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# THE CHAMBER Impact NEWSLETTER

JAN/FEB 2019

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## Sales Tax Rule May Increase Costs and Hurt Businesses in Colorado

In December 2018, the Colorado Department of Revenue postponed enforcement of rules on use tax and sales tax collection for in-state and out-of-state retailers. The new rules will be delayed until May 31, 2019 to allow the new Colorado General Assembly to address this issue. Previously and until May 31, sales taxes were only paid if a business had a physical location in the state where the goods were sold.

In response, the Colorado Department of Revenue adopted new sales tax rules that were to be effective Dec. 1, 2018, requiring businesses to collect state and local sales tax based on the tax rates at the **point of delivery** in all of Colorado's hundreds of taxing districts.

The Chamber supports fair and comprehensive tax collection, as well as leveling the playing field between online retailers and small businesses, but has concerns about the rule's approach and implementation. We felt it to be unfair that the compliance date of Dec. 1 was two-thirds of the way through a reporting quarter and at the peak of the

retail season, which increases the burden and expense to businesses collecting the tax. These substantial costs and administrative challenges that businesses face in order to comply are significant, and in some cases, businesses don't think they have the resources or ability to comply with the new laws.

We have written a letter to the Department of Revenue to delay implementing the new rules until three things happen:

1. The Colorado General Assembly has a chance to finish the hard work it started this summer to simplify the sales and use tax-collection process.
2. The software and structure is in place to make the new rules work for our business members.
3. The Colorado Department of Revenue communicates the changes to those affected, not only including retailers but their CPA's also.

The Chamber will continue to advocate and fight for a more business-friendly process and we appreciate suggestions on how to make the process work for all. ■

## Hougen Named Most Admired CEO

President and CEO of The Aurora Chamber of Commerce Kevin Hougen received a Most Admired CEOs Award from the Denver Business Journal (DBJ) at a ceremony on November 13, 2018, held at the Denver Marriott Tech Center.

2018 is the inaugural class of the DBJ's Most Admired CEOs Award, which recognizes metro-area executives for leading the way in business and community engagement. Hougen was nominated by FirstBank President of the Aurora Market Shannon Jones.

Hougen's knowledge about the community, what's happening at the Legislature, involvement in local and statewide military advocacy, and being an advisor to key leaders, all serve as invaluable resources for Chamber members and the community.

In his nomination, it was stated that "Kevin doesn't shy away from challenges and approaches them with a community-minded and business point of view — which speaks directly to

[continued on page 2]



Most Admired CEO Kevin Hougen with staff at the November 13, 2018 DBJ Awards Ceremony.



**Kevin Hougen**  
*President & CEO*

# President's Letter

## Resolutions for 2019

I would like to take this opportunity to share my resolutions for the New Year. These are resolutions for me personally, as well as for The Chamber as an organization, dedicated to Community First, Business Always:

**Personal resolution:** Building Business Contacts and Relationships, not only within Colorado and the US, but worldwide.

**Professional goals:** Knowledge to succeed and working on promoting the communities we serve.

**The Chamber's resolution:** Creating a strong local economy and representing business interests, especially with a growing divide within our elected office holders.

### Core Resolutions for 2019:

We work hard to strengthen our communities, to encourage growth and to identify needs and opportunities. Our objectives as your Chamber are to:

- Promote a strong local economy
- Provide opportunities to network and build relationships
- Deliver programs to help businesses grow
- Represent and advocate on behalf of the business community
- Enhance commerce through community stewardship

### ADMIRED CEO (con't)

the Chamber's tagline of Community First, Business Always."

Hougen has been with The Chamber for 22 years, serving as the president for 20. His energy and enthusiasm for his work, his community support, and his welcoming and friendly demeanor have not wavered. That is a testimonial to his commitment. He shares his knowledge in many ways, affecting and helping countless businesses and people in the community.

Congratulations to Kevin Hougen, president and CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce on receiving this well-deserved recognition. ■

## Congressman Mike Coffman Recognizes Hougen with Congressional Record

A Congressional Record from Congressman Mike Coffman was presented to Chamber President Kevin Hougen on November 28, 2018, by the Congressman's Director of Constituent Outreach Aurora Ogg. The presentation was a surprise for Hougen, who received a standing ovation by the board.

The Record, which was read in the House of Representatives on November 27, reads:

"Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognize the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Kevin Hougen. Recently, the Denver Business Journal recognized Kevin with its 2018 Most Admired Chief Executive Officer honor. This prestigious award is given only to those with a proven record of innovation, who act as a standard-bearer for their organization, as a community role model, and exert exceptional leadership within their organization and the community. I am proud to see Kevin receive this award for his more than two decades of dedicated service to my hometown of Aurora, CO."

To read the entire Record, go to AuroraChamberCO on Facebook. ■



## ChamberBoard

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

#### CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Joe Barela | *Skillful — A Markle Initiative*

#### CHAIR-ELECT

Betsy Oudenhoven, PhD | *Community College of Aurora*

#### IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Suzanne Pitrusu | *Community Banks of Colorado*

#### TREASURER

Rebecca Kelley | *EKS&H*

#### SECRETARY

Dianne McCallister, MD | *The Medical Center of Aurora*

#### VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES

Dale Mingilton | *Adams 14 Education Foundation*

#### VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Gian Gandolfo | *Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport*

#### VICE CHAIR-PUBLIC ISSUES

John Adams | *Colorado Technical University*

#### VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES

Chad Nielsen | *Wagner Equipment*

### DIRECTORS

Tyrone Adams | *Colorado Association of Realtors*

Johnny Choate | *The GEO Group*

Christy Dobson | *Children's Hospital Colorado*

Chris Fasching | *Felsburg Holt & Ullevig*

Beth Klein | *FirstBank - Aurora Havana*

Kristi Kleinholz | *Mesa Moving & Storage*

Rich Kolberg | *The Boeing Company*

Peter Lee | *UNI Worldwide Financial Marketing*

Molly Markert | *Colorado Access*

John McCormick | *CenturyLink*

Keith Peterson | *University of Colorado Health*

Kerry Ryan | *Wells Fargo-Business Banking*

Louis Salazar | *ConocoPhillips*

Michael Sheldon | *Aurora Highlands*

Brian Sowl | *Nelnet*

### HONORARY DIRECTORS

Bruce Dalton | *Visit Aurora*

Barry Gore | *Adams County Economic Development*

Nancy Jackson | *Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners*

Bob LeGare | *Mayor, City of Aurora*

Ron Weidman | *City of Centennial*

Col. Treavor Wentlandt | *460th Mission Support Group*

### STAFF

Kevin Hougen | *President and CEO*

Rene J. Simard | *Executive Vice President*

Rebecca Ebner | *Administrative Assistant*

Rachel Gruber | *Director of Business Development and Events*

Linda Lillyblad | *Finance Director*

Beau Martinez | *Membership Development*

Tamara Mohamed | *Director of Community Relations*

Mitzi Schindler | *Communications Director*

### 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

**The Arts Pack a Punch: \$1.9 Billion in Economic Activity**  
**Tuesday, November 6, 2018**



CBCA Program Director Meredith Badler

The Arts have a huge impact on the economy, and at the November meeting of Business for the Arts, Meredith Badler with the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA) shared statistics and stories about how big that impact really is.

Based on data from nonprofit cultural organizations in the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), which comprises Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties, the 2017 \$1.9 Billion in economic activity includes:

- Economic Impact (\$573 Million) – new money entering the economy
- Jobs (11,820 jobs, \$183.4 Million payroll) – full time and contract employment in the arts
- Giving (\$182.6 Million) – donations and grants from foundations, corporations, and individuals, as well as in-kind goods and services.
- Attendance (15 Million) – both paid and free participation at arts venues, events, and performances
- Education (4.3 Million school children and 683,545 adult and youth class enrollment) – arts integration in classrooms, field trips, and lifelong learning opportunities in the arts.

The SCFD is a special tax district that funds arts, cultural, and scientific organizations through a 0.01 percent sales and use tax that was originally approved by voters of the participating counties in 1989.

The impact and activities of the Arts is actually larger than just this report, as the CBCA's report doesn't include activity generated by non SCFD funded nonprofits, creative businesses, higher education, or individual artists.

The CBCA is a 501 (c)(3) that advances Colorado's creative economy by connecting business and the arts through advocacy, research, training, volunteerism and arts engagement.



The Aurora History Museum decorated with the annual Festival of Wreaths.

## Annual Holiday Gathering at Aurora History Museum

**Tuesday, December 4, 2018**

There's something so delightful about music, coffee, and treats first thing in the morning! The annual holiday gathering of the Business for the Arts committee included all of those treats, as well as festive networking and the opportunity to see the creative and diverse wreaths of the annual Festival of Wreaths at the Aurora History Museum.

The Rangeview High School Jazz Group, directed by James Laguana, entertained with a few tunes, including a lively and harmonious rendition of Carol of the Bells.

It was a lovely way to begin the holiday season.

## TRANSPORTATION

### RTD Update for the Eastern Metro Area

**Wednesday, November 7, 2018**

At the November Transportation meeting, Regional Transportation District (RTD) General



RTD General Manager and CEO Dave Genova

Manager and CEO Dave Genova shared updates on fare changes, the Eagle P3 Project, The R, G, and A Lines, the 15L Route Improvements, and Colfax Corridor Connections.

He also talked about the priorities of the RTD Board, which include enhancing safety and security, addressing service and human capital, ensuring fiscal sustainability, addressing future transportation needs and methods, and ensuring asset management and a state of good repair.

RTD covers a lot of ground – 2,340 square miles, supports 14,000 full-time employees, and every \$1 invested in transit infrastructure translates into \$4 injected into the local economy. For more information about RTD go to their website at [www.rtd-denver.com](http://www.rtd-denver.com).

### City of Aurora Infrastructure and Transportation

**Wednesday, December 6, 2018**

Cindy Colip, Interim Deputy Director of Public Works – Engineering, with the City of Aurora, presented about transportation projects in the City at the December 2018 meeting of the Transportation committee. She discussed Council priority projects, the South Aurora

Regional Improvement Authority (SARIA) Master Plan, and a number of projects currently underway. Dave Chambers, City of Aurora Director of Public Works also spoke about infrastructure and prioritization of projects with the current funding issues.

Council priority projects are also known as Public Works unfunded capital needs, which exceeds \$265 Million in projects. Most of these include the common themes of frustrating backups, improving multimodal access and connectivity, and addressing gaps in the roadway network. To begin to address these needs, Council has appropriated funding and Public Works staff is working to implement some of these improvements. There are currently 25 projects on the priority list including intersection, roadway and multi-modal improvements. Example roadway projects are the 6th Ave. widening from Airport Blvd. to Tower Rd. and Jewell Ave. and Genova St. improvements.

The South Aurora Regional Improvement Authority (SARIA) was established to address concerns about regional infrastructure needs in southeast Aurora, and available funding. The SARIA Master Plan was adopted in June of 2018 and includes nine projects. One project is currently in design and other projects will initiate the design phase next year.

The City also partners with the Counties and other adjacent cities to leverage funding for transportation, which is more important than ever, with the defeat on November 6, 2018 of Proposition 110 which would have increased sales tax to fund transportation projects.

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY

### November 6 Election Results

**Thursday, November 8, 2018**

The government affairs committee postponed their November 1 meeting to November 8, in order to have a discussion about the November 6 election. Although no legislators were present, Commissioner Nancy Jackson provided a quick update about her re-election and about Arapahoe County. Transportation bills were discussed at-length, as both Proposition 109 and 110 were defeated; however, Michael Steppat and Micki Hackenberger, with Axiom Politics, presented an Issue Brief for Senate Bill 18-001, concerning Transportation Infrastructure Funding. SB 18-001 includes additional provisions based on the outcomes of Propositions 109 and 110, and, potentially, a referred 2019 ballot measure.

Michael Steppat announced that he is leaving Axiom Politics to be the Manager of Government & Public Affairs at the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). The committee

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was introduced to Meg Dubray, who has joined Axiom to replace Steppat.

### Expected Bills for the 2019 Legislative Session

Thursday, December 6, 2018

It was a lively discussion at the December 2018 Government Affairs meeting, in anticipation of the upcoming Legislative Session.



Axiom Politics  
Government Affairs  
and Public  
Relations Specialist  
Meg Dubray

Meg Dubray, with Axiom Politics, The Chamber's lobbying firm, gave a broad overview of expected bills, including HB 1001 (Family Medical Leave Program), HB 18-1298 (CO Secure Savings Plan), HB 18-1269 (Prescription Drug Price Transparency), and a School Finance Rewrite. It is also anticipated that SB1 will be opened for Transportation funding. In addition, there will probably be bills regarding minimum wage, equal pay for equal work, employee leave to participate in elections, a Colorado women's Veterans act, marijuana accessory consumptions establishments, and open internet customer protections in Colorado.

During the meeting, there was also a brief presentation about Unite Private Network (UPN), by Jeanette Neubeiser and Cliff McDow. UPN provides high-bandwidth, fiber-based

communications networks and related services to businesses, including schools, governments, carriers, data centers, hospitals and enterprise business customers throughout the United States.

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

### How Diversity and Inclusion Works for Pinnacol Assurance

Friday, November 9, 2018



Pinnacol Assurance HR  
Business Partner Lauren  
Masters

The Diversity and Inclusion Council hosted their Council Sponsor, Pinnacol Assurance, for the November 2018 presentation. Lauren Masters, HR business partner, and Mark Tapy, apprentice program manager, talked about how they make diversity work for Pinnacol,

including how to make a generational workforce work well together.

Masters talked about their Diversity Taskforce, comprised of Pinnacol employees who are passionate about promoting education around diversity and supporting inclusion. The Task Force has created events, such as *The Annual*

*Around the World Food Festival and Celebrating Women in Leadership.*

Tapy explained their CareerWise Apprenticeship Program, and how they have made their model work, helping to bring in more diverse talent. Pinnacol does offer credentials and benefits for their apprentices and have retained 19 of 23 apprentices including one full time hire.

## WOMEN IN BUSINESS

### It's True: No Two Women are Alike

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month, the Women in Business committee hosted Lora Barke, DO, with Invision Sally Jobe, to discuss the medical advances of imaging and the importance of preventative health over forced, reactive treatments.

The tragedy is not finding cancer, the tragedy is when it is found too late. One in every eight women will get breast cancer, and there are an astonishing 40,610 deaths per year because of it. Colorado is nationally ranked lower for breast cancer, but Arapahoe County is ranked higher compared to other regions. It's important to get screened



Invision Sally Jobe  
Medical Director  
and Lead  
Interpreting  
Physician Lora  
Barke, DO

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## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

### Third Annual Diversity and Inclusion Resource Summit

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

On October 24, 2018, The Chamber presented the third annual Diversity and Inclusion Resource Summit. With collaborative insight from the executive committee and council members, this year the Summit incorporated two professional development workshops: *"Inclusive Recruiting, Leadership Behaviors and Systems if Inclusion"* presented by Kristine Feuerborn, UCHHealth; and *"Why, What and How of Diversity and Inclusion Measurement, and How Are You Tracking Your Company Goals?"* presented by Natalie Landau and Rene Gallegos, The HR Shop. More than 50 people attended the workshops and survey results showed that attendees found the information extremely valuable.

With the Council moving into its fourth year, the executive committee decided to recognize a business in the community that is dedicated to diversity and inclusion excellence. As a result of this decision, this year's Summit also included presentation of the first Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award. The award was given to the Asian Pacific Development Center



Left to right, accepting the Diversity and Inclusion Award: APDC Board Chair Gigi De Gala; staff members Naureen Singh and Giselle Cummings; Executive Director Harry Budisidharta; Board Emeritus Rudy Lie; and staff member Tsukky Nguyen.

(APDC), and accepted by Executive Director Harry Budisidharta and his team.

With a theme focused on *"Moving Beyond Diversity,"* the keynote was presented by Lloyd Lewis, president and CEO of ARC Thrift Stores, who spoke about the importance of inclusive recruiting and how ARC has helped to change the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

During the course of the resource fair, vendors had the opportunity to share information about resources/services they offer to businesses and consumers. This year's Summit included 28 business vendors, six food vendors, and more than 200 attendees.

Thank you again to all of the sponsors and donors. Title Sponsor: **UCHHealth**; Corporate Sponsors: **Children's Hospital Colorado, Colorado Technical University, Wells Fargo**; Community Sponsors: **Aurora Mental Health Center, ConocoPhillips, FirstBank, Westerra Credit Union, Citywide Banks**; Food and Beverage Sponsors: **Konjo Catering, Legends of Aurora Sports Grill, Dae Gee, DP's Rubs & Stuff, Dry Dock Brewing Co., Ayu G-Michael Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony, Star of India, Axiom Politics**; Gift Bag Sponsor: **Arc Thrift Stores.** ■



every year starting at or before 40 years old. Invision Sally Jobe is a partner imaging facility with HealthONE.

### How to Break the Rules and Sell More Tuesday, November 13, 2018

President of Worthman Consulting, Philip



President of  
Worthman  
Consulting, Philip  
Worthman

Worthman began his presentation to the Women in Business committee by saying that "the key to successful selling is understanding what makes people buy, regardless of industry or whether you are selling products or services."

Worthman utilizes the Sandler Selling System, which focuses on the psychology of human behavior, and the action of the sales

representative spending more time understanding what the client needs and asking the right questions, rather than just providing answers to close the deal.

He also expressed the importance of being able to distinguish which clients can say 'yes' to a sale, and being aware of clues to make the difficult decision to walk away from a sale.

### WIB Celebrate the Season at Painting with a Twist Tuesday, December 4, 2018



A WIB festive ornament painting event at Painting with a Twist.

The Women in Business committee met in early December at Chamber member Painting with a Twist, to celebrate the holiday season by painting holiday ornaments and enjoying each other's company.

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

### Workforce Development & Hiring Implications

Wednesday, November 14, 2018



Skillful Associate  
Trevor Pruitt

At the November 2018 YP meeting, Trevor Pruitt with Skillful Colorado, an initiative of the Markle Foundation, discussed creating a labor market based on skills. He suggested changing the hiring process, by building jobs based on the tasks required, and translating candidates' experience into

skills required for that job.

He also reminded attendees to not look for perfection, because, he said, "you will never find it," and to make sure that you don't have premature biases of the candidates.

## WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

### The Opioid Crisis - What can be Done? Thursday, November 8, 2018



At the November 2018 Health Series meeting, Robert Valuck, PhD, Clinical Professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy at the University of Colorado, gave a realistic view of the scope of the Opioid Crisis. He also discussed factors contributing to the growth of misuse and abuse, and talked about state and federal responses to the crisis, and how employers can make an impact.

Dr. Valuck stated that "this problem knows no regional, gender, age, income, or other bounds: it is truly and epidemic." In 2017, nearly 72,000 people died from drug overdoses, and opioids were involved in 75 percent of those deaths.

Additional experts in the field, Steven Martinez, MA, Tri-County Health Department Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, and Jane Ingalls, president of Face it Together, were in attendance. Face it Together is a nonprofit organization that provides effective, science-based peer coaching for people living with addiction, including loved ones of those with the disease.

If you are interested in a copy of Dr. Valuck's presentation for more details about the Opioid crisis, contact [Mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org](mailto:Mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org).

## DEFENSE COUNCIL

### Joint Meeting with Colorado Springs Military Affairs Council Thursday, October 25, 2018



Ron Cole, Chair of the Aurora Chamber's Defense Council addresses members at the joint meeting.

More than 120 people attended the annual Joint Aurora Defense Council (ADC) and Colorado Springs Military Affairs Council (MAC) meeting. The forum included presentations by the respective Chairs of each organization, Ron Cole (ADC) and Bob Lally (MAC), along with a discussion about ongoing opportunities to partner on military issues impacting Colorado.

Attendees also received an update on the 2018 report on the Military Value and Economic Impact of Department of Defense and VA Activities in Colorado. There were also updates from congressional representatives and presentations from the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at the University of Colorado and the Sturm Specialty in Military Psychology at the University of Denver. The meeting was hosted by the Castle Rock Library and breakfast was sponsored by the Marriott Denver South at Park Meadows.



Members of The Chamber's Defense Council and the Colorado Military Affairs Council network before the meeting.

### 460th Space Wing Overview Thursday, November 15, 2018

November's Defense Council was hosted by the 460th Space Wing, Buckley AFB. Brigadier General (select) Troy Endicott, 460 Space Wing Commander and Buckley AFB Installation Commander provided an overview of the wing's mission to "deliver global infrared surveillance, tracking and missile warning for theater and homeland defense and to provide combatant commanders with expeditionary warrior Airmen."

Brigadier General (select) Endicott also talked about the 95 tenant units supported by the 460th, specifically highlighting the major partners on base - 140th Wing, Aerospace Data Facility Colorado, Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center, Navy Operational Support Center, and the Army Aviation Support Facility. In addition, Defense Council members had the opportunity to take a tour inside the restricted area where they visited a Radome (the 'golf balls') and the mission control center. ■





# RibbonCuttings

## Residence INN BY MARRIOTT



## Ribbon cuttings mean business: 70 jobs

**Residence Inn by Marriott Denver Airport/Convention Center**  
6762 Tower Road, Denver, CO 80249

The **Residence Inn by Marriott Denver Airport/Convention Center** held a ribbon cutting for their grand opening – as well as a Las Vegas-style Casino Night Business After Hours for Chamber members on November 15, 2018. Cutting the ribbon are (L) Luis Rosales with Security Service Federal Credit Union, and Nick Naik, president, Baywood Hotels San Antonio Region. They are surrounded by hotel staff and some of the guests attending the festivities. This new **Residence Inn** is an all-suite, pet-friendly hotel with meeting and social gathering spaces, high speed Wi-Fi, and evening socials with appetizers and beer/wine. Each suite has a full kitchen and a 50" TV. (11/15/18) [www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/denra-residence-inn-denver-airport-convention-center/](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/denra-residence-inn-denver-airport-convention-center/), (303) 307-9100.

## Shipley Do-Nuts

5400 S. Parker Rd., Aurora, CO 80015



For the ribbon cutting of the first **Shipley Do-Nuts** in Colorado on Friday, November 30, it was a large crowd of Chamber members and police officers cheering on owners Bryan and Julie Kopp. Highlights throughout the two-day grand opening of the **Shipley Do-Nuts** in Aurora included Glaze the mascot, a prize wheel, police vehicles and K-9 demonstrations – as well as plenty of coffee, donuts, and Kolaches. Members of The Aurora Police Foundation also helped sell and serve from behind the counter, with proceeds going to the foundation. Shipley's offers 50 types of donuts, as well as a variety of savory Kolaches. (10/30/18-11/1/18) [www.shipleydonuts.com/shipley-do-nuts-colorado/](http://www.shipleydonuts.com/shipley-do-nuts-colorado/) (303) 638-9493.



## Hobby Quest of Cherry Creek / Aurora / Brighton, LLC

**Hobby Quest** is now in Colorado! Vadim Epelbaum, president of **Hobby Quest of Cherry Creek / Aurora / Brighton, LLC** cuts the ribbon for the business, joined by Chamber Ambassadors and staff. **Hobby Quest** is a Science, Technology, Arts, and Math (STEAM) enrichment program that inspires children to have a hobby. Instructors come to those as young as four and up to 8th grade, at either after-school programs, child care centers, parties, or events, bringing hands-on aviation, magic, and fashion design curriculum. (11/8/18) [www.hobbyquest.com/ccabcolorado/](http://www.hobbyquest.com/ccabcolorado/) (720) 819-7580.

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# MemberContribution

## Rock That Resolution

Setting a resolution to eat more nutritious food and cutting down on sugary beverages is easy enough - but if your environment is sabotaging your efforts, it can be tough to succeed!

Many workplaces, state and local governments, hospitals, and other organizations are moving toward offering healthier options through their vending machines, meetings, cafeterias, concession stands, conferences, and other events.

Here are 5 Really Good Reasons to Offer Healthier Food & Beverage Options at Your Workplace

- 1) Ensuring access to healthier options helps to create more supportive food environments for your employees, clients, and others accessing your business' services.
- 2) Support employees' ability to eat well and live a healthy lifestyle - because healthy employees are happy employees.
- 3) Support the health of your community. Obesity and poor nutrition are contributing to high rates of heart disease, diabetes, and other chronic diseases, which diminish Americans' quality of life.
- 4) The majority of people want healthier options. A Snack Food Association survey revealed that three-

fourths of consumers are trying to eat healthier and two-thirds are eating specific foods to lose weight.

- 5) The Chamber partners with Tri-County Health Department to offer support for creating healthier workplace environments. The program, Work Well 2.0 Health Series, is free and includes resources and funding opportunities for employers and employees.

To get connected contact  
[mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org](mailto:mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org)



.....  
Kathy Staats, MPH, is a Prevention and Policy Specialist with the Community Health Promotion Division of Tri-County Health Department. (Content adapted from the Healthy Beverage and Food Policy Practice Tool Kit)





## Pickens Technical College Named Best Community College in Colorado

Pickens Technical College (PTC) has been named the Best Community College in Colorado for the second year in a row by BestColleges.com.

With a graduation rate of nearly 80 percent, PTC offers more than 50 professional certification programs in diverse fields including landscaping, transportation, human services and

the arts. Serving both high school students and adults, PTC emphasizes relevant technical education that provides employment opportunities upon graduation.

PTC has an academic relationship with the Community College of Aurora (CCA), which allows students to begin credits for an Associate of Applied Science degree at PTC, and then seamlessly transfer to complete their degree at CCA.

PTC operates under the governance of the Aurora Public Schools Board of Education, and is accredited by the Council on Occupational Education.

## Rico Munn named 2019 Colorado Superintended of the year

Aurora Public Schools' Superintendent Rico Munn has been named the 2019 Colorado



Rico Munn

Superintendent of the Year by the Colorado Association of School Executives.

"This award is a testament to the incredible work of our students, staff members, families and community," said Superintendent Munn.

"Aurora Public Schools is a truly unique and dynamic school district, where I am honored to serve as superintendent every day. I share this honor with the entire APS family that works relentlessly for student success."

APS has celebrated some other big milestones recently, including increasing graduation rates by more than 15 percent and cutting dropout rates in half, as well as continuing to see improvements in student growth and achievement. ■

# MemberContribution

## CCA Addresses Educational Needs for Jobs in Logistics and Supply Chain

Supply chain skills are a lynch pin to most of our local Aurora businesses, so the Community College of Aurora is launching a national industry certificate program in Logistics and Supply Chain in January 2019.

The number of jobs to be filled in this career field exceeds people available. Hospitals, manufacturers, warehouse & distribution firms (or any commerce-minded employer) really need people who:

- know how to negotiate and buy smart,

- keep track of inventory,
- know the logistics and tracking of on-time delivery
- do great project management
- manage distribution schedules
- use demand planning

These newly-launched evening programs are SCPro certified and college credit bearing. They are quick paced, field-centered and completed in only two semesters. Certificates

are offered in Procurement, Warehouse Operations, or Inventory Management. Classes start on January 22, 2019 and will be wrapped up by August 8, 2019. The cost of the program is \$3,000, but financial aid and scholarships are available.

Learn more at [www.ccaurora.edu/programs-classes/departments/business/logistics](http://www.ccaurora.edu/programs-classes/departments/business/logistics); or contact Heather Dent, (303) 340-7232/[heather.dent@ccaaurora.edu](mailto:heather.dent@ccaaurora.edu) for more information. ■

## RIBBON CUTTINGS (con't)



**Aurora Community Connection Family Resource Center**  
9801 E. Colfax Ave., Suite 200, Aurora, CO 80010

Smiles all around at the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the **Aurora Community Connection (ACC) Family Resource Center** on October 4, 2018. The event celebrated the partnership between the **ACC Family Resource Center** and the Colorado Alliance for Health Equity and Practice (CAHEP) that fully integrates medical and behavioral health care into the **ACC Family Resource Center**. The vision for this partnership — that was five years in the making — is to provide the lowest possible costs for people looking for affordable health care/services. Left to right holding the scissors are Judith Padilla and Fabiola Sifontes, both community advisory board members; Alok Sarwal, PhD, MBA, Executive Director of CAHEP; Robin Waterman, MD, Executive Director of **ACC**; and Hector Frisbie, MD, Medical Director of the **ACC Clinic**. (10/4/18) [www.auroracommunityconnection.com/acc/](http://www.auroracommunityconnection.com/acc/) (720) 975-0147.



**Aurora Interfaith Community Services**  
1553 Clinton St., Aurora, CO 80010

The grand reopening after the remodeling of the **Aurora Interfaith Community Services (AICS)** building was a full-day event including breakfast, tours, a ribbon cutting, and lunch. For the ribbon cutting ceremony, **AICS** Board Members Pat Torness-Smith (left) and Larry Carrington share the scissors, as Aurora Mayor Bob LeGare (left of Torness-Smith) and Executive Director of AICS Judith Barrow (right of Carrington) catch the ribbon after the cut. Funding for the renovation was made possible through Community Development Block Grants from the City of Aurora and Arapahoe County. **Aurora Interfaith Community Services** is a non-profit agency providing emergency assistance to residents of Aurora, and is part of the Colorado network of food banks. (11/25/18) <http://www.aurorainterfaithcommunityservices.org/> (303) 360-0260.

# Leadership Aurora takes on the City of Aurora

The November session of Leadership Aurora was all about Aurora, with the class beginning the day at the Aurora Municipal Center with Aurora City Manager Jim Twombly talking about meeting the needs of a growing city. Aurora Mayor Bob LeGare followed with an overview of how a City Council meeting works. The class then split into four groups and emulated a City Council meeting, complete with Mayor and City Council, and advocates and citizens for and against the cause.

The class then moved to the Aurora History Museum and toured the museum after an introduction by Museum Director Scott Williams. There were also presentations by Chuck Hahn with the Aurora-South Metro Small Business Development Center and Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen.



*The Leadership Aurora class of 2018-2019 after a mock City Council meeting in Council Chambers at the Aurora Municipal Center.*

For the day's finale, the class traveled to the site of the Central Recreation Center at 18150 E. Vassar Pl., which is under construction. The state-of-the-art, 55,000 sq. ft. center includes an aquatics area, gymnasium, an elevated walking/jogging track and fitness area, a teaching kitchen, party rooms, multi-purpose rooms, group exercise rooms, lockers, and offices.

Construction is expected to be completed Spring 2019. ■



*Hard hats were required for the tour of the Central Recreation Center being built at 18150 E. Vassar Pl., in Aurora.*

## MemberRenewals

Adams County Workforce & Business Center  
Alice Lee Main - Arts Advocate/Consultant  
Allegra Marketing/Print/Mail  
Alpine Carstar Auto Body  
American Portfolios  
American Sentinel University  
Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office  
Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center  
Ark & Oak, LLC  
Armitage Bickford Creer, LLC  
Aurora Family Y.M.C.A.  
Aurora Federal Credit Union  
Aurora Gateway Rotary Club  
Autawash of Colorado - Havana  
BAR-K Insurance Solutions, Inc.  
Best Western Plus Gateway Inn & Suites  
Children's Hospital Colorado  
Cindy Kreutz  
Colorado Access  
Colorado Escrow & Title  
Colorado Fabrics  
Community Housing Partners  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
Eagle Bend Metropolitan District #2  
EIS Solutions, Inc.  
George "Mel" Rawles  
Hampton Inn - DIA  
Highpoint Church  
Infiniti of Denver  
Insula Design Studio, PC

Landmark Packaging, Inc.  
Landtech Contractors Inc.  
Lightshade  
M. Mullis Collectibles- Jerri Grable Mullis  
May Farms  
Mike Weissman Representative HD 36  
Minor & Brown PC  
Music Go Round  
National Technology Transfer Inc. - NTT Training  
Nilar Inc.  
Northrop Grumman  
Peregrine Senior Living at Aurora  
PhRMA  
Polly Page  
Quality First Plumbing & Heating  
Residence Inn - Denver Airport  
Residence Inn Denver Stapleton  
Rocky Mountain Law Group, LLC  
Ron Cole  
Roof Brokers, Inc.  
Ryden & Associates  
Special Olympics Colorado  
Susann Way  
Tony's Service Inc.  
UCHealth ER- Commerce City  
UCHealth ER- Green Valley Medical Center  
University of Denver, GSPP  
USO Denver  
Vintage Theatre  
Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum

## NewMembers

3 Day Blinds - Shelby Capps  
5Star Bank  
Allied Mountain, LLC  
Aurora Police Association  
Best Western Plus DIA Inn & Suites  
BYE Aerospace  
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage  
Colorado State Bank & Trust - Alameda  
Dope Mom Life Creative Content Agency  
Edward Jones - Jason Casteneda  
J Dog Junk Removal & Hauling  
Jill Ho Health & Life Coach  
JS-Connex!  
Madison Commercial - Jessica Smith  
New York Life  
Northstar Commercial Partners  
PC MAXXX ITE Solutions, LLC  
Prestige Worldwide Transportation LLC  
Schomp Subaru  
Sewald Hanfling Public Affairs  
Staples Business Advantage  
Symbia Logistics  
Vitality Care, LLC  
Wingate by Wyndham at Denver Airport

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14305 E. Alameda Ave Ste. #300  
Aurora, CO 80012  
303-344-1500 • Fax 303-344-1564  
website: [www.aurorachamber.org](http://www.aurorachamber.org)