



Class of 2017-18...The Best Newsletter from the Best Class Ever!

Volume 1, Issue 3

January 16, 2018

WHAT'S NEXT?

Education Day
January 18, 2018
@7:45am

Cherry Creek School District
Institute of Science & Technology Lecture Center
12500 E. Jewell Avenue
Aurora, Colorado 80012

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Upcoming Mini-Projects:

January: Clothing Drive

From the President...

Starting the New Year Off Right

Happy New Year and welcome to 2018!

I cannot tell you how excited I was to return from some time off over the holidays to an inbox full of Leadership Aurora dialogue. The Newsletter Committee was hard at work preparing for this latest edition. The Photography Committee was buzzing, collecting images from Breakfast with Santa organized by the Pay It Forward Committee. The Graduation Committee was set to meet for an initial discussion and begin the planning phase. The Project Committee was coordinating next steps for a visit to Delaney Farms and a way to assist Aurora Mental Health

Crisis Walk-in Clinic and Comitis with a bike rack. Not to mention some pictures of classmates making the most of their community explorations.

Things are definitely MOVING!

With the phenomenal commitment and expertise within the members of this class, there is no doubt we have good things on the horizon for our community. Let's keep that momentum going to do some real good for Aurora in 2018!

Tricia Johnson
Class President
2017-18 Leadership Aurora



Did you know:

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce has additional committees and programs that members are able to attend. Every newsletter, we will take time to explore the valuable work and efforts of some of these Committees.

Work Well 2.0 Health Series:

The mission of The Chamber's Health Series is to offer useful information about healthcare trends and issues, provided by industry experts. The Series is open to all Chamber members.

In 2015, The Chamber partnered with Tri-County Health Department in the Worksite Wellness Initiative. This is a three-year initiative with the goal to engage organizations to adopt best practices and policies to provide a healthy workplace environment. The initiative runs through

June 20, 2018 and provides resources, assessment tools, counseling, and funding for Chamber member businesses that commit to joining the coalition.

The Committee meets at 8 AM on the second Thursday of each month, at the Chamber office (unless otherwise specified). They also provide quarterly Breakfast/Lunch and Learns focused on other areas of interest in health care.

For more information, contact Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org

Media Day

Leading up to December's activities, Leadership Aurora had been treated to enlightening subject matter through a level of access one rarely has a chance to experience. Media Day proved to be no exception. While enjoying a great breakfast provided by the University of Colorado Cancer Center, classmates were brought together and spent the first part of the morning catching up with one another. It was a powerful reminder of the class's ability to form relationships. A few months earlier, no one in the class really knew each other. Fast-forward to this gathering and you could hear discussions of holiday plans with updates on families being exchanged throughout the room.

Once Rene had restored order, instructions and details on the day's events were explained as the class was split up into teams. We found out that we'd be acting out a broadcast on the set of Aurora 8 later that day with gentrification being the topic to tackle. Groups were given time to figure out who would be playing the parts listed and how they would approach their stance. After completing our initial planning, we were ready for our field trip to Fox31/CW2.



As we left the cozy confines of the Aurora Municipal Center, we were greeted by a large school bus that would take us on our way. The driver may have been surprised that adults dressed to the nines would immediately revert to the age and behavior she would normally encounter in this environment but none of us were. Once we arrived at the station, we were met in the lobby by Channel 2 Anchor Mike Landess. He was kind enough to tour our class throughout the building, allowed us a few Q&A sessions with a number of high-ranking employees and even provided us with seats to watch a live broadcast. It was fascinating to hear how the industry has, and continues to evolve and just how much content is



being sifted through on a daily basis. Insider details were given to our class on what kind of stories catch their eye and how to get that information covered. If you're curious about those details, I suggest you look into joining the next Leadership Aurora class. Toward the end of our stay, we were allowed to take photos on the set and were then escorted back to the lobby by our gracious host. Before we left, he hopped on the bus and thanked us once more for stopping by.

When the bus dropped us off at our starting point, we were ready for class photos and lunch. After a delicious meal that Adolfsen & Peterson Construction sponsored, we were ready for our Aurora 8 experience. Different stations were manned as the groups were put through a studio rotation. While half of the class was sitting in the control room, working the cameras on the set or actually being filmed, the other portion was treated to an engaging lecture from Jamie Alvarez on messaging and communication. While watching each group go through the process had its humorous moments, there was a great amount of information being absorbed. Watching our body language on camera, hearing ourselves respond to different types of questions and understanding the importance of preparation for an interview like this was impactful. It was easy to see how much one could struggle without having a foundation already prepared. Both of these experiences, combined with the earlier tour, provided valuable insight that should prove useful throughout our many careers.



Above Left: Natalie Kaiser (Aurora Mental Health Center), Yvonne Valdez (Citywide Banks), Julian Dewberry (Falck Rocky Mountain), Colin Spencer (Colin Spencer Productions), Rachel Robinson (Parker Adventist Hospital) & Melinda Robin (Aurora Mental Health Center) pose for a group photo at the Channel 2 News Desk.

Above: Leadership Aurora Class Picture at the Channel 2 (KWGN) News Studio

Left: Mike Landess speaks to LA Class 2017-18.

Right: Abby Fitch (City of Aurora), Kimberly Brown (City of Aurora) & Linda Blackston (City of Aurora) pose for a photo with Channel 2 News Anchor Mike Landess.



Where we have been...

Mentorship Opportunity with YMCA:

The YMCA has a Reach & Rise Mentorship program that supports youth ages 9 to 17. The mentorship program is focused on youth that are either challenged by poverty/crime, single parent households & those who have social issues such as self-esteem.

Mentors provide a positive and consistent relationship with one youth member of the community and help assist with improving self-esteem, deci-

sion-making skills, school performance and interpersonal relationships.



Mentors are required to complete an application designed to match youth with a mentor that has been through some of the same life issues that the

youth is currently undergoing. This match helps create an inherent trust in the youth to see that the mentor understands them and has risen above life's challenges.

Commitment involves 15 hours of training prior to being matched with a youth and 1-3 hours per week with your youth over the course of a year.

For more information, contact Samantha Church at 720.810.7275 or schurch@denverymca.org

Get to know your classmates!

Each month we talk to a group of your classmates and ask questions so we can get to know each other better. This month we are featuring Lynn Adams of the Community College of Aurora, Deborah Hoefler of the Community College of Aurora, [David Strohfus of Cherry Creek Schools](#) and [Rachel Gruber of the Chamber of Commerce](#). [Find out why they all plan ahead to stay hydrated!](#)

Here is what they had to say:

Question: What do you do in your current position?

Lynn: I am the assistant director of donor relations for the Community College of Aurora Foundation. I am responsible for unleashing the generosity in our community through sponsorship, private donations and corporate partnerships. The money raised through the foundation serves the purpose of providing over 500k in sponsorships annually to Community College of Aurora students.

Deborah: I am the Director of Financial Aid Advising at the Community College of Aurora. I oversee the student facing/customer service side of the financial aid process. I also lead the Wellness Committee at CCA.

David: As Director of Planning and Interagency Relations, I work very closely with the planning departments for all municipalities in the Cherry Creek School District to evaluate residential developments and their impacts on schools. I serve as a liaison to Cities of Aurora, Centennial, Greenwood Village, Cherry Hills Village, and Arapahoe County. Our office manages land dedication for schools, management of land assets, collaboration with residential developers and realtors, enrollment forecasting, future school planning, attendance boundaries, admissions and choice, and evaluating demographic trends.

Rachel: I am the Director of Events and Marketing and I run the Women in Business and Young Professionals Committees at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Question: Who is the most inspirational person to you?

Lynn: It may be cliché, but while I admire many celebrities no one inspires me like my mom. She has the kindest heart of anyone I know, and she is so determined and smart and beautiful inside and out. I am inspired by everything she has accomplished.

Deborah: My mother Helen was, she grew up in the dust bowl days, she had to haul water in buckets just to do dishes- she is the reason my 5 siblings and I are who we are. She taught us how to pray and love each other.

David: I've always found my grandmother, Lillian Corrigan, to be my greatest inspiration. She was a pioneer for women in education from the State of Iowa. Born in 1900, she was told repeatedly that the only teaching positions for women were in one-room schoolhouses. She persisted to follow her dream to become a high school math teacher and eventually broke through many barriers for women in fields reserved for men.

Rachel: I am blessed to say that I have two inspirational people that I admire, my parents. My dad taught me how to be a problem solver, quick thinker, and to never give up in something you believe in. My mom is one of the strongest people I know and has fought health battles for years and never gave up and continues to be better every day.

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Get to know your classmates! (Cont. from Page 3)

Question: If you were stranded on a desert island, what three items would you want to have with you?

Lynn:

1. Another human that I like. I know that's not a "thing" but I wouldn't make it if I was deserted all alone.
2. Drinking water (plenty of it)
3. Tools – I need to figure out how to build a boat so I can get off that island!

Deborah: Drinking water, my bible, pencil

David: I would carry my trusty multi-tool – never leave home without it! Next I'd take a fishing rod, so I'd never be bored or hungry. Finally, I'd have some sort of reading material – probably on one of my hobbies (brewing, hunting, fishing, golf, snowboarding, or mountain biking).

Rachel: If I was stranded on a desert island the first I would bring another person that is good at fishing, hunting, camping and general island life because those are things I have not mastered. I would also bring a massive amount of water and a Netflix subscription.

Question: If you could only choose one vacation destination where would you pick and why?

Lynn: The Maldives

Deborah: San Pedro, Belize. It is remote, low key and beautiful friendly, safe, and I like the locals.

David: I'm fascinated by the unique culture and beauty of Europe. The countryside dotted with castles and vineyards would be my happy place. I think I'd spend time on a Belgian and German beer tour really trying to get back to the classics of beer styles. I'd probably finish the adventure with a bike tour of Ireland and Scotland. I'd pull a small trailer to carry my golf clubs, hopping from town to town on a single malt and golf tour. I'd try to pick off as many courses on the Open rotation as possible while pubbing it the whole way. My family would be great partners in crime on

this adventure, although my wife would HATE the biking! Man, answering this question in particular is making it really hard to get back into the swing of work!

Rachel: I would go to Bora Bora because I love to be surrounded by water and it seems incredibly peaceful. I have also never been there and it is on my bucket list

Question: What advice would you give to your younger self?

Lynn: Believe in yourself a little more. Don't rush to find someone who "likes" you. Credit is important take good care of it, and save save save. You don't have to spend every penny you get. Lastly when people show you who they are please believe them.

Deborah: Use more sunscreen- don't worry about others and don't be afraid to ask for help

David: Travel more and live in a foreign country. Learn a language and immerse myself in that culture.

Rachel: I would tell myself that you need to take advantage of things now because they are not going to be there forever, don't be scared to take the first step.

Question: What was the last film you saw at the theater?

Lynn: Pitch Perfect 3 and it was Acca-Awesome!

Deborah: I have no clue! it's been forever since I've been to the movies.

David: On Christmas Day we saw the new Star Wars – Episode LMNOP Jedi Attack of the Last... whatever. I must be the only person in the world who just never got into these movies. I didn't even really dig them as a kid. My kids wanted to see it, though. It was pretty entertaining, I guess. The special effects and battle scenes were pretty good. Still, this movie was pretty much the same for me as the others.

Rachel: STAR WARS – The Last Jedi

Question: Finally, what would you like people to know about you?

Lynn: I would want people to know I am passionate about things important to me. I am a person who wants to be a part of what makes the world better. I don't judge anyone. Friendships and family are at the top of things important to me. People can literally talk to me about anything. OH! And while I seem very very outgoing I am actually pretty shy. So if it takes me a while to warm up it's probably not you.

Deborah: I am loyal and dedicated. I will defend you till the end. My 2 children and their spouses are my best friends. I have few friends outside of family because my family is so huge and I enjoy spending all my free time with by siblings and their families. I love to run, spend time working outside and someday hope to write a book on survivors of suicide.

David: I'm a big believer in being engaged – give of yourself and be in the moment. There's obviously a lot of yellow in me. I'm very relational and loyal. I enjoy people and activity. I can't sit still well, and my greatest memory is whatever happens tomorrow! I'm all about my kids, my family and finding balance in life. I'm a learner and am still trying to figure out a lot of stuff!

Rachel: I want people to know that I am really excited for opportunities in the future, getting more involved in the community, and making the most of life. I am also happy to be a class member in the LA BEST CLASS EVER!