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MAY/JUNE 2019

# THE CHAMBER Impact NEWSLETTER



## Upcoming Leadership Aurora events:

### CASINO NIGHT

Celebrating Leadership Aurora's  
35th Anniversary  
Saturday, May 11, 2019 • 6-11 pm  
Hyatt Regency Aurora Conference Center  
13200 E. 14th Place  
Aurora, CO 80011  
(Registration deadline,  
Monday, May 6, 2019)

### 21st ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

CaddyShack Theme &  
LA Alumni Challenge  
Thursday, June 13, 2019 • 7 am-3 pm  
Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course  
23155 E. Heritage Pkwy.  
Aurora, CO 80016  
7 am registration  
8 am shotgun start  
Sponsorships and Foursomes available

The annual Leadership Aurora Golf  
Tournament is the primary fundraiser  
for the scholarship fund,  
which can provide applicants  
requesting financial assistance.

To register for Chamber events,  
go to [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org) and  
click on CALENDAR on the top bar,  
then scroll to the date of the event  
and click on link.



facebook

## Aurora Chamber Celebrates 2018 Business Award Winners at *Fire & Ice*



Congratulations to all the award winners (left to right): Community Leadership, Bob Baker - **South Metro Fire Rescue Authority**; Small Business of the Year, **Six & Six, Inc.**, Mario Waller; Business for the Arts, Brian Molitoris, **Brian Molitoris Photographer**; Business of the Year, Rick Medwedeff - **Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center**; Man of the Year, Rico Munn, **Aurora Public Schools**; Humanitarian of the Year, Denise Denton, **Aurora Health Alliance**; Woman of the Year, Theresa Bailey, **UCHealth**; Business Person of the Year, Dave Ruppel, **Colorado Air and Space Port**; The Ken Melcher Ambassador of the Year, Brian Sowl, **Nelnet**; and Chamber Leadership, Jim Bickford, **Armitage Bickford Creer, LLC**.  
(Photo by Teri Mingilton, Elemental Photography)

**T**he Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Dinner on March 15, 2019 celebrated and honored leaders in the community who have made significant contributions to their community and to The Chamber during 2018. The dinner was held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver featuring a Fire & Ice theme. Prior to dinner, guests had an opportunity to network and participate in the Chamber's silent auction, featuring over 100 items to bid on. Following the silent auction, guests entered the main ballroom and enjoyed a fire and ice inspired dinner by the hotel's master chef. Guests were encouraged to continue eating as Chamber President, Kevin Hougen began opening announcements.

Rick Crandall, master of ceremonies, invited past award winners and main sponsors to the

stage to help present the awards to current winners.

The Chamber would like to thank the sponsors, as their support of this signature event is greatly appreciated. Title Sponsor, **The Aurora Highlands**; Corporate Sponsor, **Extraction Oil**; Supporting Sponsor, **ConocoPhillips**; Community Sponsors, **Colorado Technical University**, **Oakwood Homes**, and **The Medical Center of Aurora**; Company Sponsors, **Citywide Banks**, **Plante Moran**, **UCHealth** and **Wells Fargo**; Printing Sponsor, **Great Western Printing**; Stage Decor Sponsor, **Children's Hospital Colorado**.

And thank you to all of the individual table sponsors. The Chamber would also like to give a great big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with the set-up of the event and throughout the evening. ■





**Kevin Hougen**  
*President & CEO*

# President's Letter

## Buckley AFB: #1 Base For The Future Home Of U.S. Space Command

Three states made the cut for the future home of U.S. Space Command; Alabama, California, and Colorado.

The six finalist locations are Buckley Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Peterson Air Force Base, and Schriever Air Force base – all in Colorado – along with the

Army's Redstone Arsenal in Alabama and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

I'm writing this article about why I believe U.S. Space Command's future home is in Colorado and why Buckley AFB would be a perfect location. Many thanks go out to our other partners supporting the location of the U.S. Space Command permanently in Colorado - "Team Colorado" consists of the Metro Denver Chamber & EDC, Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and Aurora Economic Development Council.

Here are the top reasons that I believe that Colorado and Buckley AFB are the #1 site for the future home of U.S. Space Command:

- 1) Situational awareness, satellite operations and with global, integrated, command and control of military space forces, including all space support for land, air, naval and cyber forces all happen right here at Buckley AFB and we also have all branches of the US military already located here.
- 2) Buckley AFB (460th Space Wing), which is tasked with global infrared surveillance, tracking and missile warning is rooted in Aurora, creating a multitude of economic development opportunities for the region. Last year the City of Aurora, Arapahoe County, Buckley AFB and other community partners including the Chamber of Commerce, were able to secure a \$26 million dollar grant (REPI funds) for purchasing 1,030

acres around the base for future expansion and protection of our valuable asset.

- 3) Buckley is also home to the Aerospace Data Facility Colorado, a unique multi agency, joint intelligence facility with over 4,000 employees and top U.S. agencies such as NRO, NSA, and NSA.
- 4) Nearby is the new Colorado Air and Space Port (formerly Front Range Airport) which is also located just minutes outside Denver International Airport and will be home to manufacturing, research and development, and space travel with horizontal lift capacities. Buckley AFB hosts a number of other private companies that have set up shop in Colorado, including offices for Lockheed Martin, United Launch, Northrup Grumman, Sierra Nevada, Ball Aerospace, and Raytheon.
- 5) Colorado is also home to the 4th largest airport in the country, and Denver International Airport is expanding to serve over 110 million customers in the next 10 years; flying to more than 150 destinations and eventually serving over 60 international destinations.
- 6) Colorado has one of the largest populations with higher education degrees in the United States, with over 30 universities and colleges serving the metro area. With our quality of life, Colorado is one of the fastest growing states with STEM educated workforce already here. Our state ranks first in the nation for its concentration of aerospace jobs, with more than 27,000 private sector employees and more than 28,000 military personnel working directly on space.

And, by the way, Aurora was the home of the first Air Force Academy back in the late 1950s, at Lowry Air Force Base. Let's continue that history with Aurora, Colorado's own Buckley Air Force Base being home to the first U.S. Space Command.

Onward, and absolutely upward!

## ChamberBoard

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

#### CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Joe Barela | *Colorado Department of Labor and Employment*

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Michael Sheldon | *Aurora Highlands*  
Brian Sowl | *Nelnet*

### HONORARY DIRECTORS

Bruce Dalton | *Visit Aurora*  
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### STAFF

Kevin Hougen | *President and CEO*  
Rene J. Simard | *Executive Vice President*  
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Beau Martinez | *Membership Development*  
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Mitzi Schindler | *Director of Communications*

### ASSOCIATES

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

.....  
Mario Waller | *Six & Six, inc.* | Newsletter Design

### 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.

## 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](http://www.aurorachamber.org), so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

# An Inside Look at Chamber Committees

## BUSINESS FOR THE ARTS



Rachael K. Sharp, co-founder and director of Arts in Education at Creative Strategies for Change.

### Diversity in the Arts

**Tuesday, March 5, 2019**

In March, the Business for the Arts committee and the Diversity and Inclusion Council held a joint meeting for a presentation about Diversity in the Arts.

Rachael K. Sharp, co-founder and director of Arts in Education at Creative Strategies for Change, provided an interactive introduction to implicit bias — within the context of diversity, equity, and inclusion — and how these concepts intersect with the arts and business. It was a lively meeting, with some thought-provoking questions and activities.

Sharp invited attendees to consider the categories of diversity, the importance of inclusion, and the need for equity for all people in and around our businesses and within the arts. She led a couple of simple activities that offered insight into how cultural differences affect all experiences as we walk through life — and how deeply embedded implicit bias is in all people. Sharp left the group with the hopeful message that we can start to disrupt implicit bias when we devote intention, attention, and time to cultivating new and existing associations.

### Introduction to Authentic Social Media

**Tuesday, April 2, 2019**



Dianne Myles

Dianne Myles, founder of Dope Mom Life Creative Content Agency, gave a lively and informative presentation about social media to the Business for the Arts committee on the morning of April 2.

She began with the story of how — and why — she started her business: She understood that there was a need for multicultural communities to be visibly reflected in mainstream campaigns, arenas, and initiatives, so began using her expertise in video and influencer marketing to brand build and create authentic relationships with and for diverse audiences.

In her presentation, she reviewed and explained the basics of social media, including:

- What platforms to use and why (Pick two platforms for 80 percent of your posting)
  - Video, video, video
  - Creating and curating content that engages your target audience
  - The big do's and don'ts of social media
  - How to build authentic relationships
  - Useful tools to enhance your social media
  - Building relationships with hard-to-reach demographics
  - Consistency in branding, visuals, and language
  - SEO isn't as complicated as it seems
- Myles emphasized that being authentic, engaging in relationships with your audience, and consistency are three of the keys to successful social media.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Mobility Choice Blueprint

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

Don Hunt, founder of Mobility Choice Blueprint Initiative, and Jake Rishavy, co-founder and board member of Colorado Smart Cities Alliance gave broad overviews of their projects to the Chamber's Transportation committee on March 6.



Don Hunt



Jake Rishavy

Hunt talked about how technology trends in mobility are changing the way people move. He explained that objectives of the Blueprint include regional collaboration, connectivity, system optimization, shared mobility, data security and sharing, mobility electrification, driverless vehicle preparation, and new transportation funding.

Rishavy talked about how the Colorado Smart Cities Alliance brings together multiple sectors to solve complex city challenges. Some of these challenges include mobility, housing, information access, resources, planning, healthy and equitable food access, economic development and workforce retention, and community engagement.

*[continued on page 4]*

### Air Transportation in the Eastern Metro Area

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019**

At the April 3 Transportation meeting, attendees heard about what's going on — and up — at the Eastern Metro Area's three major airports, as well as how the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Division of Aeronautics serves as a funding and support resource for these airports.

Robert Oslislagers, executive director of Centennial Airport, focused on the economic impact of the airport, including its 340,000 annual operations, and that it's the second busiest general/business airport in the U.S. He also discussed the aeronautics research and development associated with Centennial Airport, including A-500/700, Javelin Jet Fighter, Maverick Experimental, eFlyer Electric Airplane, Baby Boom/Overture, and Dream Chaser.

Dave Ruppel, director of the Colorado Air and Space Port (formerly Front Range Airport), talked about the process of the Spaceport licensure, and the possibilities of use and growth of the Space Port, including space tourism, space pilot training, payload delivery, and manufacturing. He also explained the Rocketplane flight profile, and how the horizontal launch facility uses reusable launch vehicles or "Spaceplanes" that take off and land from the existing airport runways.

Dave Ulane, director of the Aeronautics Division of CDOT, explained how the mission of the division is to support Colorado's multi-



modal transportation system by advancing a safe, efficient, and effective state-wide air and space system through collaboration, investment, and advocacy. The Division of Aeronautics also partners with several Colorado airports to provide internship education program — which Ulane fondly remembers as his first real-time introduction to aviation.

Darryl Jones, chief real estate officer for Denver International Airport (DEN), began his presentation with the exciting news that DEN was ranked #1 by The Wall Street Journal in November 2018.

DEN is currently the fifth busiest airport in the U.S., and served 64.5 million passengers in 2018. As it grows both domestically and internationally, the 25 year-old airport is planning for expansion and upgrades that will include six more runways, 39 new gates by spring 2021, an improved security process, and more areas with access to food and drink, and comfortable seating. ■



The Alliance is made up of 40+ cross-sector members, private sector investment, an 11-member executive board, four civic labs with 50 public, private, and academic partners at each, data captured and coded from 35 hours of discovery session, and three pilot projects underway with a pipeline of opportunities.

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY

### A New Educational Opportunity in Aurora

Thursday, February 21, 2019



Nicole Lovato

Nicole Lovato, senior program manager of strategic partnerships, and Peter Sherman, Aurora Science & Tech (AST) founding school director presented about a new school system coming to Aurora in fall 2019.



Peter Sherman

The Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) is launching its ninth campus and first school in Aurora. AST will be a school where close, caring relationships are at the heart of the school experience, and school culture intentionally fosters strong relationships. AST prepares students for college, with an emphasis on developing

students through liberal arts learning (reading, writing, mathematics, and science). Ultimately the goal is to ensure that future students are prepared for college, career, and life.

### Legal, On-Demand Cannabis Delivery Thursday, March 7, 2019

Sara Lasner, director of community relations with Eaze, and Danielle Glover, account executive with CRL Associates, LLC, gave a brief presentation on Eaze, and its introduction to Colorado. Based in California, Eaze offers legal, on-demand delivery of cannabis products in California and is now working to operate in Colorado. Eaze brand and product experts only source products from trusted partners; so if they're not legal, licensed and thoroughly tested, they're not on Eaze.



Sara Lasner



Danielle Glover

### Support and Opposing Thursday, March 21, 2019

Throughout the legislative session the Government Affairs, Energy, and Education committee meets the first and third Thursday of each month, to keep the members informed as new bills are being introduced.

State Legislators are invited to provide updates on issues they are supporting, as well as City and County elected officials. Representatives from The Chamber's lobbying firm, Axiom Politics also attend every meeting, providing expert updates on existing bills and where they are in the process at the Capitol.

To see information about bills The Chamber is monitoring, go to [www.aurorachamber.org/committees/government-affairs/](http://www.aurorachamber.org/committees/government-affairs/) and click on the Colorado Capitol Watch icon.

The committee is advised by Axiom Politics and will often take positions on bills, if there has been a motion to support or oppose. The committee's position is then taken to The Chamber's Board of Directors, to make the final vote.

To date, committee has taken a position on three bills:

#### HB19-1257 & HB19-1258 – SUPPORT

- HB19-1257 – Voter Approval to Retain Revenue for Education and Transportation
  - Concerning authority for the state to keep and spend all of the revenue in excess of the constitutional limitation on state fiscal year spending beginning with the 2018-19 fiscal year in order to provide funding for public schools, higher education, and roads, bridges, and transit.
- HB19-1258 – Allocate Voter-Approved Revenue for Education and Transportation
  - Concerning the allocation of money that the state keeps and spends as a result of a voter-approved revenue change at the 2019 statewide election.

Kevin Priola, SD 25 attended the meeting to speak on behalf of supporting both bills.

#### SB19-188 – OPPOSE

- HB19-188 – FMLI
  - The bill creates the family and medical leave insurance (FMLI) program and the division of family and medical leave insurance in the department of labor and employment to provide partial wage replacement benefits to an eligible individual who takes leave from work:
- To care for a new child or a family member with a serious health condition;
- Because the eligible individual is unable to work due to the individual's own serious health condition or because the individual or a family member is the victim of abusive behavior; or
- Due to certain needs arising from a family member's active duty service.

Each employee and employer in the state will pay one-half the cost of a premium as specified in the bill, which premium is based on a percentage of the employee's yearly wages. The premiums are deposited into the family and medical leave insurance fund, and family and medical leave benefits are paid to eligible

individuals from the fund. The division is established as an enterprise, and premiums paid into the fund are not considered state revenues for purposes of the taxpayer's bill of rights (TABOR).

#### HB19-1168 – OPPOSE

- HB19-1168 – State Innovation Waiver Reinsurance Program
  - Concerning the creation of the Colorado reinsurance program to provide reinsurance payments to health insurers to aid in paying high-cost insurance claims, and, in connection therewith, authorizing the commissioner of insurance to seek approval from the federal government to waive applicable federal requirements, request federal funds, or both, to enable the state to implement the program and making the program contingent upon waiver or funding approval.

### Mid-Term Legislators'

#### Breakfast at TMCA

Monday, April 1, 2019

On Monday, April 1, 120 Chamber and community members attended the annual Mid-term Legislators' breakfast, hosted by The Medical Center of Aurora (TMCA) South Campus. President and CEO Ryan Simpson and his executive leadership team provided an exceptional venue and a substantial breakfast buffet. Due to early morning committee starts at the State Capitol, only three legislators were able to attend the event. Representative Mike Weissman, HD36; Senator Angela Williams, SD33; and Senator Nancy Todd, SD28 all spoke and gave updates on what issues they are currently supporting.



Senator Nancy Todd speaks to the crowd at the April 1 Legislators' Breakfast at The Medical Center of Aurora. (Photo by Brian Molitoris Photographer)

### Bills, Bills and More Bills

Thursday, April 4, 2019

At the April 4 meeting, Meg Dubray with Axiom Politics gave updates about what had been happening at the Capitol. The committee decided to continue monitoring the following bills:

- HB19-1025 – Limits on Job Application Criminal History Inquiries
- SB19-051 – Increase General Fund Funding for Transportation

[continued on page 5]

- HB19-1033 - Local Governments May Regulate Nicotine Products
- SB19-173 - Colorado Secure Savings Plan Board
- SB19-005 - Import Prescription Drugs from Canada

#### Thursday, April 18, 2019

As there is 17 days of session left, the committee continued to monitor bills, and Meg Dubray gave an update as to where each bill currently stands and what to expect during the final days of session. The committee did make a motion on one bill:

#### HB19-1306 - OPPOSE

- HB19-1306 - Monitoring Colorado Call Center Job Losses
  - The bill requires a business to notify the office of economic development (OED) of any plans to terminate customer service employee positions and employees who are employed by or work on behalf of a call center in those positions in the state and relocate the duties of those positions outside of the United States.

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



#### DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

The March 2019 Diversity and Inclusion Council was combined with Business for the Arts on Tuesday, March 5 for a presentation about Diversity in the Arts.

#### Breaking Down Biases To Increase Your Candidate Pool Friday, April 12, 2019



Mo Abdullah

The Diversity and Inclusion Council kicked off the April meeting with a powerful and energy-boosting ice breaker provided by Mo Abdullah, founder and certified trainer, and Patsy Pesa, certified trainer, of Culture Energized. They offered a unique way of getting to know one another, as well as an enthusiastic exercise that filled the room with high energy for the remainder of the program.



Trevor Pruitt

As the main presenter, the council hosted Trevor Pruitt, an associate with Skillful - A Markle Initiative, for a professional training about breaking down biases and barriers to attract diverse talent. In his presentation, Pruitt reviewed the difference between a Pedigree Job Posting and a Skills Based job posting, and how you can increase your candidate pool by changing the language in the job description. Pruitt provided hard data showing the significance in "talent loss" by using Pedigree job postings, as well as resources that can be used to eliminate gender bias in job postings.

The Markle Foundation works "to promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge among people of the United States, and to promote the general good of mankind." Currently, Markle is engaged in a nationwide initiative aimed at driving innovations that expand opportunities for employment and broaden ways for all Americans to learn and train for the work of the future.

#### WOMEN IN BUSINESS

##### Transitions

##### Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Stepping out of the familiar into the unknown can bring up many issues. These transitions can be personal, professional, and financial; and some are chosen, and others just happen all of sudden. What do you do?



Faith Donaldson and Lois Melkonian

Faith Donaldson, therapist and entrepreneur, and Lois Melkonian, broadcaster and life coach, led a powerful conversation about life transitions at the March 26 WIB meeting. They encouraged the audience to

participate and share their stories, by answering the following questions:

1. Who are you?
2. What prevents you from moving forward?
3. How do you manage the triggers?
4. How does balance impact your transition?

Faith and Lois shared how to manage transitions as well as their own personal stories of struggle and growth. With their combined experience, Faith and Lois host a weekly podcast *More to Life with Faith and Lois*, based on the concept that no matter what circumstance one is facing, there is always more to life.

#### WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

##### Two for Two to be Rescheduled

The Health Series scheduled for March 14, 2019, 'Mental Health in the Workplace,' to be presented by Jeffrey Johnson, with the Behavioral Health and Wellness Center of The Medical Center of Aurora, was cancelled due to the "Bomb Cyclone" Blizzard that swept through the area. This session will be rescheduled; date to be announced.

With the possibility of another "Bomb Cyclone" on Wednesday, April 10, the April 11, 2019 'Mouth/Body Connection' presentation by Lori Bowman with SpringRock Dental was cancelled. This session will be rescheduled; date to be announced.



#### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

##### Self Defense Training

##### Wednesday, February 20, 2019

In February, the Aurora Young Professionals linked up with the Aurora Police Department to learn a few key basics in self-defense. The Officers simulated events to get the YPs thinking about how to react in potentially dangerous situations. Broken into small groups, the YPs took to defensive maneuvers and offensive attacks on pads being held by the Aurora Police Officers. The exercise offered a refresher in maintaining awareness and attention to surroundings when out in public. The training was held at the Stampede, which was a great venue for the class, with its dance floor and open layout.

##### World of Beer Tour

##### Wednesday, March 20, 2019



Charlie Gottenkienny, co-founder of Bruz Brewery

In March, The Young Professionals were treated to a 'World of Beer' tour by Charlie Gottenkienny, co-founder of Bruz Brewery. Bruz provided a wide range of their Belgian-style beers; giving attendees tastes of brews with a variety of background stories. Gottenkienny discussed the process of starting a brewery

and the art of making great beer. The presentation not only provided delicious beer, but also gave the YPs insight into what it takes to run a business while informing them about the interesting process of brewing and the history of beer.

#### DEFENSE COUNCIL

##### Small Business Panel

##### Thursday, February 28, 2019

The venue and breakfast host for February's Defense Council was the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver. In addition to the standard unit and congressional staff reports, Defense Council members were treated to a panel that shared their experiences about doing business with the government. Discussion included lessons learned,

[continued on page 8]



## Community Impact Drives Positive Company Culture at Comcast

For businesses small and large, it's imperative to be a good corporate citizen, as consumers and employees favor companies and brands with socially and environmentally responsible practices.

Each year thousands of local **Comcast** NBCUniversal employees, families, friends, and community partners join together to make change happen, volunteering at project sites in cities throughout Colorado as part of the annual **Comcast** Cares Day. The company's long-standing tradition celebrates and exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism that **Comcast** employees bring to life each and every day of the year.

In 2019, more than 5,000 volunteers conducted more than 90 service projects at schools and community centers across Colorado as part of **Comcast** Cares Day. In Aurora, volunteers were at:

- **Aurora Public Schools**
  - Iowa Elementary
  - Kenton Elementary
- **City of Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space**
  - Grandview Dog Park
  - Plains Conservation Center
  - Utah Park
- Mile High Workshop & Bud's Warehouse

Giving back is at the core of **Comcast's** business, working to support and partner with our community organizations to connect people and our communities to what matters most.

## FCU Welcomes Jennifer Green as VP of Finance



Jennifer Green  
VP of Finance

**Fitzsimons Credit Union (FCU)** welcomes Jennifer Green as VP of Finance. Green is an experienced leader in both Finance and Accounting and will oversee the Accounting Department.

With over a decade of experience, Green appreciates and relies on the cooperative environment and collaborative nature found in the credit union industry. "The fact that I can call the competing credit union down the street and we can work together to improve both of our credit unions is amazing. Credit unions exist to help people, not make a profit, so we do whatever we can to serve the underserved."

Green holds an undergraduate degree in mathematics, and a master's degree in accounting. **FCU** President & CEO Robert Fryberger said, "Jennifer fills a critical role and I am confident that her strong background in financial analysis will benefit the credit union and help us grow to meet our strategic goals. We are excited to welcome Jennifer to the Fitzsimons team."

## MCPN is now STRIDE Community Health Center

Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN) celebrated 30 years of service to Colorado with an organizational name change.



Since 1989, **STRIDE** Community Health Center has provided comprehensive, quality, and affordable health care to vulnerable populations in our community, including underserved, uninsured, and working individuals and families in the Denver metropolitan area.

Beginning with just one location at 13th and Helena, the organization has grown to 18 health centers providing primary medical care, dental care, behavioral health, and wrap around services, including two School-Based Health Centers and a mobile dental van.

**STRIDE** Community Health Center will continue that tradition of providing affordable and accessible health related services in the Cities of Aurora, Arvada, Englewood, Lakewood, Parker, and Wheat Ridge. Now, with more than 50,000 patients, it is one of the largest, most expansive Community Health Centers in Colorado. **STRIDE CHC** serves families, children, pregnant women, immigrants and refugees, individuals who identify as LGBTQ+, those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, people with HIV/AIDS, and people with chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes and obesity.

The new name, **STRIDE**, was chosen to better reflect the organizational mission, and to help establish a deep connection with patients as

equal partners, journeying with them together toward better health. You can learn more about the organization at [www.stridechc.org/](http://www.stridechc.org/).

## Chamber has Another Public Health Hero

At a ceremony on April 9, 2019, John Douglas, Jr., MD, executive director of Tri-County Health Department, presented a *Public Health Hero of the Year* award to **Aurora Chamber** Director of Communications Mitzi Schindler. The award recognizes an individual, business, or organization in the **Tri-County Health Department** region that has worked to improve or promote public health. Employees submit nominations for the annual award and **Tri-County's** Executive Management Team reviews and selects the awardees. Schindler was awarded for her work with the Workplace Health and Well-Being Initiative, as the liaison with **TCHD** for The Chamber's coalition. **Chamber** President and CEO Kevin Hougen was honored as a Public Hero of the Year in 2015. ■



Mitzi Schindler with John Douglas, Jr., MD, executive director of TCHD



## Rene Simard gives keynote at the 460th annual awards

*Chamber Executive Vice President Rene Simard was the keynote speaker for the 460th Space Wing's Annual Awards Ceremony on March 7, 2019. The ceremony, which had 600 attendees, was held at the Buckley Base Fitness Center, and awards were given for superior performers in both military and civilian categories.*

# RibbonCuttings & OpenHouses

Ribbon cuttings mean business:  
220 jobs



CULINARY WAVE CATERING

## Culinary WAVE Catering and Cafe

4880 Havana St., Ste. 101, Denver, CO 80239

**Culinary WAVE Catering and Café** celebrated their ribbon cutting and open house with delicious appetizers, desserts, cocktails, cooking demos and entertainment by Sound of the Rockies. Guests visited food stations with tasty samples, while networking with fellow Chamber members, staff and ambassadors as well as members from the community and the **Culinary WAVE** staff. Jeff Elder, owner and executive chef, and Lisa Elder, operations manager, cut the ribbon with much enthusiasm for their new facility, accompanied by their staff. (2.20.19) [culinarywave.com](http://culinarywave.com) (303) 371-8883.



## La Quinta Inn & Suites Denver - Aurora Medical Center

1500 S. Abilene St., Aurora, CO 80012

**La Quinta Inn & Suites Denver - Aurora Medical Center** hosted a Chamber Business Before Hours along with a ribbon cutting to celebrate their recently remodeled facility. The hotel, offers free ultra- fast Wi-Fi, daily breakfast, and access to the fitness center and pool. Chamber members, ambassadors, staff and Chamber Vice President, Rene Simard accompanied **La Quinta's** General Manager, Roger Hovis and his staff, to cut the ribbon at the celebration. (2.11.19) [hiexpress.com/auroraco](http://hiexpress.com/auroraco) (303) 369-8400.



## Holiday Inn & Suites DIA

6900 Tower Rd., Denver, CO 80249

**Holiday Inn & Suites DIA** hosted an open house for guests to learn about their catering and banquet services. Zodelle Cole - Ramos, dual director of sales and marketing, and Mark Pezzuto, catering manager, chatted with guests about their services and property, while encouraging attendees to vote on their favorite displays. There were seven table settings to vote on, as well as two food stations and a cake station. Guests were asked to vote and answer a couple questions about the displays, and in return were entered into a drawing to win a free night stay at the property. Chamber staff, Tamara Mohamed attended the event with Chamber ambassadors as well as other community and business members. (3.20.19)



Denver  
Airport

[holidayinn.com/denverairport](http://holidayinn.com/denverairport) (303) 574-1300.

keys to success and available resources. Edgar Johansson with the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado Boulder moderated the panel.



Panel members discuss how to successfully do business with the government, left to right: Abby Armijo, ADCO Hearing Products; Sam Becker, Ideas, Commitments and Results; Kathryn Lobdell, Colorado Procurement Technical Assistant Center (PTAC); Cheri Reed, CREED Strategies; and Core Terry, Rock & Associates

## Colorado National Guard

Thursday, March 28, 2019

March's Defense Council was hosted by the Colorado National Guard with breakfast provided by Wooley's Classic Suites. Brigadier General Greg White, Director of Joint Staff and Air National Guard Liaison to the Commander of Air Force Space Command, described the unique capability provided by the Colorado Army and Air Guard and how they contribute to protecting the homeland; perform state missions such as search and rescue, wildfire and flood response; and deploy to fight our nation's wars. General White also talked about how the Guard is equipped for cyber threats. In addition, the group received unit and community updates, information about Colorado Technical University's Patriot Scholarships, and updates on USO events and accomplishment. ■



Brigadier General Greg White discusses the roles and missions of the Colorado National Guard

## RIBBON CUTTINGS & OPEN HOUSES (con't)



### Westerra Credit Union

7305 E. 35th Ave., #170, Denver, CO 80238

**Westerra Credit Union** proudly celebrates their newest branch in Stapleton, which includes privacy areas, current/high-level technology, and staff who turn each transaction into a friendly conversation. President and CEO Jay Champion, along with Stapleton Branch Manager Karin Jensen, cut the ribbon with support of managers and employees from local branches, as well as Chamber ambassadors, staff and Chamber President Kevin Hougen. The branch provided a light breakfast for attendees and the opportunity to network and meet new staff. (2.14.19) [westerracu.com](http://westerracu.com) (303) 563-6629.



### SCL Health Saint Joseph Emergency Room - Aurora

23770 E. Smoky Hill Rd.

**SCL Health Emergency Rooms** are award winning ER's that accept most insurance plans, including Kaiser Permanente at Good Samaritan and Saint Joseph locations. **SCL Health Saint Joseph Emergency Room** is one of seven Denver-Area locations specializing in personalized care for the whole family, from babies to seniors treating patients suffering from chest or abdominal pain; head, spinal injury or loss of consciousness; and major breaks, wounds, bleeding; trouble breathing or poisoning. At the **SCL Health Saint Joseph Emergency Room** Open House, guests enjoyed a hearty lunch and a tour of the facility. (2.5.19) [findyourer.org](http://findyourer.org). (720) 573-5045.



### GOAL Academy High School

10890 E. Dartmouth Ave., Unit J, Denver, CO 80014

**The GOAL Academy High School** open house allowed guests to meet the staff, tour the new facility, and hear from past graduates. **GOAL Academy** is the home of the Gladiators, with a vision of helping all students achieve their full potential in a caring, supportive and personalized environment. This alternative high school encourages students and staff to work together to re-engage disconnected youth, while learning. (3.28.19) [goalac.org](http://goalac.org) (970) 405-3275.

# MemberContribution

## Hire Local – Here for You

The **Hire Local Job Hub** opened in April 2017 to help local residents learn about and access jobs on campus. Staff provide wrap-around support starting with connecting clients to basic human services if needed. They assess skills and aptitudes, and offer coaching on resumes and interviewing. Clients learn about jobs that are a good fit so they are more likely to succeed in their job search. They are supported throughout the application process to job attainment and beyond.

Campus employers face a growing workforce shortage and have a number of entry-level jobs with livable wages available. These opportunities are promoted to candidates with appropriate skills and education. For individuals with professional backgrounds and education, staff help identify higher-level jobs and guide the application processes. The job search is often the most

difficult part of seeking employment. To make an appointment, call 303 724-7287 or email [hirelocal@ucdenver.edu](mailto:hirelocal@ucdenver.edu).

CU Anschutz established the CCP in 2013 to create stronger ties between the community and the campus. Support for the CCP comes from CU Anschutz, University of Colorado Hospital, Children's Hospital Colorado, The Denver Foundation, and the City of Aurora. ■



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Anschutz Medical Campus

## MemberRenewals

Adolfson & Peterson Construction  
Advantage Aurora Chase Mortuary  
Anadarko Petroleum Corp.  
Arapahoe County  
Arapahoe County Security Center, Inc.  
Association of the United States Army Denver Center  
Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership  
Aurora Education Association  
Aurora Interfaith Community Services  
Aurora Rotary Club  
Aurora Singers  
Avitus Group  
Bellevue Heights - Alzheimer's Special Care Center  
Bill Murray  
Broadview Animal Clinic  
Centennial Airport/A.C. Public Airport Authority  
Cherry Creek Nursing Center  
Cold Stone Creamery  
Colin Spencer Productions, LLC  
CollegeAmerica  
Colorado Fabrics  
Colorado Technical University  
Community College of Aurora Foundation  
ConocoPhillips  
DK Promotions Colorado  
E-470 Public Highway Authority  
Edward Jones Investments - Ev Sequeira  
Employers Council  
Euflora  
Extraction Oil and Gas  
Fairmount Funeral Home & Cemetery  
Falck Rocky Mountain  
Finish Line Car Wash  
First Command Financial Planning

Floyd Smith Capital  
Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club  
ibox Self Storage  
Ken's Auto Service, Inc.  
L&L Hawaiian Barbecue  
Lowry Conference Center  
Luna's Accounting & Tax  
M & M Auto Reconditioning, Inc.  
Merrick & Company  
Mike Coffman  
MHC Kenworth - Denver  
Mile High Harley-Davidson  
National Hemophilia Foundation, Colorado  
PhotoSmith Colorado  
Pradia Collaborative Solutions  
RE/MAX Unlimited - David J. Barber  
Ready to Work Aurora  
Red Lion Inn & Suites Denver Airport Gateway Park  
Regis University  
Renaissance Denver Hotel  
RTL Networks, Inc.  
Salud Family Health Center  
SCL Health Saint Joseph Emergency Room-Aurora  
Sessions Group - Real Estate Services  
Shipley Do-Nuts  
SKM Resources  
Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital  
State Farm Insurance - Corinne Hawkins  
Terrapin Care Station  
The Meadows at Dunkirk, by Pedcor Management  
The Medical Center of Aurora  
Town Center at Aurora  
UCHealth ER - North Aurora Medical Center  
UNI Worldwide Financial Marketing

US Storage, Inc.  
Wagner Equipment Co.  
Walker-Dilworth LLC  
Wave Audio Visual, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Bank - Business Banking  
Woolley's Classic Suites, LLC  
Your Castle Real Estate - Courtney Morehouse

## NewMembers

Anytime Fitness - S. Gartrell Rd.  
Aussie Girl Skin Spa  
Best Western Plus DEN Inn & Suites  
Country Financial  
Eaze Solutions, Inc.  
Fairfield Inn Denver Tech Center North  
Families Forward Resource Center  
Frazier For Aurora, LLC  
Heather Gardens  
Homewood Suites by Hilton DEN  
Kids Town Drop in Day Care Center  
Kiwanis Club of Northeast Denver  
LeaderQuest  
Life In Front Coaching LLC  
Metro Transportation Planning & Solutions  
MTS Mobile Staffing  
PCM Heating, Cooling and Home Repair  
Proliant  
Sensory Care at Autism Community Store  
Sleep Number - Southlands  
Stampede Mesquite Grill & Dance Emporium  
US Bank - Aurora Main

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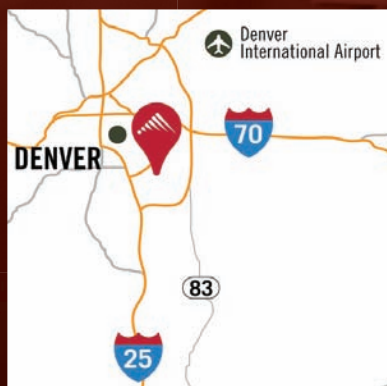
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<sup>1</sup> The ability to reduce time in school and/or reduce tuition depends on the number of CTU Fast Track™ exams successfully passed. Fast Track program credits are unlikely to transfer. Not all programs are eligible for 30% reduction in time and/or money. Courses eligible subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> Transfer credit is evaluated on an individual basis. Not all credits eligible to transfer. See the university's catalog regarding CTU's transfer credit policies.

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