Serving the east-metro area including:

Aurora Bennett Centennial Commerce City Denver



Eco/Devo presentation provides insight for businesses

On Feb. 18, Aurora Chamber
President and CEO Kevin Hougen gave
an update about economic
development - also known as Eco/Devo
- happening in Aurora and the Eastern
Metro Area. The overview included
information about economic
development clusters in Colorado,
including:

- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Aerospace
- Biotechnology
- Healthcare
- Energy
- Financial Service
- Air Transport
- Transportation
- Education

A survey was sent to attendees following the presentation, from which 100 percent of the responses reflected that attendees found the information helpful, and would recommend for others to attend an Eco/Devo presentation.

"Kevin's presentation gave me great insight into the extent of what's happening in Aurora and the eastern metro area, which will help our company with annual planning," said one of the attendees.

"Before hearing this presentation, I didn't realize the extent of all the positive development that is going on in the area," said another attendee.

Attendees were treated to a healthy lunch from **Kneaders Bakery**, that was generously sponsored by **Wells Fargo Bank**.

The next Eco/Devo presentation by Hougen will be Wed., May 18, 11am - 1pm, at The Chamber. RSVP required.



facebook

Celebrating 2015 winners March 25

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Dinner on March 25, 2016 will celebrate and honor leaders in the community who have made significant contributions during 2015:

Business of the Year:

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Aurora

Business Person of the Year:

Dick Hinson - Aurora Economic Development Council

Chamber Leadership:

Steve Sundberg - Legends of Aurora Sports Grill Woman of the Year:

Representative Su Ryden

Man of the Year:

Chief Jerry Rhodes -

Cunningham Fire Protection District

Humanitarian of the Year:

Peter Lee - Aurora Asian/
Pacific Community Partnership

Community Leadership:

Louis Salazar - ConocoPhillipsBusiness for the Arts:

Colin Spencer Productions, LLC

Small Business Person of the Year:

Brenda Eisenhauer, DVM -Parkside Animal Health Center

The Ken Melcher Ambassador of the Year:

Cheryl Rotkovich - Balancing Books, Inc.

The event will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Stapleton North, 4040 Quebec St., Denver, CO 80216.

This year's theme is Elvis Presley's Taking Care of Business, so Don't Be Cruel and make your reservations now for the One Night at The Chambers' Can't Help Falling in Love Awards Dinner at the Heartbreak Hotel - aka The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Stapleton North. There will be an Elvis and

Priscilla fashion show - featuring everyone who comes in costume, so put on your *Blue Suede Shoes*, because *It's Now* or *Never* to get ready for *Such a Night*.

and influence



And, Elvis will be in the building! ■

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is an actionoriented membership organization that serves as the leading business voice in the Eastern Metro area. For our members, we seek to provide access, advocacy,

8,000 views/month!

The Chamber website gets more than 8,000 views a month, and that's a lot of eyes "on the page!"

Chamber members can take advantage of that exposure to market their businesses by advertising on the Chamber website. For information and pricing, contact

Naomi.Colwell@aurorachamber.org.

Another opportunity to be seen – and heard - on The Chamber Website is The Chamber Blog, which provides information, and news and educational articles that could be of interest to other Chamber members. Submit your blogs and any accompanying photos/graphics to Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org.





Kevin Hougen President & CEO

President's Letter

Each spring, a nominating committee made up of Aurora Chamber members, along with the President, suggests future Board members to fill the slots of the retiring members. As you'll note, several of our Board members' three-year terms expire on May 31, 2016. A member can serve a second three-year term under the Chamber's bylaws.

We want to thank the following board members that have completed their terms:

Mickey Hunt, Colorado Department of Military and Veteran Affairs

Bob Jamieson, Mutual of Omaha Cindy Kreutz, Healthcare Consultant Alfonso Nuñez, La Cueva Restaurant

Jeff Thompson, University of Colorado Health

The following Aurora Chamber Board members have been asked to serve a second three-year term:

Shannon Jones, FirstBank of Aurora

Peter Lee, Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership

We are also very proud to announce that the new board members will be leading us into what promises to be an exciting year of growth and prosperity. The following board members will be formally announced at the 61st Annual Awards Banquet and Silent Auction on Friday, March 25th 2016.

Rich Kolberg, Boeing Corporation Courtney Morehouse, Your Castle Real Estate Keith Peterson, University of Colorado Health Michael Sheldon, Aurora Highlands

Chamber Leadership 2016-2017:

Secretary

Treasurer

Chairman 2016-17 Ryan Simpson,

The Medical Center of Aurora

Past Chair 2015-16 Jason Altshuler, Westerra Credit Union

Chair Elect 2017-18 Suzanne Pitrusu,

Community Banks of Colorado Matt Weber, Kaiser Permanente Reneé Gullickson, Wells Fargo Bank

Please help me in welcoming our 2016-2017 Chamber Board Leadership Team!

ChamberBoard

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Jason Altshuler | Westerra Credit Union

CHAIR-ELECT

& VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Ryan Simpson | The Medical Center of Aurora,

HealthONE

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

David Patterson | Falck USA

TREASURER

Reneé Gullickson | Wells Fargo Bank

SECRETARY

Matt Weber | Kaiser Permanente

VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES

Dale Mingilton | Adams 14 Education Foundation

VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES

VICE CHAIR-PUBLIC ISSUES

Dwight Taylor | Rocky Mountain Law Group, LLC

DIRECTORS

John Adams | Colorado Technical University
Joe Barela | Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center
Randy Berner | Adolfson & Peterson Construction
Lisa Buckley | American Automation Building Services
Christy Dobson | Children's Hospital Colorado Ryan Evans | Advantage Security Chris Fasching | Felsberg, Holt & Ullevig Gian Gandalfo | Hilton Garden Inn - Denver Airport Tom Henley | Xcel Energy Michael "Mickey" Hunt | Colo. Dept. of Military & Veteran's Affairs Shannon Jones | FirstBank - Aurora Havana Kristi Kleinholz | Outback Steakhouse - Abilene Cindy Kreutz | Healthcare Consultant Peter Lee | Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership Alfonso Nuñez | La Cueva Restaurant
Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven | Community College of Aurora
Suzanne Pitrusu | Community Banks of Colorado
Cheri Prochazka | Fitzsimons Federal Credit Union
Brittany Rodgers | Colorado Access
Louis Salazar | ConocoPhillips Jeff Thompson | University of Colorado Health Todd Trace | Century Link

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Barry Gore | Adams County Economic Development The Honorable Steve Hogan | City of Aurora Nancy Jackson | Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners Paul Suss | Suss Buick GMC Gary Wheat | Visit Aurora Charles "CJ" Whelan | City of Centennial

STAFF

Kevin Hougen | President and CEO Rene J. Simard | Executive Vice President Naomi Colwell | Marketing Director Chance Horiuchi | Business Development Director Linda Lillyblad | Finance Director Tamara Mohamed | Director of Community Relations Paul Rosenberg | Vice President, Membership Development Mitzi Schindler | Communications Director Mary Beth Sharp | Member Services Director

ASSOCIATES

Kathryn Lobdell | Procurement Technical Assistance Centers Jeana Capel-Jones | Greater Metro Denver Healthcare Partnership

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

MISSION

THE CHAMBER'S

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, so you can forward it to every employee in your company!

RibbonCuttings

Ribbon cuttings mean business: Nine businesses; 100 new jobs.



Tax season is here! — Block Advisors Area Manager Marty Jimenez is ready to cut the ribbon and welcome clients to Southland's Block Advisors office, at 24107 E. Commons Ave., Unit 103, Aurora, CO 80016. This is the first location to change their name from H&R Block, to Block Advisors. Block Advisors has solutions to fit all tax needs, and provide tax prep and planning, as well as business services. (303) 690-8131 www.hrblock.com (1/29/16)



Welcoming a new primary care clinic to the neighborhood — Adrienne Wolf, operations manager of CU Healthcare Partners @ Belleview Point cuts the ribbon to celebrate the grand opening of the clinic at 5001 S. Parker Rd., Suite 215, Aurora, CO 80015. CU Healthcare Partners @ Belleview Point is a new primary care clinic dedicated to whole-person care. The clinic is staffed with advanced practice Family Nurse Practitioners – with the vision of improving the healthcare experience in an integrated model of care, in order to decrease associated healthcare costs and deliver improved health outcomes in the community. (303) 724-1487 www.nursing.ucdenver.edu/hcpbelleviewpoint (1/21/16)



CenturyLink has moved, but not far! — Congratulations to CenturyLink for the grand opening of their new location at 14222 E. Cedar Ave., Unit B, Aurora, CO 80012. It was a big day, and many gathered to help celebrate, including (left to right): Director of Regional Field Sales Scott Davis; VP Consumer Marketing Adrian Kesler; VP Operations Colorado Penny Larson; VP National Field Sales Chris Denzin; Mile High United Way President and CEO Christine Benero; City Council, Ward III Marsha Berzins; Aurora Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen; Broncos' mascot Miles and a Denver Broncos' cheerleader. CenturyLink home services include internet, TV, home phone, home security, and bundled packages. They also provide services for small businesses, medium businesses, enterprises, and wholesale. (303) 343-0861 www.centurylink.com (2/18/16)



Celebrating Youth, Arts Education, and Community - DAVA student Boris Cochajil, is assisted by fellow students Mariana Leon and Hiram Saucedo, in cutting the ribbon for the newly-renovated Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA) at 1405 Florence St., Aurora, CO 80010. The \$1.8 million renovation and expansion doubled DAVA's footprint, creating 8,636 sq. ft. of safe and unified space dedicated to arts education.

DAVA's Job Training program for middle school youth now occupies an entire wing of the building, with art and technology combined. In addition, a dedicated clay studio was built onto to the OASIS Open Studio, adding much-needed capacity to **DAVA's** elementary program.

Founded in 1993, **DAVA** has been building community through the arts for more than two decades with programs that reinforce 21st century life skills, build self-esteem, and connect youth to the community. **DAVA** represents a unique combination of arts education and youth development, demonstrating how quality arts programming during afterschool hours form a critical framework for long-term youth success. Each year, **DAVA** programs impact approximately 1,400 young people, and support the programming of partner organizations. (303) 367-5886 www.davarts.org (1/14/16) (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)



16th Annual Women Making A Difference "Unsung Here" Luncheon

On Feb. 12, the 16th Annual Women in Business, Women Making a Difference "Unsung Hero" Luncheon brought 200 attendees to the **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver - Aurora**, to honor six nominees, two finalists and a winner.

Keynote Speaker, Lois Melkonian delivered a powerful message about life transformation and learning how to 'pivot'. Lois was a radio and television broadcaster for most of her professional career, but made a 'pivot' that led her to write her book Hybrid -The transformation of a cross-cultural people pleaser.

Generous corporate sponsors for the event were Aurora Credit Union Alliance, Colorado Technical University, and Westerra Credit Union. Table sponsors included American Association of University Women (AAUW), Advantage Security, Inc., Citywide Banks, Community Banks of Colorado, Creative Counseling Center, FirstBank, Regis University, Smitty's Sprinkler Systems. and Wells Fargo Bank.



Left to right, the 2016 Women In Business Unsung Hero Award Luncheon Keynote Speaker Lois Melkonian; Award Winner Kim Robards, **Kim Robards Dance**; and Finalists Sarah Ellis, Lutheran Medical Center, and Jennifer Evans, **Advantage Security, Inc.**

Left to right, the 2016 Women In Business Unsung Hero Award Nominees: Nandy Talent, Talent Care Services; Cris Haas, Creative Counseling Center; Denise Denton, Aurora Health Access; Brian Bernard (accepting for Jeannie Bernard), Bernard Financial Services; Shannon Jones, FirstBank; and Myrna Smith, Smitty's Sprinkler Systems.



MemberNews

CCC keeps growing - to help the community

Creative Counseling Center is expanding, in



Brittany Green

order to meet the needs of the community. Along with their additional space – which was celebrated with a ribbon cutting and open house at the end of February, Brittany Green has joined the **Creative Counseling Center** team. Green has worked with a wide

range of clients focusing on trauma, eating disorders, depression/anxiety, couples and family relational issues.

Do you know a Hoarder?

On Feb. 9 — the same day as the Broncos Super Bowl victory parade — **ServiceMaster DSI** hosted Matt Paxton from A&E's TV Show *Hoarders* at the Denver Aquarium, who gave an informational course on Hoarding.

Even though there were an estimated 650,000 people attending the Broncos parade that day (Matt joked that the crowd was there to see him), there were nearly 100 people in attendance at the Aquarium. The crowd included insurance professionals, case workers, senior service providers, legal advisors, professional organizers, realtors, social service providers, and city advocates.

Paxton educated the audience about Hoarding; who it impacts, how it affects our

society, and how we can help. The session went into depth regarding why people Hoard, the types of Hoarding, and communication techniques to use when dealing with someone afflicted by Hoarding. He made the audience laugh, cringe, and cry, by educating them about the severity of the disorder which affects more than 16 million people nationwide; nearly 5 percent of our country's population.

Paxton emphasized that because Hoarding is a legally protected medical disorder, it's important for those who interact with Hoarders to understand the impact of the illness, and how compassion is key in helping.

Paxton's stories were meant to empower and inspire the audience to help those affected by Hoarding, and for them to see the disorder in a new light.

ServiceMaster DSI is committed to educating anyone affected by Hoarding. If you know anyone affected by Hoarding or have questions, contact ServiceMaster DSI at (303) 288-2900.

Centennial's assistant city attorney honored

The **City of Centennia**l and the City Attorney's Office of Widner Michow & Cox recently announced that the *Metro City Attorney's Association* named Jill Hassman as the 2015 *Outstanding Assistant City Attorney.*

As lead attorney for the City's fiber optic and broadband efforts, Hassman is a trusted advisor to the City's Fiber Infrastructure Committee, which includes members of Council, City staff and consultants. This past year, Hassman was instrumental in implementing major revisions to the City's ethics code and conducted a training program for City Council, Planning & Zoning Commission, and all City departments and volunteers, educating them on the revisions.

Police and Fire celebrate new facility



The City of Aurora celebrated its new Public Safety Training Center with an open house and ribbon cutting on Feb 12. The new \$29 million center at 25950 Quincy Avenue replaces separate training facilities, and allows the Aurora Police Department and Aurora Fire Rescue to consolidate their training, and to focus on teamwork in their emergency response. Left to right, Police Chief Nick Metz, Fire Chief Mike Garcia, City Council members Bob Roth, Barb Cleland, Brad Pierce, Marsha Berzins, Angela Lawson, and Bob LeGare, City Manager Skip Noe, and Deputy Fire Chiefs Tony Cito and Scott Sare. (Photo courtesy City of Aurora)

Following the Leadership Aurora Class of 2015-16:

Media and Education Days

On December 17, 2015, the 2015-2016 Leadership Aurora class embarked on their third session: Media Day.

After a hearty breakfast at the City of Aurora, the class headed to 9NEWS, where a panel of media professionals talked about what goes into daily news programs. They also explained what qualifies as 'newsworthy,' which is simply to reach a lot of people by reporting on subjects that engage them. And to no one's surprise, one of the most newsworthy and trending topics is the Denver Broncos!

After the panel, the class viewed a live news and weather broadcast. They also had an opportunity to take some selfies, acting as weather reporters in front of the green screen in the 9NEWS Backyard.

The afternoon adventure at Aurora TV included posing as directors, producers, camera operators, and on camera interviewees – about the Aurora Public Schools graduation rates, interspersed with 'Media Relations 101,' about how the media works, why we need the media, and why the media needs us — the audience.

The day was filled with action and excitement, and wrapped up with a fun social at The Royal Hilltop!

A hearty thank you goes to Leadership Aurora Board members Erika Matich with **University of Colorado Health** for breakfast and Randy Berner with **Adolfson & Peterson** for lunch. Also, thanks to **Brad Mikel** for taking photos for the yearbook — and making everyone look good!

(Excerpted from the Media Day article by Tamara Mohamed, Aurora Chamber of Commerce)

Education Day on Jan. 21 provided a sampling of some of the great — and unique — learning opportunities in Aurora.

The day began at Smoky Hill High School with an overview of the evolution of secondary education in the Cherry Creek School District.



Members of the LA class at 9NEWS, posing as a large 'anchor group' on Media Day.

The Leadership group then visited four of the many Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes offered, including; Automotive, Design, Culinary, and DECA (a Business Marketing program) witnessing first-hand how students apply what they're learning to real world problems.

The next stop was Aurora Central High

School, in the Aurora Public School District, where the class was introduced to the Aurora Lights Program, which provides unique learning opportunities in health sciences. Students from the program inspired the class with their stories of how Aurora Lights has made such a positive impact on their education — and on their lives.

During a presentation about Equity in Education, the class was challenged to reflect on their own prejudices; to not make assumptions based on their own values; and to not pass judgment on people without knowing their whole story.

The last "classes" of the day, were at the Lowry Campus of the Community College of Aurora (CCA), including an overview of the diverse student population at CCA, a quick game of world economy Monopoly, a tour of the

> Colorado Film School, and a presentation at the Disaster Management Institute in CCA's Center for Simulation.

> All in all, the day was a great learning experience, which is apropos for Education Day!

And a big thank you to Leadership Aurora Board Member Maureen Barker with Citywide Banks, for generously providing breakfast and lunch — to keep the class well-nourished as they were learning!

(Excerpted from the Education Day article, by Catherine Trouth, Community College of Aurora)



Just a little something created by students in a CTE class!



LA Class members walk to the Colorado Film School on the CCA Lowry Campus during Education Day.



Nathaniel Meadows

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State of the Base highlights Buckley's impact

Colonel John Wagner, Commander of the 460th Space Wing and Buckley AFB, addressed community leaders at the annual State of the Base on Jan. 27 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Denver-Aurora.

Col. Wagner spoke of the great strides being made at Buckley to improve the lives of military members and their families, including a new on-base dental clinic, on-base college courses, and plans to bring many medical services back onto the installation. He praised the community for its' tremendous support in ensuring that Buckley remains viable for decades to come, and also announced that in 2015, Buckley's fiscal impact on the local economy was more than \$923 million.

The annual luncheon is organized jointly by the Aurora Chamber Defense Council and the Rotary Club of Aurora, and sponsored by Colorado Technical University, the Aurora Police Department, the City of Aurora, First Command Financial Services, Citywide Banks, and RTL Networks.



Aurora Chamber President/CEO Kevin Hougen (left) presents Col. John Wagner with the very first Aurora Chamber Defense Council coin, in appreciation for his outstanding leadership and community partnership. As 460th Space Wing and Buckley Installation Commander, Col. Wagner is responsible for supporting 90 tenant organizations and maximizing missile warning through overhead persistent infrared (satellite) operations. (Photo courtesy Brian Molitoris Photographer)

MemberRenewals

140th Wing (Colorado Air National Guard)

Accent Cleaning Service, Inc.

Adams County Board of Commissioners

Adigo

Advanced Circuits, Inc.

Air Force Association

All American Windows & Siding

Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter American Automation Building Solutions

American Cancer Society

Anadarko Petroleum Corp.

Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners

Arapahoe County Security Center, Inc.

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center

Asian Pacific Development Center

Associates Insurance Group

Association of the United States Army Denver

Centennial

Aurora Cultural Arts District

Aurora Family Y.M.C.A.

Aurora Housing Authority

Aurora Interchurch Taskforce

Aurora Law Firm

Balancing Books, Inc.

Beck, Payne, Frank & Piper, P.C.

Best Western Plus Gateway Inn & Suites

Booz Allen Hamilton

Boys Hope Girls Hope

Bradley M. Pierce Legal Services, Inc.

Cambria Suites Denver Airport

City of Aurora - Manager's Office

City of Centennial

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage-Laura Noe

CollegeAmerica

Colorado Academy of Family Physicians

CommonGround Golf Course

Community Re-Entry Place Inside/Out

COPIC Insurance

Cops Fighting Cancer

Country Inn & Suites by Carlson

Denver International Airport

Don's Mailing Service

E Travel Unlimited Ed Bozarth Company, Inc.

Enternet Design

Felsburg Holt & Ullevig

Finish Line Car Wash

First Command Financial Planning

Foxridge Farm

Goodwill Industries of Denver

Great Western Printing, Inc.

Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa

Handyman Matters of Central Denver & Aurora Harvard Square Retirement Community

Haynie & Company

Hillcrest Village

Hilton Garden Inn - Denver Airport

Intermountain Staffing

ITT Technical Institute

Jack Schroeder and Associates

KeyBank - S. Buckley Rd.

Kirchhof Group, Inc.

La Cueva Restaurant

Leisure Tech Industries

Majestic Realty Co.

Marriott International

Martha J. Karnopp, Attorney at Law

Metro Community Provider Network, Inc.

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Mile High Harley-Davidson Mile High Military Officers Assn., Inc.

Oakwood Homes, LLC

Office Depot - Ironton St #03272

Outback Steakhouse - Denver Gateway

Pinnacol Assurance

RIDA Development/ Gaylord Hotel

Roper Insurance & Financial Services

Safe Splash Swim School

Civ 9. Civ Inc

South Metro Fire Rescue Authority

Springhill Suites Denver at Anschutz Medical Campus

Subway on Iliff

Sunny Homes & Associates, Inc.

The Wallace Team

Tilden Car Care Aurora

TownePlace Suites - DIA at Gateway Park

United Hebrew Cemetery Association

Wagner Equipment Co.

Wal-Mart Stores #1492

Wells Fargo Bank - Business Banking

WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff

NewMembers

Alice Lee Main

Answers for Senior Care

Aurora Highlands, The

Colorado Junk Cars

Columbia College- Denver

Del Arte Lofts and Flats

Denver Business Journal

Dominique Jackson for Colorado HD 42

Doug Anthony

Evanston Enterprises

Grade Power Learning

HR Green

Humana Marketpoint

III D Electric

Local Eyes Video Productions

Quantum Change Consulting LLC

Richard Ahrenkiel Agency-American Family

Trivida, LLC

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