

Serving the east-metro area including:

Aurora
Centennial
Central Park
Denver
DTC

THE CHAMBER Impact

SEPT/OCT 2021

Strengthened partnerships and community support



Kevin Hougen
President & CEO

has stepped up when we needed help and partnerships the most! Starting in July the

The last 18 months have been extremely challenging for our business community, our citizens, and our elected officials. With all the challenges we are facing, from the COVID-19 pandemic, to forest fires, to civil unrest, our business community

Chamber is back having in-person meetings and at the same time continues our strong virtual meeting schedules. The in-person meetings are being well received, offering a number of opportunities for our members to make connections, build leads and grow their businesses.

Here are just a few of the highlights of what your Chamber has accomplished and partnered with our cities, and counties we represent:

- Over \$21 million dollars invested back into our businesses through the Pay Roll Protection Plan.
- Over Ten Thousand member visits to our

weekly and monthly committee zoom meetings.

- 81 direct informational zooms to business members for help with Mental Health issues, Tri-County rules and regulations, Cash Flow challenges, to employee retention and hiring events.
- Culinary Arts program with Chamber members such as Emily Griffith, putting people to work!
- The first paid apprenticeship program in the State, with a partnership through Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, all with the opportunity to put people back to work.

[continued on page 3]

Chamber honors 2021 Military Members



Front row, L to R -
SSgt Joshelen Garletts,
SSG Christopher Marro,
PO1 Tatiana Smith, SPC Hannah Dillie, TSgt Damita Stevens

Back row, L to R -
TSgt Meaghan Witkowski,
PO3 Matthew Magill, CPL Dane Reynolds, CPL Draxxon Lell,
PO1 Phillip Dougher,
SGT Lucas Walker

Missing from the photo (unable to attend): TSgt Paul Wilson and SSG Andrew Morrison

[See full article on page 7]

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

ChamberCommittees

An Inside Look

ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION

Art + Community Healing Tuesday, July 7, 2021

By Renee Leon, Arts + Business Connection Chair

At the July 7, 2021 ABC meeting, held at the 7/20 Memorial Garden (and on Zoom), attendees heard from Heather Dearman, executive director of the 7/20 Memorial Foundation, Andrew Duvall, community and sales manager with Resolute Brewing, and Lisa Battan, victim's advocate with the Aurora Police Department. Roberta Bloom, Public Art coordinator with the City of Aurora facilitated the meeting and talked about the installation of the public art at the Garden.

Dearman began by sharing about her involvement and relationship to the 7/20



Andrew Duvall



Lisa Battan



Heather Dearman, executive director of the 7/20 Memorial Foundation talks about the Memorial Garden



Heather Dearman

tragedy, and how the garden and the sculpture, "Ascentiate," came to be installed in the garden. She spoke about the many moments of healing for the families of victims, the survivors, and the community, and about the reality of post-trauma life; "it is a journey and we're all on it together."

Next, Duvall talked about how he had

moved to Colorado shortly after the tragedy, and the feelings of hopelessness that led him to getting involved in the project. Over a beer, he and Dearman imagined a beer festival fundraiser and promptly hatched a plan to make it happen! He said that they've learned a lot in the process and are looking forward to continued success. The 2021 beer fest/

[continued on page 3]

ChamberBoard

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD
Chad Nielsen | *Wagner Equipment*

CHAIR-ELECT
Brian Sowl | *Nelnet*

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR
Rebecca Kelley | *Plante Moran*

PAST CHAIR ONCE REMOVED
Betsy Oudenhoven

TREASURER
Beth Klein | *FirstBank*

SECRETARY
Dale Mingilton | *Adams 14 Education Foundation*

VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Kristi Kleinholz | *Mesa Moving and Storage*

VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES
Beth Braaten | *Colorado Technical University*

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

VICE CHAIR-PUBLIC ISSUES
Brian Sowl | *Nelnet*

DIRECTORS

Todd Baker | *Richmond Homes*
Joel Boyd | *Town Center at Aurora*
Katie Denman | *Children's Hospital Colorado*
Chris Fasching | *Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig*
Stephanie Glover | *Colorado Access*
John Gustafson | *Kaiser Permanente*
Tom Henley | *Xcel Energy*
Rich Kolberg | *The Boeing Company*
Timothy Kunkleman | *Lumen*
Kelly Leid | *Oakwood Homes, LLC*
Greg McDonald | *Heritage Christian Center*
Keith Peterson | *UCHealth*
Kelly Phillips-Henry | *Aurora Mental Health Center*
Michael Sheldon | *Aurora Highlands*
Hallie Woods | *The Medical Center of Aurora*

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Mike Coffman | *Mayor, City of Aurora*
Bruce Dalton | *Visit Aurora*
Bill Hohen | *Arapahoe County Commissioner*
Dale Mingilton | *Adams 14 Education Foundation*
Steve O'Dorisio | *Adams County Commissioner*
Lt. Colonel Jamie Pieper | *140th Wing Inspector General*
Suzanne Pitrusu | *Community Banks of Colorado*
Donald Sheehan | *City Councilman, City of Centennial*

STAFF

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

ASSOCIATES

Kathryn Lobdell | *Colorado Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC)*

.....
Six & Six, inc. | *Incredible 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

fundraiser themed “Frontline Heroes,” was held in the Garden on Saturday, July 24.

Battan then talked about how the Victim’s Advocates walked with survivors through the aftermath of tragedy. She also helps facilitate the annual midnight vigil at which victim’s families, survivors, 1st responders, and community members remember lost lives and support one another. Battan then talked about the power of post-traumatic growth and shared that she is honored to be part of a city that holds art as a priority, recognizing the healing power of art.

Bloom, who was directly involved in the art selection and installation process at the Garden, stated that she greatly appreciated how City leadership at that time prioritized the Memorial Garden and let the families lead the process.

Dearman also provided a glimpse of what is planned for next year, 10 years after the tragedy. The Saturday, July 23, 2022 Fundraiser will include the usual elements PLUS an immersive art experience titled Metamorphosis. Guests will sit in and amongst the Stratus Chamber Orchestra, as the music, dancers, and visual arts describe and illustrate the metamorphosis - from tragedy to community healing and to outreach and further post-tragedy growth for both our community and others around the world.

If you are interested in sponsoring or volunteering, contact Heather Dearman at hdearman@aurorgov.org or Renee Leon at auroraautopros@comcast.net.

Thanks to ABC Vice-chair Mark Smith for providing audio and visual support for the Zoom option.

There was not an ABC meeting in August 2021.

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation committee did not meet in July 2021.

ARTA and Adams County Wednesday, August 4, 2021

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair

At the August 2021 Transportation meeting, committee members received



updates from the northern Metro area, from Adams County and the Aerotropolis Regional Transportation Authority (ARTA).

Senior Transportation and Mobility Planner for Adams County Chris Chovan provided in-depth updates on active studies for improvements to I-270, Vasquez Blvd. from 52nd to 64th, 104th Avenue from Colorado Blvd. to US 85, I-25 from US 36 to 104th, and the I-70 at Airpark/Watkins interchange.

Chovan also talked about a study for multi-modal improvements on Federal Blvd. between 52nd Ave. and 120th Ave. that is nearly complete - with the final report due in early October. In addition, Adams County is updating its’ Transportation Plan, which guides future transportation system upgrades. This update is being developed in coordination with the County’s Comprehensive Plan and its’ Parks, Open Spaces, and Trails Plan updates. The update process includes extensive public outreach and is expected to be completed in January or February of 2022.

Chair of ARTA Matt Hopper briefly described the structure and funding of ARTA, one of 5 RTAs in the State. ARTA exists to deliver critical transportation infrastructure to the roughly 3,000 acres south of Denver

International Airport. ARTA is developing an additional connection to I-70, new interchanges on E-470, and several critical arterials throughout the Aerotropolis Area Coordinating Metro District.

Currently in design are improvements to Picadilly Road from 26th to 56th, and a new interchange on I-70 at Aerotropolis Parkway (formerly Harvest Road). There is also in development a new interchange at E-470 and 38th Ave./Aurora Highlands Parkway, to serve the 12,500 homes planned for The Aurora Highlands on the east side and the Shamrock Cold Storage facility to the west.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY

The Government Affairs committee did not meet in July 2021.

GA Hosts Congressman Jason Crow August 5, 2021

Congressman Jason Crow from Colorado’s 6th Congressional District was the special guest at the August 5 meeting.

Congressman Crow discussed the \$20M in Community Project Funding for the 6th Congressional District, that includes funding for the At-Risk Intervention and Mentoring Program at UCHealth, Expanded Services to Domestic Violence Victims in Adams

[continued on page 4]



Congressman Jason Crow speaks to the Government Affairs, Education and Energy Committee

CHAIR LETTER (CONT'D)

We want to hear from our members during these challenging times. Our most recent survey of business members found that certain industry clusters are not out of the woods in terms of the economic repercussions of the pandemic. With business owners facing massive levels of new debt, increasing overhead and

the continuation of labor shortages. The top three concerns from our most recent member survey are:

- Cash flow
- Employee Health and Well Being
- Staying in business

And while its heartbreaking to realize the pandemic’s not done hurting our

communities, the positive news out of the Aurora Chamber is the trends we see continue to give us more confidence that our Colorado work ethic can weather a storm like we have never experienced before. Thanks to our members that continue to support the work that we do on behalf of the communities we serve. ■

County, and the Village Exchange Center Facility Renovation Project. Congressman Crow is one of only a few representatives serving on both the House Intelligence and Armed Services Committees. In those roles, he continues to advocate for keeping Air Force Space Command in Colorado and for the replacement of the F-16 fighters at Buckley with the F-35.

Congressman Crow continues to be a champion for business with his service on the House Small Business Committee and as chairman of the subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development.

Kevin Hougen, president & CEO of the Aurora Chamber, thanked Congressman Crow for his tremendous commitment to our Afghanistan Interpreters who courageously aided and protected U.S. military personnel.

The Congressman also answered a variety of questions from the 17 people who attended in-person and the 37 that joined virtually.

The Government Affairs/Public Issues Committee is sponsored by



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

Diversity and Inclusion Video Resources for July 2021



Tessa Carlson

Tessa Carlson, community engagement specialist, discusses the purpose and mission at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus central office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Community Engagement. Carlson is working to

collaborate with others in the area and to provide opportunities in the community and on campus that people can get involved in. She works closely with the City of Aurora's government offices, residence of North Aurora, and community organizations, to provide programs and initiatives that align with community priorities and address social determinants of health.

Regina Richards, PhD, MSW, is the associate vice chancellor for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. As a world-class medical destination at the forefront of transformative education, science, medicine, and health care, CU Anschutz aspires to



Regina Richards, PhD, MSW

build a campus community that thrives on diversity, equity, inclusion and community engagement.

Both videos can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/5994883>

Colorado Resilience Collaborative at DU Friday, August 13, 2021

During the August 13, 2021, Diversity and



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Inclusion Council meeting, guest speakers from the University of Denver Graduate School of Professional Psychology discussed the importance of preventing targeted violence. These subject matter experts reviewed the issues of targeted violence and violent extremism in Colorado – while emphasizing the mental health approach to supporting those who are pursued and are at risk of being involved in targeted violence.

In Colorado alone, there were more than 300 reported incidents of violent extremism and anti-Semitism from 2019 to 2020. These crimes included: 1 extreme murder; 1 terrorist plot and attack; 5 white supremacist attacks; 87 white supremacist propaganda incidents; and 113 Anti-Semitic Incidents. 78 percent of these incidents were performed by men and 22 percent by women. 28 percent of the population carrying out these crimes, range from 25-34 years old, and 20 percent are committed by 18-24 year-olds.

It is important to be proactive and focus on preventive practices and work together to strengthen the community's understanding of these issues, as well as to build the awareness of available resources and support. Some potential indicators of radicalization to violence are: Withdrawing from family and peers; Increased time online; changes in dress; unusual financial transactions; deleting or locking down social media; dehumanizing those identified in out-groups; approving and appraising past attacks; consuming or sharing radical propaganda; and association with other radicals.

The Colorado Resilience Collaborative is made up of clinicians, researchers, and students with varying backgrounds and experience across mental health, public health, and public policy sectors. They focus on strengthening a community's ability to prevent targeted violence, and to interrupt involvement in violent extremism through training, consultation, and technical support.

For more information, go to <https://psychology.du.edu/counseling-consultation/colorado-resilience-collaborative>.

You can also email GSPP.CRC@du.edu or call 303-871-3042.

The Diversity and Inclusion Council is sponsored by



WOMEN IN BUSINESS

The Women in Business committee did not meet in July 2021.

Wait... How Did I Get Here? Tuesday, August 24, 2021

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Committee was honored to have Diane M. Simard present on August 24, 2021. Looking at the many challenges of life, Simard talked about how she overcame times that haven't gone as planned, her failures, successes, and the lessons she learned along the way.

Throughout this interactive discussion, Simard shared some of her top strategies to overcome these obstacles.

These include, first, to figure out your thing... What makes you unique? What are you good at? What do you enjoy? What feels right to

you? Focus on integrity, be trust-worthy and relevant in your actions, and do not focus on the negative or finding fault in others.

Secondly, Simard suggests to always outperform and do what you say that you're going to do... Be self-accountable. Invest in yourself physically and mentally and be at peace with yourself. Always look at the opportunities that are presented to you and do something that has never been done before. Look at where you are, where you want to be, and what you need to do to get there.

Simard shared a post that she found online, that shows the difference between thrivers and those who are floundering: "A thriver compliments others, embraces change, forgives others, continuously learns, accepts responsibility for their failures, has a sense of gratitude, sets goals, and develops life plans. On the contrary, those who are floundering criticize others, fear change, hold on to grudges, talk about people, think they know it all, blame others for their failures, have a sense of entitlement, and never sets goals." (Author



[continued on page 5]

unknown) Can you relate to any of these characteristics?

Simard believes in growing meaningful relationships, not only through networking, but interacting with others on a deeper level. She lives by the rule of listening more than she speaks and engaging in conversations with others as opposed to thinking about the next thing she's going to say.

Simard exudes a positive outlook and has learned to love every day and to endure each moment. Working her way up from working at a student loan collection agency to a senior aerospace executive and multiple award-winning business leader, Simard has truly overcome her obstacles with dignity and grace.

Simard's book **"The Unlikely Gift of Breast Cancer"** came to fruition after the early days of her breast cancer diagnosis. She became so overwhelmed by her emotions that she started journaling and said, "I wrote the book that I wish I had to read." She captured the smells, sights, and sounds of her 16 rounds of chemo, followed by two lumpectomy surgeries and 33 daily radiation treatments.

You can connect with Simard on LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/diane-moravec-simard/> or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DianeMSimard1965>.

WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

Safe Return to Work Thursday, July 15, 2021

By Patti Corcoran,
Workplace Policy Specialist, TCHD

The July Work Well 2.0 Health Series meeting covered a variety of aspects regarding Safe Return to Work, including useful webinars, trends, vaccine language for the workplace, and resources for employee emotional needs.



Businesses need to know what will be necessary and effective as we transition back to a full workforce, and choosing where to spend time and

money for the best result can be confusing when information changes quickly. Providing and supporting open lines of communication and a culture of safety is a great place to start.

There are many tailored resources available for employers at Health Links, the National Safety Council, and Health Action Awareness, to help you navigate what's best for your staff and organization. In addition, resources about Vaccine language can be found at <https://publichealthcollaborative.org/resources/graphic-messaging-based-on-local-vaccination-rates/>

How are Employees Really Doing? Thursday, August 12, 2021

By Patti Corcoran,
Workplace Policy Specialist, TCHD



Haley Foster

Haley Foster, community health coordinator with Tri-County Health Department, spoke about the different ways people respond to stress; how employees may cope with post-pandemic stressors (both good and bad); and what employers can do to support healthy

means of managing stress.

Knowing signs of burnout, substance misuse, and isolation are important, especially when people are not fully back to in-person work. Providing a safe and open environment with encouragement to use health and EAP resources, providing flexibility and mental health "perks" like mini massages or bringing pets to work, and actively removing stigma regarding emotional difficulties, can go a long way to build employee resilience and reinforce a healthy work culture.

The Work Well 2.0 Health Series is sponsored by:



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Business Success Series with Jamie Fisher – A/D Works Workforce Center Wednesday, July 12, 2021

In July 2021, The Aurora Chamber Young Professionals got an update on current workforce demographics and trends. Jamie Fisher with Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center also talked about what A/D Works does, and how they are helping businesses in the community.

The current workforce situation has certainly been very hectic, as the unemployment numbers are higher than last year, and the state has been providing unemployment support for the past year and a half. As the pandemic slows down, individuals are getting back to work.

A/D Works has been an excellent resource for businesses through the pandemic, distributing PPP loans and grant dollars to businesses. A/D Works also focuses on helping businesses get connected with the employees they need. As workforce specialists, they have a database of potential employees to connect businesses with talent.

Leads Group Joint Meeting Tuesday, August 17, 2021

The Aurora Chamber has three leads groups available to members. On August 17, 2021, the groups hosted a joint recruiting meeting to encourage unfilled industries to join the groups. These leads groups have been very effective for the members involved as they have helped foster new relationships, grow businesses, and lead to new opportunities. This event attracted nearly 50 attendees, who learned more about the groups and how to get involved.

If you are interested in learning more about a leads group please contact Katie Anthony, Lynn Myers, or Beau Martinez.



This Leads Group event attracted nearly 50 attendees.

Networking Event at Launch Pad Brewery Wednesday, August 18, 2021

On August 18, 2021, the YPs spent the evening networking at Launch Pad Brewery in Aurora. There were about 25 at the event, and everyone enjoyed beer and the company of other business professionals. It was an evening to get the YPs together again for the first time since the Pandemic began. We look forward to being in-person again more often!



YPs spent the evening networking at Launch Pad Brewery in Aurora.

[continued on page 6]

DEFENSE COUNCIL

140th Wing, Colorado National Guard

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Defense Council members resumed in-person meetings in June and were hosted by Colonel Micah Fesler, Commander, 140th Wing, Colorado Air National Guard.



Colonel Fesler offers a personal tour of an F-16. (Photos by Airman Mira Roman, 140th Wing, Colorado National Guard)

Colonel Fesler provided a briefing that included overseas and stateside missions supported by the wing to include COVID testing and wildfire deployments. He also talked about the wing's recent Agile Combat Employment exercise, during which 140th personnel practiced operating



Defense Council at 140th Wing, Colorado National Guard

in an austere environment with limited basing, while testing their abilities to quickly and efficiently land, set-up operations, fly, pack, and transport themselves at a moment's notice.

Attendees also welcomed new commanders from the Buckley Garrison, Colonel Marcus Jackson, and Combat Logistics Battalion 453, Lt Col Nicholas Smith. There were also standard updates from senior military leaders and congressional representatives. Judge Shawn Day also provided an update on the Aurora Veterans Treatment Court.

Following the meeting, Colonel Fesler provided a tour that included an up-close and personal look at an F-16 and a special F-16 flyover.

Buckley Garrison

Thursday, July 22, 2021

July's Defense Council took place on Buckley Space Force Base (SFB) and was hosted by the Buckley Garrison. Garrison Commander Colonel Marcus Jackson provided an overview of the Air Force and Space Force transformation to include the Garrison and Delta command structure. Garrisons operate space installations and provide infrastructure support to nine operational Space Mission Deltas throughout the Space Force. Space Delta 4 is located at Buckley SFB, and provides strategic and theater missile warning to the United States and our international partners.



Colonel Marcus Jackson, Buckley Garrison Commander, speaks to the Defense Council

Colonel Jackson also provided the following statistics - there are a total of 96 base partners; 14,000 people live and work on the base; and 94,000 service members, retirees, civilians, contractors, and families are directly served by Buckley SFB. Buckley is also a tremendous economic engine - contributing close to \$1.3B in fiscal year 2020 to the local community.

Reports were also provided by the 140th Wing, Aerospace Data Facility Colorado (ADF-C), Space Delta 4, Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center, Combat Logistics Battalion 453, and the Colorado National Guard.

Kevin Hougen, Chamber President & CEO presents Stephen Gourley, with a plaque for his service as Defense Council Chair from 2019-2021 and a Defense Council coin to ADF-C outgoing Commander, Colonel Jake Middleton for his support of the Defense Council. (Photos by Airman First Class Madelyn Yopez, Buckley Garrison Public Affairs.) ■



Kevin Hougen, Chamber President & CEO presents Stephen Gourley (photo on left), with a plaque for his service as Defense Council Chair from 2019-2021 and a Defense Council coin to ADF-C outgoing Commander, Colonel Jake Middleton for his support of the Defense Council. (Photos by Airman First Class Madelyn Yopez, Buckley Garrison Public Affairs.)

2021 AFRL honors Military Members of the Year



The Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Defense Council held its 45th Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon on Friday, August 20, 2021 – honoring military serving in the Metro area. Awards were given to 13 military members from each branch of service, including their Reserve and Guard components, and a civilian from the community. The event was held at the Doubletree Hotel Denver, 3203 Quebec St., Denver, CO.

"This luncheon is our way of recognizing members of the armed forces - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard - throughout Northern Colorado including the Denver-Aurora area," said Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougren. "They make a great contribution to our community and to our nation."

This year's keynote speaker was Major General (retired) Stephen T. Denker, who is

The 2021 winners and their sponsors:

Award	Winner	Sponsor
Air Force Active Duty	SSgt Joshelen Garletts	City of Aurora
Air Force Reserve	TSgt Meaghan Witkowski	Spry Squared
Air National Guard	TSgt Paul Wilson	Citywide Banks
Army Active Duty	SPC Hannah Dillie	Lockheed Martin
Army Reserve	SSG Christopher Marro	Wagner Equipment
Army National Guard	SSG Andrew Morrison	Denver Springs
Navy Active Duty	PO1 Tatiana Smith	DeNOVO Solutions
Navy Reserve	PO1 Phillip Dougher	Ent Credit Union
Marine Corps Active Duty	SGT Lucas Walker	Aurora Credit Union Alliance
Marine Corps Reserve	Cpl Draxxon Lell	Emily Griffith Technical College
Space Force	TSgt Damita Stevens	ICR – Ideas, Commitment, Results
Coast Guard	PO3 Matthew Magill	GEICO Aurora – John Sanchez
Commonwealth Partner	Cpl Dane Reynolds	Leidos
Bob Cardenas Award	Dave Gruber	Aurora Chamber of Commerce

vice president and deputy general manager of special programs at Lockheed Martin Space. For the 16th consecutive year, Rick Crandall, executive director of the Colorado Freedom Memorial, served as Master of Ceremonies, and for the 9th consecutive year, Colorado Technical University was the title sponsor.

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

Comcast RISE Program Offers Support to Local Small Businesses

Comcast is working to support small businesses through Comcast RISE, which is an initiative to help strengthen and empower small businesses hit the hardest by COVID-19. Through the program, Comcast Business and Effectv, are providing grants to small businesses owned by people of color, along with a variety of services including marketing and advertising consultations, media placements over a 90-day period, commercial creative production services and technology services and support.

In total, more than 60 Colorado businesses have been awarded grants, allowing them to continue offering services that range from educational to financial services.

Aurora business owner and local recipient, Erasmo Casiano, Co-owner/Chef at Create Cooking School, in the Stanley Marketplace had to say this about the program.

"In response to the pandemic, our team shifted our operations to a virtual environment. The internet that we have received from Comcast RISE has helped us continue to provide online cooking classes for those who aren't yet comfortable being a part of an in-person social setting but are still looking for a sense of community."



Through Comcast RISE, the company hopes to create sustainable impact and provide meaningful support for the small businesses shaping our communities.

Apply at www.ComcastRISE.com and read more about the local recipients at Colorado.Comcast.com. ■

Fitzsimons Credit Union Awards Scholarships to Local Students

Based on the knowledge that education has the power to transform communities, Fitzsimons Credit Union is pleased to announce the 2021 recipients of the Sandra B. Neves Scholarship. Established by the board of directors, the scholarship is named in honor of former CEO, Sandra Neves, and was implemented after her retirement in 2017. Neves has always been passionate about higher education asserting that “lifelong learning is essential to success and happiness, combined with integrity, upstanding character and continuous personal and spiritual development, education is your key to a joyful life.”



Ramadje Benoudjita

Fitzsimons' current President & CEO Robert M. Fryberger Jr., says “We are honored to announce the recipients of this scholarship and to continue with our commitment of supporting education of our future leaders.”

This year's scholarship recipients were chosen based upon academic achievement, career aspirations, community service, extracurricular participation, and financial need. Each recipient received \$1,250, totaling \$5,000 in awarded scholarships. The awardees are Jazmyn Johnson, Matthew Johnson, Ben Torres, and Ramadje Benoudjita.

Fitzsimons Credit Union is committed to treating all members with respect and dignity and making sound business decisions to benefit the entirety of its membership.

STRIDE Reaches Level 2 in Age-Friendly Health System

STRIDE Community Health Center has achieved



Level 2 recognition as an Age-Friendly Health System (AFHS) by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), demonstrating that STRIDE is committed to providing and maintaining excellent care for its older adult patients.

“We are so proud to be recognized as having achieved Level 2 in the AFHS framework,” said Barbara Morris, MD, a geriatrician who joined STRIDE's clinical staff in 2020. “I'm grateful to everyone at STRIDE

who has worked so hard on this project. We know we have more work ahead to refine our processes and move towards spreading the AFHS approach to additional care teams at STRIDE, but this is a wonderful step in the right direction towards better serving our older adult community members and patients.”

To receive Level 2 status, Dr. Morris and her interdisciplinary team implemented an action plan that included improvements in older adult care management and delivery across three months, tracking and reporting on specific data points. Each item in the action plan was selected and defined based on the IHI's “4 Ms” of older adult care: What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility.

“Becoming an AFHS has been a significant goal of ours at STRIDE, but now we need to set our sights even higher,” said STRIDE CEO Ben Wiederholt. “Dr. Morris and her care management and delivery team have created a wonderful model from which we can now base our organization-wide older adult care strategy.”

STRIDE Community Health Center is a non-profit Federally Qualified Health Center that has served the Denver metropolitan area since 1989. STRIDE provides community and refugee medical, dental, mental health, substance abuse, pharmacy, and community-based services, including case management, outreach to the homeless, adolescent services, health education, and maternal child health to the more than 50,000 underserved, uninsured and working individuals and families who need health care services the most.

Bye Aerospace Continues to Improve Performance

Bye Aerospace continues to advance the aerodynamic analysis performance characteristics for its four-seat all-electric airplane in development, the eFlyer 4.



Bye CEO George E. Bye said the eFlyer 4 program has continued to push the envelope for single motor electric aircraft. “The projected aerodynamic performance for this 200-knot airplane continues to mature and improve,” said Bye. “This is due to its sleek fuselage profile and advanced wing design. The eFlyer 4's unprecedented 48-inch-wide cabin is quiet and without compromise and will carry an 860 lb. payload.”

Bye Aerospace recently unveiled the game-changing eight-seat eFlyer 800, announcing purchase deposit agreements with Jet It, JetClub, and Rheinland Air Service GmbH (RAS).

The eFlyer family of aircraft aims to be the first FAA-certified, practical, all-electric airplanes to serve the flight training and general aviation markets. All the company's current and future families of aircraft feature engineering, research and electric aircraft

solutions are designed to specifically address compelling market needs.

Aurora's Boys Hope Girls Hope Sends 14 Graduates to College

In collaboration with both Regis Jesuit and Aurora Central High Schools, Boys Hope Girls Hope's year-round Academy Program provides academic support and character development opportunities outside of the normal school-day for motivated youth (ages 14-18) growing up in poverty.

This non-profit uses professionally trained staff, community volunteers, tutors, and mentors to provide scholars with personalized academic, college-preparation, and social emotional support that aligns with recommendations of the ICF International and National Dropout Prevention Center/Network Report. Currently, this organization serves 72 scholars through its Academy Program, 48 at Aurora Central High School and 24 at Regis Jesuit High School. They also serve 52 graduates of the Academy Program in college as first-generation Collegians. These students are attending colleges and universities across the United States.

The 2021 school year ended with several important statistics:

- The 14 graduates were accepted to 70 colleges and universities, 100% of them are college bound
- The spring 2021 average high school GPA was 3.96
- Seven of the 13 Aurora Central HS seniors were in the top ten of their graduating class
- Both the Valedictorian and Salutatorian at Aurora Central HS were BHGH Academy scholars
- Graduates received over \$3.6 million in merit and need scholarships from accepting colleges and universities
- BHGH awarded over \$97,000 in college scholarships to its collegians

As the new school year begins, BHGH is excited to watch its scholars return to in-person learning and see all collegians headed back to campus. If you are interested in being a volunteer, mentor, or learning more, contact Executive Director Mary Fran Tharp at mfrtharp@bhgh.org. ■



Boys Hope Girls Hope Daniels Fund recipients from Aurora Central High School and Regis Jesuit High School, Roxette, Jose, and Jimena.



Leadership Aurora Class of 2022



Mehran Ahmed
Aurora Public Schools



Mike Dineen
Boy Scouts of America



Anne Keke
Self Employed



Jason Read
RTB Technologies, LLC



Amanda Anthony
UCHealth



Leah Fishman
140th Wing, CONG



Nathan Larson
Colorado Technical University



John Schneebeck
Aurora Police Department



Miguel Arellano
Citywide Banks



Zella Goettsch
Adolfson & Peterson Construction



Yvonne Madril-Brawner
City of Aurora



David Spencer
Colorado Army National Guard



Casey Bloyer
Launch Pad Brewery



Isaac Greenlee
Nelnet



Miguel Mendoza Castaneda
FirstBank



Kelly Stewart
Stewart Agency, LLC



Dan Clarke
Mamabird Interviews



Daniel Halkett
Falck Rocky Mountain



Kathryn Mullins
Vega Collegiate Academy



Pete Torres
Advantage Security



Erin Currier
Juvenile Assessment Center



Jessica Hegewald
140th Wing, CONG



Justin Nimock
Leading Evolution Group



Ana Valles
Fitzsimons Credit Union



Jennifer Dale
Community College of Aurora



Danielle Jackman
Aurora Mental Health Center



Anthony Oyewole
Flintco, LLC



Julius Vaughns
Aurora Public Schools



Sherry Davis
Pickens Technical College



Nycci Jones
Nelnet



DeeDee Poole
Aurora Chamber of Commerce



Lynne Winchell
Community College of Aurora



Katlynn Del Dotto
Community College of Aurora Foundation

Leadership Aurora is a program of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce



Providing experiences you can't find anywhere else!

Ribbon Cuttings & Open Houses

Ribbon cuttings mean business: 75 Jobs



Aurora Eatery at Town Center at Aurora 14200 E. Alameda Ave. Aurora, CO 80012

It was a delicious ribbon cutting event for the Aurora Eatery at the Town Center at Aurora on August 12, 2021, with Ian Reeves of Pirate Chef Food cutting the ribbon, next to Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman and Town Center at Aurora General Manager Joel Boyd. The Eatery is a virtual kitchen that allows local restaurants to focus on delivery and takeout rather than dine-in service. Customers can enjoy new restaurants, including Scooped Cookie Dough, Cocina Isla Encanto, The Mighty Vegan and many more. while supporting small businesses. Aurora Eatery is located on the lower level, on the east side of the mall. For drivers and pickup, park between FieldhouseUSA and Dillard's and enter through Entrance C.

The Aurora Eatery is also curating chefs, restaurants, and start-up food business to start a kitchen of their own. For those interested in launching their own food business, stop by or call today. (08/12/21) <https://auroraeatery.com/> 415-494-9540.

Minuteman Press-Jewell

14190 E. Jewell Ave., Ste. 1, Aurora, CO 80012

On a warm July afternoon, Darin and Anne Overstreet, owners of Minuteman Press - Jewell held a grand opening and ribbon cutting. Minuteman Press specializes in any type of printed materials and/or promotional products. They can print anything from note pads and business cards to vinyl car wraps to tickets and menus. There is also space in the shop to host training seminars, events, etc. (07/28/21)

<https://aurora21-co.minutemanpress.com>
720-751-5007.



Dugan's Veterinary Hospital

22651 E. Aurora Parkway, Ste. A-1, Aurora, CO 80016

On July 31, Dugan's Veterinary Hospital held it's grand opening and ribbon cutting. Dugan's Veterinary Hospital provides care to all types of companion animals – including dogs, cats, pocket pets, birds, fish, and exotics – and partners with pet owners to ensure their best buddies stay healthy and happy throughout all ages and life stages.

From routine wellness visits and preventive care to surgical and emergency services, Dugan's team of veterinary professionals covers pets from tip to tail. (07/31/21) <https://www.dugansvethospital.com/> 720-790-4935.

Rex Environmental

4755 Paris St., Ste. 100, Aurora, CO 80239

Rex Environmental held their grand opening and ribbon cutting on August 6, highlighting their proficiency in testing and removal of asbestos and hazardous materials from buildings and the surrounding environment at large, to ensure optimum safety and habitability. Team members are certified building inspectors with several years of hands-on experience in the environmental safety field. Rex Environmental is dedicated to excellent communication, organized logistics, and executing duties assigned with excellence and professionalism. (08/06/21)

<https://www.rexenvironmental.com/>
303-364-1577.



[continued on page 11]

Sooper Credit Union

2337 S. Blackhawk St., Ste. 115B, Aurora, CO 80015

Sooper Credit Union (SCU) celebrated the grand opening of its Aurora Branch with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, July 23. Guests enjoyed refreshments, shared in the excitement of the new branch design, and heard about the partners who made the branch possible.

"We have been serving the Aurora community for over 20 years, and because of our growing member community, we had outgrown our space. We are grateful to now offer an expanded and enhanced facility," said SCU CEO and President Dan Kester.

From left to right: Aurora Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Kevin Hougen, SCU Chief Strategy Officer Nathan Rogers, Operations Supervisor Dakota Young, Member Service Representative Teller Diana Jimenez, Branch Manager Selena Aarness, Vice President of Retail Operations Jesse Schade, Lending Member Service Representative Amanda Calderone, CEO and President Dan Kester, Loan Officer Leandra Smith, Teller Sarah Jackson, Executive Vice President Carrie Langgard, and RTB Technologies Co-founder & COO Jason Read. (07/23/21) <https://soopercu.org> 720-826-6168.



RODEO DENTAL & ORTHODONTICS



Rodeo Dental

15022 E. Mississippi Ave., Aurora, CO 80012

Rodeo Dental, a full-service dental and orthodontics office now serving the Aurora community, held a grand opening and ribbon cutting on June 28. Present at the event were Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman (with flowers), Saam Zarrabi, DDS, Brian Dugoni, DDS, MSD, Alison Dengler, Gail Worofka, additional Rodeo Dental staff, and Chamber staff and Ambassadors. Rodeo came to Colorado from Texas in 2021, to continue their mission of improving dentistry and orthodontics across the US. Rodeo offers their clients a unique experience, complete with arcade video games, a theatre room, and other entertainment, for while they are waiting. Rodeo Dental is "all inclusive" because their mission is that everyone deserves access to high-end dental care. (06/28/21) <https://www.rodeodentaltexas.com/locations/aurora-co/> 720-826-9578.



Ebisu Japanese Lifestyle Store - 2727 S. Parker Rd., Ste. C, Aurora, CO 80014

The new Ebisu Japanese Lifestyle Store brings the experience and authenticity of Japan to Aurora, and on July 11, a ribbon cutting celebrated their grand opening. Ebisu was introduced as a way for all to experience the traditions and products of Japan. The store features a wide variety of products, from drinks, soups, and candies, to facemasks, personal supplies, dishes, and toys. Ebisu Japanese Lifestyle Store is a welcome addition to the diversity of culture and products available in Aurora. (07/11/21) Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ebisu_colorado/?hl=en 720-261-8883.

[continued on page 12]



The Vivos Institute - 7001 Tower Rd., Denver, CO 80249

The Vivos Institute held their grand opening and ribbon cutting on August 5. The Vivos Institute training center was established to provide advanced post-graduate education to dentists, dental teams, and other healthcare professionals in an in-person, hands-on setting. The Institute welcomes providers from around the world to learn more about obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), Vivos' multidisciplinary treatments for OSA within their practice areas, practice management, leadership, and medical billing.

The Institute plays an essential role in Vivos' mission to spread awareness about OSA among dental professionals, as they are best equipped to provide treatment for the life-altering disorder. The facility can accommodate hundreds of professionals every day, and has the technology needed to provide essential and high-quality training for dental professionals. (08/05/21) <https://thevivosinstitute.com/> 866-908-4867 (Photo: Maggie Donohoo, with Osmond Marketing)

MemberRenewals

Academy Roofing, Inc.
 Acme Distribution Centers, Inc.
 Advantage Aurora Chase Mortuary
 Advocates for Children CASA
 Air Force Association
 Albertsons Safeway
 American Automation Building Solutions, Inc.
 Angela Lawson
 Aurora Education Association
 Aurora Symphony Orchestra
 Bates & Associates, Inc.
 BOK Financial
 Carrabba's Italian Grill
 Center for Work Education and Employment
 Cherry Creek Retirement Village
 Colorado Association of Realtors
 Colorado State University Global
 Community Banks of Colorado-Greenwood Village
 David Evans and Associates, Inc.
 Denver Business Journal
 Developmental Pathways
 Dion's
 Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)
 Drury Inn & Suites Hotel - Central Park
 Edward Jones Investments - Patrick Pogue
 Employers Council
 Empower Community High School
 Extraction Oil and Gas
 Fairfield Inn & Suites - Marriott Denver
 Floria Group
 Foxridge Farm
 Front Range PharmaLogic

GOAL Academy
 Graebel Companies, Inc.
 Havana Business Improvement District
 Homewood/Tru by Hilton Denver Airport
 Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center
 InnovAge Colorado PACE - Aurora
 Law Offices of Dianne L. Sawaya, LLC
 Les Schwab Tire Centers - Tower Rd
 Long Law Group, LLC
 McGrath, Jane
 Michael Baker Corporation
 NAACP - Aurora Branch
 National Charter Bus Denver
 New-Ride Enterprises (dba New-Ride Design)
 Office Evolution - Southlands
 Parkside Animal Health Center
 Peck, George & Barbara
 Plante Moran
 Residence Inn - Denver Airport
 ROADIS USA HOLDING LLC
 Roth Collaborative Resources, Inc.
 Sable Cove Condominium Association, Inc.
 Sooper Credit Union
 Steve Coffin Strategies
 Tri-County Health Department
 UCHHealth
 University of Colorado Medicine
 Waste Connections
 Waste Management
 Watson & Co., Inc.
 Wheeler Advisory Group LLC

NewMembers

CHAIRMAN CIRCLE

Amazon
 Ames Construction

NEW MEMBERS

AEG Construction & Restoration
 Alphagraphics 636
 Business Excellence Group LLC
 Dugan's Veterinary Hospital
 Ebisu Colorado Trading, LLC
 Inspired Leadership
 J7 Security Technology
 Operation True North Colorado
 Operations InSync
 Rocky Mountain Mechanical Contractors
 Association
 Smash My Trash
 Steadfast Living
 Stewart Agency, LLC
 The Vivos Institute
 Vitalant

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