



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

Volume 1, Issue 4

February 13, 2018

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Healthcare Day  
February 15, 2018  
@7:30am

HealthONE  
The Medical Center of  
Aurora  
1501 S Potomac St  
Aurora, Colorado 80012

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### Upcoming Mini-Projects:

February: Food Drive

## From the President...

### Things are Starting to Roll – We are Making an Impact

With another successful session under our belts, this year's Leadership Aurora Class is really getting into the groove. It's crazy to think that we are already over half of the way through the program! However, with that in mind, we are turning our attention to kicking off the major project – launching Purposity in Aurora with partners from across the community, including an already confirmed partnership with Aurora Public Schools. If you want to learn more about the good work of Purposity in other communities, check them out here <http://www.purposity.com/>. The Project Committee is hard at work determining

next steps and creating an action plan for ways for each of us to be involved.

While this is occurring, we are already starting to think about graduation. Can you believe it? It will be here before we know it. Let's all step up and keep the momentum going. It is going to take us all to meet our goals. The 2017-2018 Leadership Aurora Class is a powerful one, so let's dig deep and make this stuff happen!

Tricia Johnson  
Class President  
2017-18 Leadership Aurora



## Changing the Face of Education

Times are changing, and so is the way we're educating our children. Our schools today have become increasingly diverse, along with their future goals and unique learning needs. Aurora Public Schools and the Cherry Creek School District collectively serve over 96,000 stu-

dents. APS educates children speaking over 160 languages from over 130 countries, while students in CCSD speak over 130 languages from over 100 countries. While there may be some unique differences between the two districts, there are definitely some shared goals for educating today's learners. Today's students look forward to a world of work where many of their occupations don't yet exist! Students are exposed to many more options and choices when it comes to both course content and method

of delivery. Learning has become much more student-centered, and high school students have many opportunities to begin exploring potential career paths.

Both Aurora and Cherry Creek have championed programming to establish workforce readiness. Flexible scheduling and coursework have opened the doors for student internships, blended learning environments, and concurrent enrollment through local community colleges.

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# Education Day

Members of the Leadership Aurora class visited the Community College of Aurora's Lowry Campus as part of our field experience for Education Day. The class was greeted by Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven, President of the Community College of Aurora, and also met with leaders from Colorado Technical University, and the Colorado Film School.

The Community College of Aurora serves students from all walks of life and enables them to become lifelong learners, while also preparing them for success in the workforce. CCA offers accredited online degree programs, certificate programs, a general education degree, transfer degree programs, and associate of arts and sciences programs. All these educational opportunities are designed to suit a wide variety of student needs and interests – both online and in the classroom. One unique aspect of CCA is ability to seamlessly transfer credits to other Colorado colleges and universities. On campus students can access the career resources office to assist in program selection and offer employment assistance and support as student begin their careers.

A unique opportunity that CCA offers is Colorado EMT training and certification or Colorado EMS training and certification. Using the most up-to-date technology, like high-tech mannequins, and simulated, real life experience, students receive invaluable hands-on learning for becoming an EMT or EMS. The elaborate training facilities on campus provide lifelike simulated experiences that students will encounter in the field.



Aurora Public Schools Superintendent Rico Munn briefs the LA Class of 2017-18.

CCA partners with local law enforcement and emergency responders to host periodic, multi-jurisdiction training simulations. Through these mock training sessions, our first responders gain valuable insights on how to best respond in a wide variety of emergency situations. They work to collaborate and share resources to best respond to large-scale emergency events.



LA Class of 2017-18 tours facilities located on the Community College of Aurora's Lowry Campus.

Another specialized opportunity for students is its business incubator. CCA's Entrepreneur Space is a dedicated on-campus work space that is outfitted with the latest equipment to support the launch and growth of a new small business. Students studying entrepreneurship and small business management have access to many resources that offset many of the costs of starting a new business. The CCA Launchpad is equipped with computer work stations for business planning, the development of marketing materials, 3D modeling software and equipment to help with product prototyping, and each computer station has Quickbooks financial management software to help students manage revenues and expenses in the first months of operation. The Launchpad houses many of the tools necessary to engage in all aspects of business including copiers and office tools to help entrepreneurs put their best foot forward in the marketplace. This space is also used for collaborative opportunities allowing budding entrepreneurs to bounce ideas off of one-another and to leverage each other's skills and abilities to support their peer ventures. This space was designed to be used as a fully functioning business office for new businesses to become established and gain the necessary momentum to become self-sufficient once they emerge from the incubator.



LA Class of 2017-18 tours facilities located on the Picken's Technical College Campus.

Colorado Technical University offers both associate and bachelor's degrees in addition to graduate programs allowing students to earn both master's and doctoral degrees. CTU has been repeatedly recognized as one of the most "military friendly" schools in the country. CTU allows students to earn prior learning credits for a variety of life and career experiences, making their programs attractive and their degrees attainable. Courses can be completed both on campus, online, and through blended learning opportunities.

The Colorado film school offers a variety of certificates and degrees in a rigorous professional training environment. All students begin with a set of core courses that prepare a foundational understanding across all disciplines of filmmaking, encouraging a deeper understanding of the entire film making process. Students can earn certificates or an associate of applied science degree in one of six areas of emphasis: screenwriting, producing, directing, acting, cinematography, and postproduction. All students engage in the filmmaking process from start to finish through real life projects. Students who complete the program build a professional level portfolio and are qualified to either work anywhere in the field of their chosen emphasis or continue their education in a graduate program.

## Where we have been...

### Aurora History Museum:

Located within the City of Aurora Municipal Center, the Aurora History Museum opened its doors in 1979. The museum collects and exhibits artifacts and documents pertaining to the history of Aurora and Colorado.

Currently the museum has several temporary exhibits:

Wings to Satellites – A History of Buckley Air Force Base

This Exhibit, open now through June 3rd, features stories surrounding



Buckley Air Force Base over the past eight decades. The Exhibit includes historical Buckley newspapers, "letters from loved ones", various uni-

forms worn by those at Buckley and overseas, and additional information highlighting the Colorado Armed National Guard as well as Buckley's commitment and sacrifices made to protect our Citizens. Several facets of the Exhibit detail out what it is like to be a "rookie", as well as train at the Base.

US 40 and the American Road Trip

This Exhibit, open now through May 6th, highlights the history of Colfax Avenue, original Aurora historic sites and changes seen over the years.

## Changing the Face of Education

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Aurora Public Schools is home to Pickens Technical College. Pickens is a non-profit, public institution that has over 30 CTE (Career and Technical Education) programs, where students learn theory and then apply what they learn in a classroom, lab, outdoor or shop setting. Today's highly technical and advanced classes are designed to be both exploratory in nature and focused toward program completion and certification. Pickens is proud of their industry partnerships, allowing students to gain hands-on experience with the newest technology available. Pickens serves both secondary and post-secondary students at about a 50/50% split. The secondary students are comprised of Aurora Public Schools and other school districts who have contracts with Pickens. Pickens is very focused on student success, so instructors, administration, the career services department and their many partnered employers all work together to assist the students with careers readiness and job placement.

Pickens is a total participation school when it comes to their Career and Technical Student Organizations, so every student has the opportunity to participate in volunteer work, fundraising, toy, food and hygiene drives, and compete in events at regional, state, and national levels. Students at Pickens can earn critical industry certifications and digital badges that translate into immediate workforce readiness.

The Cherry Creek School District offers career and technical courses in every high school. Construction is underway on a new state-of-the-art facility where students will be able to take highly technical courses in advanced manufacturing, aviation, business services, culinary and hospitality, health services, infrastructure engineering, information technology and computer



systems, and transportation. The district's Career and Technical Education program connects students with unique opportunities that offer access to the next generation of careers in a variety of fields. Students have the opportunity to complete internships, earn college credit, and earn critical industry certifications and digital badges. The Cherry Creek Schools Foundation has worked diligently with the CTE program to establish industry partners to help expand programming and provide the latest tools and technology for students to gain hands-on experience.

# 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. We talked to Yvonne Valdez of City Bank, Linda Blackston from the City of Aurora and Kim Brown, also from the City of Aurora. We learn they all had a hair that probably fostered a love of hairspray and best-selling books you might see in the future!

Here is what they had to say:

**Question: What do you do in your current position?**

Yvonne: Currently I am the Senior Vice President of Retail Sales. My job is to ensure the branches are listening to our customers' needs and giving them the best products and services available. Having been at the bank for 32 years, I have held several different positions and I would say the one I liked the best was being the Security Officer. I got to deal with a lot of bad guys who tried to rip the bank off by passing counterfeit checks, counterfeit currency or was stupid enough to try and rob the bank. It's amazing the degree of stupid there is in the world. Made the job interesting though.

Linda: I am the City Clerk of Aurora. A City Clerk serves as the official record keeper of the City, they run the boards and commissions, runs council meetings and they run the elections. My favorite part of the job is running elections. My job is interesting because there is a new challenge every day.

Kim: I work in the Office of Budget and Financial Planning for the City of Aurora as a Budget Analyst. I work with several departments to develop, review and analyze their budget recommendations.

**Question: What's the craziest fashion trend you ever rocked?**

Yvonne: Well, since I am an 80's child, we rocked the stirrup pants, leg warmers, and the Madonna and Pat Benatar look. Of course, the hair was big back then so I was at least 4 inches taller than I am right now. I realize, most of you were not born yet 😊 so you will have to google how cool we looked back then.

Linda: I grew up in the 80's so big hair. I have some big hair now, but not like I did in the 80's!

Kim: While as a child I always wanted to rock all the trends, my parents wouldn't let me and I'm grateful in hindsight. I would have to say I rocked the giant bangs in middle school with loads of hairspray.

**Question: Who is your most interesting relative?**

Yvonne: I guess I would say my Uncle Jeff. He is a comedian and writer and lives in Beverly Hills. His next-door neighbor is Jodi Foster and one of his dearest friends is Cheech Marin. Funny guys!

Linda: My Aunt Birdie is my favorite relative. When we were kids she would take us on out-ing, usually of places we had not been before or to do things we had not done. She was funny and was always up for something new.

Kim: I would say my most interesting relative is my Grandma. She grew up in farm country Minnesota during the Great Depression. They did not have much, but she wanted to go to school beyond the eighth grade, so she had to rent a room in a larger town so she could attend high school. Once she was able to, she moved to Kansas City, MO to chase a dream for a better life. While in Kansas City she would ride bus lines all the way through as a way to discover the city and learn the public transportation. I think she was fearless especially for the time. Her sense of adventure and exploration is something I happily carry with me.

**Question: If you could live any historical figure's life, which one would you choose?**

Yvonne: I would like to live the life of Queen Elizabeth. She is a no nonsense powerful woman who has had a full and seemingly happy life. Wearing all the nice jewelry would also be quite fun.

Linda: Mother Theresa. She helped so many people. There should be more people as kind and as helpful as Mother Teresa.

Kim: I would choose Marco Polo. I think the journey from Venice to China would have been incredible. Just to see the cultural differences half way across the world.

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

Yvonne: I would totally tell myself to get by butt out of the sun or use sunscreen. Back in the day, we used baby oil and aluminum foil to get

that bronze look. We didn't know any better. Linda: Don't take life so seriously. Have some fun. Save some money. I was much too serious when I was younger, except about saving money. I would tell myself I need to enjoy life a little more!

Kim: I would tell myself to not think so much about what other people think about me, and just be me. People will like you if you just be yourself. I would also tell myself to take more chances. I think I was a little timid when I was younger.

**Question: If you wrote a book, what would it be called?**

Yvonne: My book would be called: Why My Dogs Are Better Than People. There is something about all animals that capture my heart but my pups are extremely important to me. They are innocent, beautiful creatures that love you unconditionally. I can go home after a long hard day and my puppies are always there waiting for me with love and kisses. It makes the worst day better.

Linda: I would write a self-help book called: Enjoy Life. As I said before, I haven't always taken the time to enjoy life. I now know the importance of slowing down, taking a trip and doing something fun for yourself!

Kim: I always thought if I were a musician, I would have an album called Organized Chaos. I would pick that for a book title.

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

Yvonne: I want people to know that I don't define my success or failures on anything anyone did to me in my past. We all have our crosses to bear and allowing someone who has wronged you the power to control your life or happiness only allows them to continue their dominance over you. Stand up, be strong and love life.

Linda: Try new things. I don't think we take the time to experience life like we should. Take a trip to somewhere you have never been or do something you have never done.

Kim: I can come off shy at first, and it might take a while for me to open up. I know I'm an introvert to the core, but hang with me. There is an extrovert in there too! Once I do open up, I'm incredibly loyal and probably won't be quiet.