave., Aurora, CO 80012

It was a high-energy ribbon cutting with FieldhouseUSA General Manager Blake Hughes and Town Center at Aurora General Manager Joel Boyd cutting the ribbon. The celebration welcomed a large, enthusiastic crowd, including the Spillionaire Cheerleading squad. FieldhouseUSA is a multi-purpose indoor facility that offers: eight hardwood volleyball courts, which can be converted into four basketball courts; year-round leagues and training programs; Airhouse Adventure Park - featuring a ropes course, zip zag coaster, xtreme dodgeball, active play, mini golf course, and arcade; youth programs, all-sports camps, and lock-ins; program and conference space; space for birthday parties and corporate events; wrap-around bar seating with electrical outlets throughout; spacious parking; and easy access to shopping, dining, and entertainment at Town Center at Aurora. (10/9//2021) <https://towncenterataurora.com/stores/fieldhouseusa> (720) 615-9014.

NAACP Economic Development Center

2260 S. Xanadu Way, Ste. 200, Aurora, CO 80014

The Aurora Branch of the NAACP Economic Development Center celebrated its opening with a large crowd, as NAACP staff Secretary Chartashia Miller, Founder Barbara Shannon Banister, President Omar Montgomery, and Regina Edmondson with the Second Chance Center, enthusiastically cutting the ribbon! The new Center is a one-stop shop designed to efficiently serve the needs of small businesses and job seekers to promote economic development. Services include workshops, recruitment assistance, and business services. The goal of the NAACP Economic Development Center is to prepare participants for future economic opportunities and to enhance wealth building within the Black Community and other traditionally disenfranchised populations. (9/8/2021) <https://www.auroracoloradonaacp.org/en/home/> (303) 366-2971.



Allstate - The Mathes Agency — 2373 Central Park Blvd., Ste. 105, Denver, CO 80238

The Mathes Agency has a history of helping members of the Aurora community protect what matters most to them, and Agency Owners Rob and Jen Mathes are excited to continue that legacy from their new location. Rob and Jen with their sons Joshua and Zachary, cut the ribbon, accompanied by friends, clients, and Chamber members and staff on a sunny day in September. Rob's favorite part of being an Allstate representative is the close relationships he gets to develop with customers. He is proud to represent a Fortune 100 company that treats customers like family. Rob can assist you in English or Spanish and, with many ties to local businesses and services, he can refer customers to other community partners. (9/10/2021) <https://agents.allstate.com/the-mathes-agency-aurora-co.html> (303) 755-2600.

Leadership Aurora Class 2022



The Leadership Aurora Class of 2022 began like a breathe of fresh mountain air at the Retreat in Breckenridge, CO, September 16-18, 2021. The retreat provides the class with the opportunity to get to know each other, and to learn about working with a variety of leadership styles.

On the first day, after initial introductions and an overview of the 10-month program, the class had some social time.

The second day of the retreat was led by Franco Marini, MA, CNL, who is an affiliated executive faculty member at the Daniel's College of Business at the University of Denver. Marini is also the president and creator of The NeuroTransology Institute which is dedicated to supporting individuals and organizations in effectively dealing with change while enhancing their success.

The 33 class members had all taken the



Insights questionnaire, which provides a pretty accurate overview of personality types broken down into four colors with variations. Marini and the class spent the day working with the information from Insights and helping the class understand how to work with and understand and appreciate the different kinds of leadership styles. These exercises helped the class bond, and they had a great time, too!

For the third day of the retreat, a panel of three Leadership Aurora alumna talked about their experiences with the program,

and how it influenced their career journeys. Panel members were CEO of the Colorado Realtors Association Tyrone Adams (Class of 2015), Vice President of the Westminster Campus of Front Range Community College Tricia Johnson (Class of 2018), and CEO of Falck Rocky Mountain David Patterson (Class of 2002). The class also elected their Class President, Nycci Jones with Nelnet, and sat for their class picture on a beautiful Saturday in Breckenridge, CO. ■

Business After Hours are Back!

The Chamber is back to having Business After Hours with delicious food, beverages — and of course wonderful networking. If you missed it, the October BAH was held at The Town Center at

Aurora and featured a delicious variety of foods from the Cloud Kitchen located at the Town Center, and beer hosted by LaunchPad Brewery. ■



► MemberContribution

Renters Avenue: Providing Strength to Our Communities

The financial well-being of businesses is tied directly to the financial well-being of their employees and the people they serve in their community.

Renters Avenue illustrates this bond. Renters Avenue was developed to maintain and grow housing and economic strength for the people in our community to achieve their life goals...all of which work to strengthen our communities.

Forty-seven percent of Denver Metro Area residents currently renting their homes. Renters Avenue provides information for renters, and information for taking steps toward homeownership.

Renters Avenue is the first-of-its-kind, free to the user, all in one location online resource aimed at providing an increased opportunity

for educated housing decisions to be made - likely one of the largest transactions a person considers in their life. Renters Avenue provides access to hundreds of public and private community resources, plus information on renting and first-time homebuying.

Renters Avenue is a useful resource for businesses to share with their employees, and is made possible through support from business and community organization support. For



more information on how your business can use this resource, contact info@rentersavenue.com.

► MemberRenewals

5Star Bank
Alliance Mortgage Group
Allstate Insurance / Danielle Shannon Agency
Anchor Network Solutions, Inc.
Arc Thrift Store - Iliff & Buckley
Aurora Collision Center
Aurora Mental Health Center
Bally's Arapahoe Park
Beck, Payne, Frank & Piper, P.C.
Burgess, Lynn
Bye Aerospace, Inc.
Centennial Container, Inc.
Chambers Wine & Liquor
Cherry Creek School District # 5
Colorado Enterprise Fund
Colorado Escrow & Title
Comfort Suites near Anschutz Medical Camp
Community Banks of Colorado-Greenwood Village
Courtyard Marriott Denver Airport at Gate
Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park
Denver International Airport- DEN
Denver Springs
FASTSIGNS of Aurora, Inc.
Fitzsimons Credit Union
Garden Plaza of Aurora
Great Western Building Systems, LLC
Heritage Christian Center
Home2 Suites By Hilton -
Denver International Airport

HomeSmith Real Estate
Job Store Staffing
Johnson Controls Security
Landtech Contractors, Inc.
Mesa Moving and Storage
Mountain West Insurance & Financial Services
Painted Prairie
Quality First Plumbing & Heating
RE/MAX Masters Millennium - Homes For Heroes
Rocky Mountain Law Group, LLC, The
Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Denver
Roof Brokers, Inc.
RTB Technologies
Schooley Mitchell of Denver

SERVPRO of Aurora
Sewald Hanfling Public Affairs
Slim Chickens
Springhill Suites by Marriott -
Denver International Airport
Suss, Paul
The Beth Copic Group
The District Credit Union
The Movie Tavern
Travel N Relax Inc.
Vintage Theatre
Weaver and Company
Westerra Credit Union - 14305 E. Alameda Ave.
Wiggins, Bill J.

► NewMembers

9Health: 365
Adams and Adams, LLC
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Aurora FieldhouseUSA
Bluefish Designs, LLC
Edward Jones - Kendra Merritt
Kempe Foundation
Law Office of Anna L. Burr
Morgan Stanley

National Cremation Society
R.J. Hamilton Consulting, LLC
Responding to Relationships @
The Center for Relationship Education
Restoration 1 of West Denver
Tandy Leather
Two Sons Investments, LLC
Westphalia Publishing, LTD

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