



Community Day

11/10/16

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, COMMUNITY IS STRENGTH AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

IN THIS ISSUE

A letter from the Chair

by Heather Wydock

Communication is a tool that we use daily to convey feelings, thoughts, emotions, problems, concerns, questions...you get the point. But are we effective in our communication when a call to action is required? A classmate told me a story that illustrates a problem in our community and one we must shake. He stated, "I recently went to the Cherry Creek north area and decided to venture into a clothing shop near our parking space. As my wife tried on clothes in the dressing room I started a conversation with a salesperson by asking if she was from the area. She said she was from "Saudi Aurora...unfortunately" but now lives in Denver."

Saudi Aurora.

Honestly, our diverse, growing community has been called much worse and we still stand tall. A similar conversation will happen to you, if it hasn't already. As leaders of this community, we must break that stigma of who we are and what Aurora means to us. It is our responsibility to combat these names by saying, "We aren't Saudi Aurora. We are the ignition that sparks growth, diversity and individualism in our city. We have breweries, restaurants, museums, culture and education. We don't accept the use of such

an ignorant and culturally dismissive term because we are better than that."

Your community explorations give you an opportunity to experience our city in a light in which you haven't seen. See a play! Drink an IPA instead of lager! Eat Peruvian cuisine! Stand out and stand up for our city. This is a chance for you to show your true commitment to this program and your leadership. Be the change in Aurora.



Ride Along Review

Terry and Olga share their Community Exploration experience from their Ride Along with the Aurora Police Department. Have you explored Aurora yet?

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Leaders are Readers Review

John Wolfkill shares his thoughts on reading to a bright group of elementary students and how the world could be better with personalities like theirs.

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APD Ride Along

by Terry Spencer

The alarm rang a bit early for both Terry Spencer and Olga Mead on the morning of November 4th as they were headed to Aurora Police Department District 3 for an early morning ride along.

Instead of being thrown in the back seat as they both had expected (*being the trouble maker's they are*), each was invited to sit in the front seat with the officer.

Olga rode with Officer Terry Patton and Terry with Officer Rick Garcia---each veteran officers of the Aurora Police Department.

The day began with riding through the neighborhoods they protect, and listening for any calls they may have to respond to. Officer Garcia shared with Terry that depending on the day, it can be very quiet and he may not have that many calls, or the day might be filled with car accidents, burglaries, domestic violence issues, and more.

The day seemed to be going pretty smoothly until about 9:00, when a call came over the scanner for a suicide. Officer Patton and Olga were the first to respond to the call and the first to arrive on the scene, Officer Garcia and



Terry would arrive a few minutes later. Both Officer Patton and Officer Garcia noted that unfortunately suicides seemed to be happening frequently.

Terry asked Officer Garcia what he would like everyone to know about being a police officer, and he responded by saying "I would really like people to know that I am just like them. I have a job to do and I try to do it well, and I wanted to be a police officer from a very young age."

In addition to helping at the scene of the suicide Officer Garcia and Terry also stopped to help a man who was having car problems.

Both Terry and Olga had a wonderful experience with their ride along and it really shed light on what being a police officer in the Aurora community means in today's day and age.

Leadership Aurora Community
Day Discussion between Troy and
John



Leaders are Readers

by John Wolfkill

Often we think giving back to our community takes a lot of effort and planning. When, in reality, it can be as simple as spending 15 minutes reading a classic children's book to elementary students.

Thanks to Aurora Public Schools, Leaders are Readers program (led by our classmate, Greg Cazzell), I met a class of amazing students, all of whom are on the Autism Spectrum.

As we read and laughed about a moose who likes muffins, I could not stop smiling. I could also not stop thinking about what our Leadership Aurora class and our community could be like if we welcomed each other into our lives as warmly as these students welcomed me.

Thank you Greg and Leaders as Readers for the opportunity to be so deeply blessed by the Aurora students.

The Leaders Are Readers program is designed to help bring community members into the schools to read to our students. Three times a year, Aurora Public Schools will host reading days in which community members and volunteers are invited to come into the school for a half hour block of time and read to a classroom.

If you are interested in becoming a reader, finding out more information on the Leaders Are Readers program please contact Amber Tabar in the Security department at 303-365-7816 ext. 28410 or by email kmbritt@aps.k12.co.us

Followship

by Greg Cazzell



History has documented countless influential leaders who have made tremendous impact on those around them on both macro and micro levels. These leaders, past, present, and future, more than likely share similar traits such as honesty, competency, intelligence and courage, to name a few. While not all leaders possess the same characteristics, one common denominator among all leaders is followership. In his book, *The Power of Followership: How to Create Leaders People Want to Follow and Followers Who Lead Themselves*, Robert Kelley writes "As long as there have been leaders, there have been followers, and leaders cannot accomplish what they do without followers."

Leadership requires a group of followers who look to achieve a common goal and thus harbor similar values and beliefs as the leader. Take General Colin Powell, for example. Despite all of his leadership achievements, Powell began as a subservient follower as he made his way through the ranks of the military. Even as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he served as an advisor to President George W. Bush, which inevitably required him to strum the chords of followership by supporting the goals and values of the 41st president. Followership therefore shares a symbiotic relationship with leadership, for without one, the other cannot function. Thus followership can be defined as the support and buy-in of the values and beliefs of a person or ideology.

The role of the follower is to support the leader in such a way that he or she is not compromising his or her own beliefs. With regard to Colin Powell, as a submissive follower in the military he most certainly did not deviate from the values of our military system, but rather shared a common belief and understanding for the system. In doing so, he contributed to those above him, effectively making them better leaders. Consider Thomas Jefferson, primary author of the Declaration of Independence, and our nation's third president. As a leader of the Enlightenment, he used his revolutionary ideas to help form our nation, often times questioning those above him, including George Washington, albeit for the greater of the good.

In his book, Robert Kelley identified five types of followers principally found in an organization, ranging from more dependent and passive to the independent and active followers. Followers that are more independent may not always be healthier for

an organization; in fact, they can sometimes be contentious. Kelley refers to these followers as alienated followers. A common characteristic of the alienated follower is that he or she tends to be more negative, and while these followers are competent, they can be difficult to work with and offer very little in the form of collaboration.

The second of Kelley's followers, the conformist followers, are coined as the "yes people". The common trait of the conformist follower is that they will oblige to the leader's request without question. While this seems to be good for an organization, the conformist follower will often compromise his or her own beliefs, even if they truly believe that the leader may be leading an organization in the wrong direction.

Pragmatist followers could also be considered as minimalists, for even though they are capable of performing tasks for an organization, they tend not to be concerned in the development of that organization. General attributes of the pragmatist followers include minimal risk taking and self-absorption, meaning they care more about their welfare than the wellbeing of the organization as a whole.

The fourth type of follower Kelley describes is the passive follower. Passive followers could be considered the most difficult to work with as they tend to require a lot of babysitting. The passive followers are dependent on the leader, lacking creativity and initiative. In addition, they have little sense of responsibility and look to the leader to make all of the decisions.

The final type of follower, the exemplary follower, foster many of the ideal qualities previously discussed under the role of the follower. This is the type of follower that Colin Powell or Thomas Jefferson would fall under. Exemplary followers are able to think for themselves and are accountable for their actions. More important however, the exemplary follower knows and supports the mission of the organization. The exemplary followers realize that if they are to reap the benefits of the organization, they must help keep it afloat. They are both willing to learn from their leader while also willing to teach the leader.

Leadership Aurora gives all of us the opportunity to be an exemplary follower, unafraid to provide suggestions to our organizational leaders. Leadership Aurora allows you to actively participate in decision making for the organization and the ability to offer an opinion and suggestions when necessary and for the greater good of the LA's mission.



October 27, 2016 – Aurora, CO – The Theatre Department at the Community College of Aurora (CCA) will present “The Collective Heart Project,” an original collaborative dialogue and theater performance about issues facing the people of our country and the community during this election season.

This unique mix of performance and dialogue began as the brainchild of Stacey D’Angelo, director of CCA’s Theatre Department. “I wanted to create a space where our students could express their thoughts about political tensions, ask questions about race identity, violence, and other issues,” she said. “It’s gripping, insightful, and we hope the production will be an eye-opener for our students and those who attend.”

The unique aspect of the production began in September when D’Angelo had an idea to place “Truth Booths” at various locations around the college to capture the thoughts of those willing to share about these issues. Inside one of the booths, which resembles a rustic voting booth, is an iPad where participants can anonymously speak their “truths” in response to poignant questions like: “What does the American flag represent to you?” or “What is the American Dream and whose dream is it?”

How will the “truths” be used in the production? The truth booth transcriptions will be compiled for the performance. Students from various disciplines such as music, theater, visual art, dance, and graphic design will come together at 7:00 p.m. on November 3 to receive a copy of the transcript, a set of rules and instructions, and will then have 48 hours to produce a piece or a performance in response to the “truths”. The final product will be shared at the end of the 48 hours and the audience and performers will discuss the issues most prevalent in the hearts and minds of the participants. This is a very raw, organic approach to making art, which will come entirely from the students beginning to end.



THE COLLECTIVE HEART PROJECT

Community College of Aurora | Fine Arts Building – Larry D. Carter Theater

16000 E. CentreTech Parkway | Aurora, CO 80011

Performances at 7:30 p.m. on these nights:
Saturday, Nov. 5 |

Thursday, Nov. 10 |

Saturday, Nov. 12

Daytime performance:
Friday, Nov. 11 | 1:30 p.m.

Donations accepted at the door. General admission seating.



THE PRC

by Sharon Hattan

Providers' Resource Clearinghouse (PRC) was opened in 1993 by a group of community leaders from the business, faith and nonprofit sectors who wanted to bridge the gap between struggling human-service providers and businesses seeking to serve the community through in-kind giving.

I found my visit to PRC to be eye opening as I had always immediately thought of Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity and Salvation Army when it came to donating household items. Why did I not know about PRC? What could I do to get the word out in my community about this great organization? Since my visit to PRC I have "Liked" their Facebook page and shared with friends, family and co-workers. One of my co-workers is a Veteran and I shared with him my experience during Community Day. He has since visited PRC and put up all the flyers I gave him at the VA hospital. Going forward if I have household items to donate or know of someone that does I will refer them to PRC.



Goodwill Poverty Simulation

by David Leski

During the Community Day meeting we had the opportunity to partake in a poverty simulation. Goodwill facilitated a mock four-week exercise that challenged our thoughts and ideas around how Aurora citizens live below the poverty line in our community. For many in our session I think that what started as a "game" turned into a nightmare quickly. It was easy to see how the rules were stacked against us, and the daily interactions and fight for survival affected our sense of self-worth, our morals, and daily thought processes. As each successive simulated week passed by I could feel life's constraints around me. How to dig out of this mess? How to get by? Where is the money for X going to come from? Basic survival turned some of us to lower our standards of conduct; to lie, cheat or steal if necessary. Personally I tried my best to take the simulation very seriously (and take it to heart) and as such could feel my stress levels elevate rapidly. What is the solution? Where to go? Too many things, not enough time! By the end I was personally ready to walk out of the session and it did indeed take me a few minutes or more to calm my nerves, to relax...remember it was just a game...heart pounding, nerves shot, mood ring in overdrive because anxiety off the charts...but for many living in our community this is not a simulation. It isn't something that they can simply chose not to play. We as Leadership Aurora Class of 2016-2017 need to seek after ways we can truly minister to our fellow Aurora citizens the needed assistance that can heal these wounds and calm these fears. Many living in Aurora struggle with things we don't even think twice about. We take for granted our cars, our employment, our health and worry about "first world problems" while many within arm's reach are slowly sinking into despair. I learned from this simulation that we have to help those around us! We have to engage individually and as a body of caring citizens to succor those who stand in need. We can BE the change we want see in our neighborhoods and community! A journey of thousand miles begins with the first step...so how will you serve this day and leave Aurora one step better than it was yesterday?