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THE CHAMBER Impact NEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL 2018

You're Invited To...

63rd Annual Awards Dinner & Silent Auction

A NIGHT IN VENICE



A Venetian Masquerade

Friday, March 16, 2018

DoubleTree

by Hilton Hotel Denver

3203 Quebec St., Denver, CO 80207

5 - 7pm: Silent Auction, Cocktails
and Hors d'oeuvres

7 - 9pm: Dinner and Awards Presentation

9 - 10pm: Music and Dancing

Attire: Venetian Costume, Black Tie, or
Business Dress

This Year's Chamber Awards Dinner
Sponsored by:

The Medical Center of Aurora

ConocoPhillips • Extraction Oil

Colorado Technical University
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Centerpieces sponsored by
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A Day in the Life of the Leadership Aurora Class of 2018



Leadership Aurora Class picture at the Channel 2 (KWGN) News Studio - with News Anchor Mike Landess (third from left).

By Julian Dewberry /Falck Rocky Mountain
Leadership Aurora Class of 2018

Since the Leadership Aurora Retreat in September 2017, the Class of 2017-2018 has been treated to enlightening subject matter through a level of access one rarely has a chance to experience. Media Day in December 2017 proved to be no exception.

While enjoying a great breakfast provided by the University of Colorado Cancer Center, classmates were brought together and spent the first part of the morning catching up with one another. It was a powerful reminder of the class's ability to form relationships.

We were told that we'd be acting out a

broadcast on the set of Aurora 8 later that day with 'gentrification' as the topic. Groups were given time to figure out who would be playing the parts listed and how they would approach their stance. After completing our initial planning, we were ready for our field trip to Fox31/CW2.

As we left the cozy confines of the Aurora Municipal Center, we were greeted by a large school bus that would take us on our way. The driver may have been surprised that adults dressed to the nines would immediately revert to the age and behavior she would normally encounter in this environment but none of us were.

Once we arrived at the station, we were met in the lobby by Channel 2 Anchor Mike Landess. He was kind enough to tour our class throughout the building, allowed us Q&A sessions with a number of high-ranking employees and even provided us with seats to watch a live broadcast. It was fascinating to hear how the industry has, and continues to evolve and just how much content is being sifted through on a daily basis.

Insider details were given to our class on what kind of stories they are looking for and how to get that information covered. If you're curious about those details, I suggest you look into joining the next Leadership Aurora class.

Toward the end of our stay, we



All smiles on the way back to the Aurora Municipal Center from Fox31/CW2 - for lunch, Aurora TV rotations about "Gentrification," and an interactive presentation on "Messaging and Communications" by Jamie Alvarez with GBSM.

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Suzanne Pitrusu
Board Chair

Chair's Letter

This year is already flying by, and it's hard to believe that eight dynamic months have gone by since I've had the pleasure of serving as the Chair of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. We started the year out with the question of "why" chambers exist and what value we bring to members and non-members.

The question remains consistent and can be evaluated by the 3Cs:

- 1) The Chamber is a **Catalyst** for business growth;
- 2) We are a **Convener** of leaders and influencers to get things done;
- 3) The Chamber is a **Champion** for a thriving community.

The '3cs' and the Economic Impact our Chamber has, was evident as a **Convener** at the Association of Defense Communities summit we attended in San Diego the week of Feb. 12-14. Our team representing Buckley Air Force Base, the City of Aurora, and The Chamber of Commerce was selected to participate with senior experts on key issues facing our communities. We had a panel of experts speak on the funding we have received (\$26 million dollars to date) from our Readiness & Environmental Protection and Integration (REPI) efforts to expand and protect Buckley AFB from encroachment.

The military industry is a crucial **Catalyst** of Colorado's economic growth. The Department of Defense is responsible for about 8 percent of the state's total economy in terms of employment, earnings, and state tax revenues. Since 2014, the State of Colorado has ranked as one of the nation's fastest growing economies and Colorado's deep ties to the Department of Defense and patriotic commitment to providing for the nation's security will ensure the state's legacy of success and prosperity. In addition, the State's educated and highly skilled work force, low taxes and business costs, and attractive quality of life foster innovation, collaboration and integration are **Catalysts** across the entire economy.

And finally, The Chamber is – and has always been – a **Champion** for a thriving community, exemplified in the 63 years and counting of honoring people and businesses in the community making substantial contributions to The Chamber and to the community.

This year, we honor these **Champions** at the March 16, 2018 Annual Awards Dinner:

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR / **Mesa Moving and Storage**, award accepted by **Andrea Williams, General Manager**

BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR / **Mandy Young, Local Store Marketer, Jim 'N Nicks Bar-B-Q**

CHAMBER LEADERSHIP AWARDS / **Jennifer Evans, Account Manager, Advantage Security**

WOMAN OF THE YEAR / **Gayle Jetchick, Executive Director, Havana Business Improvement District**

MAN OF THE YEAR / **Harry Bull, Superintendent, Cherry Creek School District**

HUMANITARIAN AWARD / **Randy Stith, PhD, CEO/Exec. Director, Aurora Mental Health**

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP / **Aurora Police Department**, award accepted by **Nick Metz, Chief of Police**

BUSINESS FOR THE ARTS AWARD / **Aurora History Museum**, award accepted by **T. Scott Williams, Museum Director**

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR / **Aurora Warms the Night**, award accepted by **Brian Arnold, Executive Director**

KEN MELCHER AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR AWARD / **Michael Long, Director of Business Development, Fairmount Cemetery**

Your Aurora Chamber of Commerce: Convener, Catalyst, Champion!

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

An Inside Look at Chamber Committees

BUSINESS FOR THE ARTS

Touring the Possibilities at the Colorado Film School

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

The Colorado Film School is housed in an unassuming building on the Lowry campus of the Community College of Aurora. However, once inside and walking around, the possibilities seem to be endless – as witnessed by a group of Chamber members attending the January 9 Business for the Arts tour of the school.

Brian Steward, director of The Colorado Film School, began the tour in the theatre, with a briefing about the curriculum and a viewing of student work for commercials, through a partnership with Toyota.



Brian Steward, director of The Colorado Film School, talks with members of the Business for the Arts group in the Colorado Film School Café.

The Film School currently offers 48 credit Certificates and 75 credit Associate of Applied Science Degrees in Acting/Directing, Writing/Directing, Writing/Producing, Screenwriting, Cinematography, and Post Production. All first semester students are required to take courses in Production I, Post Production I, and Short Script Analysis, and all students are required to take an acting class – in order to understand film from the other side of the camera. Steward is proud of their 'Safe Acting' course, taught by Galina Boulgakova, as it's important for actors to be able to disengage from difficult roles.

With a tri-fold mission of training students for careers in the film and video industries, serving as a catalyst for local film and video production, and serving as an industry-wide resource for research and development in production, CFS faculty ensure that graduating students are prepared for their next step, whether that's working or more education in the field. CFS also hosts summer camp sessions for Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA) youth, as well as local high school students.

"It's all about telling stories through metaphors and through film – and it's a lot more

work than most people can imagine," said Steward. "But our students and faculty are dedicated to their craft, to working together, and to creating incredible film products."

When asked about the future of the School, Steward shared that he would like to be able to offer a four-year degree, but admitted that that would certainly require expanded facilities, faculty, and funding. "It's good to dream, and we will keep that dream in mind – and we even have a plan for a four-year program, but for now we will continue to provide two and three year degrees that are educating incredible filmmakers and citizens of the world."

CCA Arts and Communication: Inspiration and Perseverance Thrive Tuesday, February 6, 2018

The Arts and Communication Department at Community College of Aurora is another hidden gem of educational opportunity in the community, and on February 6, 2018, a large group of Chamber 'arts enthusiasts' were treated to breakfast and a broad overview of what's happening within the walls of CCA's Arts Building on the CentreTech Campus.

Offering degrees and certificates in Art, Communication, Music, Theatre, and Humanities, CCA's Arts and Communication Department is busy, productive, and innovative – and the faculty and staff are engaging and engaged.

The well-choreographed presentation included Lynette Jachowicz, PhD, Chair of Arts and Communication; Kate O'Donnell, Lead Art Faculty; Jonah Skurky-Thomas, Art Faculty; Vicki Graham, Lead Communication Faculty; Stacy D-Angelo, Director of Theatre; and Michael Pickering, Director of Music.

Pickering walked attendees through what he titled the "Long Strange Trip It's Been," which refers to the academic process required to create and receive approval for a new program within the department. Pickering began with a vision for a Music and Entertainment Entrepreneurship Program in 2016, and is planning to roll the program out fall 2018.

His sound advice to all during such any long and complicated process is "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Dr. Jachowicz shared that the department is also interested in exploring engaging with the community through bringing in local artists to



CCA's Director of Music Michael Pickering explains the long process of creating and implementing a new program in the academic setting.

inspire and teach students, as well as finding internships for students with local businesses.

TRANSPORTATION

Better Transportation, Better Colorado: DRCOG and Legislative Updates

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

With continued economic growth and the growing population, Transportation has become a hot topic in Colorado. Granted that all of the other issues, including healthcare, housing, jobs, etc. are also of great importance – but how do we 'get to' all of these other priorities? Transportation.

At the February 7, 2018 Transportation meeting, attendees were updated on the broad reaching transportation-related efforts and issues facing Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and The Colorado Legislature in 2018.

DRCOG representatives Celeste Stragand, Regional TDM Program and Marketing

Manager, and Steve Cook, Transportation Planning and Operations, gave a comprehensive overview of Way to Go, the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Plan, and other activities.

Stragand, who manages the Way to Go program, talked about how the program works across the region as a partnership between DRCOG and seven transportation management associations in the region. Goals of Way to Go include reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, and reducing single-occupant vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled by 10 percent each by 2040.

Specific to Aurora, Cook noted recent DRCOG funded projects, including the 23rd Ave. Bicycle/Pedestrian Path, the Metro Center connection facilities, and Colfax Ave. bicycle/pedestrian project. In addition, Toll Gate Creek Trail and the Westerly Creek Connection are in progress. DRCOG continues to explore emerging transportation trends and initiatives such as Mobility Choice Blueprint, CDOT's Road-X, autonomous vehicles, connected vehicles, ride hailing companies, package delivery methods, and improved human service transportation.

"Money to support all types of projects is always an issue," said Cook. "But we continue to move forward and to best leverage the dollars we have and those we anticipate."

Regarding Transportation issues in the Colorado State Legislature, Axiom Politics Legislative Director Melissa Nelson-Osse, and Legislative Advocate Michael Steppat talked about current and potential transportation bills.

To see a list of current bills in the Legislature that The Chamber is following, go to



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<http://www.aurorachamber.org/committees/government-affairs/> and click on "tracks bills" or the Colorado Capitol Watch icon.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY

Legislators' Breakfast Monday, January 9, 2018

The annual pre-session Legislators' breakfast was held January 9 at the Community College of Aurora. The event hosted more than 100 attendees to meet and learn more about the Eastern Metro Legislators. Government Affairs committee chair, Su Ryden, former House Representative and small business owner, began by introducing Mayor of Aurora, Steve Hogan and newly-elected Mayor of Centennial, Stephanie Piko.

Ryden then introduced present Senators and House Representatives, who each had an opportunity to speak about their plans for the upcoming session. Legislators giving updates were: Senator Nancy Todd, SD28; Senator Rhonda Fields, SD29; Representative Mike Weissman, HD36; Representative Jovan Melton, HD41; Representative Dominique Jackson, HD42; and Representative Phillip Covarrubias, HD56. Top priorities discussed were transportation, healthcare and safety, along with other pressing issues such as veterans' affairs, economic development, taxes, and labor and employment.

Legislators who were invited but could not be present are: Senator Dominick Moreno, SD21; Senator Kevin Priola, SD25; Senator Daniel Kagan, SD26; Senator Jack Tate, SD27; Senator Lois Clark, SD31; Representative Dafna Michaelson-Jenet, HD30; Representative Joe Salazar, HD31; Representative Andrienne Benavidez, HD32; Representative Cole Wist, HD37; Representative Polly Lawrence, HD39; and Representative Janet Buckner, HD40.

And the Session has begun: Legislative Updates

Thursdays, January 18, February 1 and 15, 2018

Throughout the legislative session, the Government Affairs, Education, and Energy committee meets twice a month on the first and



The Legislative Breakfast was sponsored by the Community College of Aurora. Legislators, left to right: Representative Phillip Covarrubias, HD56; Representative Dominique Jackson, HD42; Senator Nancy Todd, SD28; Representative Mike Weissman, HD36; Representative Jovan Melton, HD41; and Senator Rhonda Fields, SD29.

third Thursdays, to keep the committee informed as new bills are frequently being introduced.

The Eastern Metro Legislators are invited to attend and provide updates on issues they are supporting. Representatives from Axiom Politics, the Chamber's Lobbyist, also attends meetings, providing information and updates on existing bills and their current positions at the Capitol.

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

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

- HB 1001 - OPPOSE - FAMLI Family Medical Leave Insurance Program
- HB 1033 - SUPPORT - Employee Leave to Participate in Elections
- HB 1178 - OPPOSE - Hold Colorado Governments Accountable Sanctuary Jurisdictions

The committee has also discussed and are monitoring the following bills:

- HB 1060 Income Tax Deduction for Military Retirement Benefits
- HB 1034 Career and Tech Education Grant Program
- HB 1086 Comm. College Bachelor of Science Degree Nursing
- HB 1007 Substance Use Disorder Payment & Coverage
- HB 1009 Diabetes Drug Pricing Transparency Act
- HB 1067 Right to Rest Act
- SB 157 Colorado Women's Veterans Act
- SB 007 Affordable Housing Tax Credit
- SB 001 Transportation Infrastructure Funding
- SB 015 Protect Homeowners & Deployed Military

To learn more about these bills visit the Axiom Politics bill tracking site at <http://coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-tracker-votes/0/391/2018/0/>

The Government Affairs, Education, and Energy Committee is sponsored in part by Pinnacol Assurance.

WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

Yep - It's a New Year! Thursday, January 11, 2018

No better time than the first part of a new year to assess your health and the health of your business.

One of the most popular New Year's resolutions is to get healthy or healthier, and The Chamber's Work Well 2.0 Health Series is ready to help you - and your business - keep that resolution!

On January 11, 2018, Work Well Coalition members and potential members met to eat a hearty and healthy breakfast and to discuss challenges and opportunities in creating and maintaining a healthy workplace environment.

One topic of discussion was 'workplace

policies,' and the perception of what a healthy policy means. Many people think of a policy as something they are

required to do, and therefore it is not always met with a welcoming attitude. The group discussed that a healthy workplace policy is more about the workplaces' culture and how a policy might also be called "guidelines," to soften the impact, perception, and to gain better acceptance within the organization.

Jennifer Tellis, Worksite Wellness Specialist with Tri-County Health Department, and Coalition liaison to The Chamber also opened the conversation for attendees to share their ideas about how to creatively use funding provided by the grant. Some innovative ideas include massages, healthy food for meetings, purchasing plants for the workplace, a bring your dog to work day, and an aromatherapy room or white noise machines for loud work areas.

It was a lively discussion, interrupted only by a few stretch breaks and some laughter - which are both incredibly healthy.

Interested in more information about how to get involved in The Chamber's Work Well 2.0 Health Series Coalition? Contact Jennifer Tellis, 720-357-9183, jtellis@tchd.org, or Mitzi Schindler, 303-344-1500 mitzi.schindler@aurorachamber.org.

Workplace Health Symposium Wednesday, February 14, 2018

In place of the February Work Well 2.0 Health Series meeting, coalition and Chamber members were invited to attend the American Heart Association's Workplace Health Symposium at the University of Denver Cable Center.

The Symposium featured keynote speaker Kyra Bobinet, MD, MPH, CEO of EngagedIN, a neuroscience-based design firm specialized in behavior change - who spoke about what truly drives employees to connect with their own well-being. "Because, you know, people don't always do what they know they should," states Dr. Bobinet.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL / WOMEN IN BUSINESS

"You Don't Belong:" The Tacit Messaging of Gender Micro-Inequities in the Workplace

Friday, January 12, 2018

The Diversity and Inclusion Council and the Women In Business Committee partnered in January 2018 to host Maria "Giugi" Carminati, JD, with Carminati Law PLLC: The Woman's Lawyer, who presented on the topic of "You Don't Belong: The Tacit Messaging of Gender Micro-Inequities in the Workplace."

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Giugi began by sharing her background in the industry and how she came to be The Women's Lawyer. Throughout the presentation she offered facts to support her data and story. Some examples are:



Maria "Giugi" Carminati, JD

- Women make up approximately half of all law school enrollees (48.7 percent) and J.D.'s (47.3 percent), respectively. However, women make up:
 - o Less than 25 percent of all private firm partners,
 - o 18 percent of equity partners, and
 - o 18 percent of managing partners for the 200 largest firms in the U.S.
- In corporate law, women make up 24.8 percent of general counsel for Fortune 500 corporations

Giugi related these facts to her personal story, explaining why she decided to start her own practice. She also discussed micro-aggressions against women and how this has — and can — affect women in the workplace, in any field.

- Chester Pierce, MD, a Harvard Medical School psychiatry professor, first coined the term micro-aggressions in the 1970s, defining them as "brief and often subtle everyday events that denigrate individuals because they're members of particular groups."
- Micro-aggressions differ from ordinary aggressive acts in that they do not necessarily intend harm.
- Micro-aggressions are often subtle and can take on both verbal and nonverbal formats.
- Micro-aggressions have been utilized to explain subtle sexism and sex-based discrimination against women
- Several studies have shown that gendered micro-aggressions cause detrimental consequences to women's psychological and behavioral health as well as their careers

Giugi offered some vocabulary that many can relate to, including men who were present (as they laughed and nodded in agreement):

- Intrusive Interrupting: intentionally or unintentionally usurping the speaker's turn at talk with the intent of ceasing the speaker's ability to finish organically
- Mansplaining: a man interrupting a woman to explain to her something that she actually knows more about than he does
- Maninterrupting: unnecessary interruption of a woman by a man
- Bropropriating: a man taking a woman's idea and taking credit for it

In her final thoughts, she gave advice on being proactive and how to acknowledge that gender bias is happening in the workplace:

- Be aware
- Recognize the existence of unconscious biases
- Counteract internalized sexism (trainings, seminars)
- Practice bystander intervention
- Credit work where credit is due

Inclusion Drives Innovation: Bridging Business and Ability Friday, February 9, 2018

In a discussion about diversity, the topics of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation frequently come up, but it's important to not forget all the characteristics that create a person's self being.

Jeff Sidders, MD, business outreach specialist with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, discussed the importance of capability in his presentation to the Diversity and Inclusion Council on February 9.



Jeff Sidders, MD

Dr. Sidders shared a bit about his personal background and how a brain tumor changed his life from practicing medicine, to becoming an advocate at the Department of Labor and Employment. He discussed how life can shift unexpectedly, and suddenly what a person used to be able to do, is no longer possible.

In his presentation *Inclusion Drives Innovation: Bridging Business & Ability*, he said "Diversity and Inclusion are good for the bottom line and absolutely necessary to remain relevant in today's increasingly interconnected markets and global economy." Dr. Sidders refers to the term **Differently-Abled**: a physical or mental condition that interferes with a person's ability to walk, talk, see, hear, learn, speak, etc. He brings this up to make his point that disability is **NOT** a **handicap**. A handicap is the barrier. The example he gives is "stairs are the **handicap**". A person's **disability** might be the inability to climb stairs."

To be inclusive in a workplace, it is important to know these differences. He also acknowledges that disability affects people of all ages, race, gender, and backgrounds, and that nearly 20 percent of 54 million people in the U.S. have a disability. That's approximately 1 in 5 individuals, in which many of these individual's disabilities are hidden and not readily apparent. The likelihood of acquiring a disability increases with age. "This is the one minority group that any one of us can join at any time."

Dr. Sidders provided some best practices on how to be inclusive in the workplace with differently-abled employees such as:

- Assist with recruiting
- Determine reasonable accommodations and assistive technology needs
- Promote a positive and barrier-free workplace
- Provide disability awareness training
- Provide consultation and technical assistance on the ADA
- Fund on-the-job training
- Offer an employer stipend
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)
- Provide coaching and training at the job site
- Follow-up with employer and employee
- Assist with current employees

He expressed that workers with disabilities represent a significant source of innovation and

productivity and that a diverse and inclusive workforce is critical to success. Dr. Sidders concluded with a statement to encourage employers, "you now know a virtually untapped source of pre-screened qualified candidates."

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Speed Networking Starts the New Year Wednesday, January 24, 2018

As in 2017, The Young Professionals kicked off 2018 with Speed Networking - with a completely packed room!

Omada 7, formerly known as Extreme Relationship Management, hosted the event and offered participants step-by-step directions on how to accelerate business contacts by gathering in intimate groups of four, to share personal backgrounds and business goals. The session gave participants the opportunity to perfect their elevator speech, and to determine what information is necessary in a business conversation.



Speed networking at its best at the January 24 Young Professionals meeting.

DEFENSE COUNCIL

Defense Council Social Launches Relationships at Launchpad Brewery Wednesday, January 17, 2018

To kick off 2018, The Chamber's Defense Council hosted a Social at Launchpad Brewery, an Airforce veteran-owned brewery at 884 S. Buckley Rd., Aurora, CO 80017.

The brewery sponsored drinks and Jim 'N Nicks Barb-B-Q sponsored food for the event. More than 50 people attended the social, including senior military and civilian leaders from various units on Buckley, and community/business leaders from the Eastern Metro area.



Arapahoe County Commissioner Bill Holen (front, left) shakes hands with Colonel Troy Endicott, the new 460th Space Wing Commander, at the January 17 Defense Council Social at Launch Pad Brewery.

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DEFENSE COUNCIL (con't)

New Buckley AFB Installation Commander Reports on the State of the Base

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Colonel Troy Endicott, Commander of the 460th Space Wing & Buckley AFB Installation Commander, addressed more than 225 military and community leaders at the annual



Colonel Troy Endicott
(U.S. Air Force photo by
Senior Airman Luke W.
Nowakowski)

State of the Base luncheon on February 7. He thanked everyone for the "partnership and friendship with Team Buckley," and said that the men and women on Buckley AFB are

"extremely grateful to have such tremendous support from our federal, state, county and local city officials."

Colonel Endicott highlighted the men and women of the 460th Space Wing, in addition to the five major base partners that play such an important role in our nation's defense - Aerospace Data Facility Colorado, 140th Wing (Air National Guard), Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center, Naval Operational Support Center, and the Army Aviation Support Facility. He also announced that in 2017, Buckley's fiscal impact on the local economy was almost \$915 million.

"Buckley AFB is the largest employment center in Aurora and the operations carried out there are critical to the safety of our country," said City of Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan, who attended the event. "I absolutely love having Buckley AFB in our community."

The annual luncheon is jointly organized by the Aurora Chamber Defense Council and the Rotary Club of Aurora, and was supported this



Chamber Board Chair, Suzanne Pitrusu, Vice President Commercial Banking, Community Banks of Colorado chats with Colonel Chris Povak, Commander, Aerospace Data Facility Colorado at the Annual State of the Base Luncheon (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Luke W. Nowakowski)

year by table sponsors Colorado Technical University, First Bank, Community College of Aurora, Lockheed Martin, City of Aurora, Aurora Police Department, Citywide Banks, and the Rotary Club of Aurora. ■

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

18th Annual Women in Business Unsung Hero Luncheon Friday, February 9, 2018

The 18th Annual Women in Business Unsung Hero Luncheon on February 9 was a completely sold out event, with nearly 250 in attendance at the DoubleTree by Hilton Denver-Aurora.

This year, the event recognized 20 dynamic women for their contributions to their business environment and the community, with Nancy Freed, City of Aurora Deputy City Manager, named the 2018 Women in Business Unsung Hero.

Finalists:

Marissa Banker, Colorado Technical University
Major Kinder Blacke, Air National Guard
140th Wing

Jan Jenkins, PhD, Aurora Mental Health Center
Jamie LaDuke, City of Aurora
Stephanie Sanchez, Mile High United Way

Nominees:

Theresa Bailey, UCHealth
Jennifer Dunn, FirstBank
Cathleen Ehrenfeucht, UCHealth
Kim Koch, Arapahoe County Government, CO
Vicki Mackie, Sites and Insights
Sarah McGregor, Aurora Symphony Orchestra
Chartashia Miller, NAACP Aurora Branch
Oma Mohamed, Aurora Chamber Volunteer
Aurora Ogg, Congressman Mike Coffman
Deb Peek, Sites and Insights
Chris Reeve, Adams County Government, CO
Megan Vizina, Colfax Community Network
Karen Willett, Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC)
Kim Wisneski, Pickens Technical College

Congratulations to these outstanding women who deserve to be recognized for their contributions to the community.

Diane Simard, Vice President/Board Member of Bye Aerospace and a cancer survivor advocate, gave an inspirational and moving speech. She told her story of self-love, emphasizing that beauty does not come from hair and makeup, but from within. She made guests laugh then brought them to tears by describing the situation that truly changed her life: Cancer.

She shared a quote by Maya Angelou, "people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

The Unsung Hero Luncheon was generously sponsored by Bye Aerospace, Westerra Credit Union, FirstBank, and Colorado Technical



Left to right: Jan Jenkins, PhD, Aurora Mental Health Center; Stephanie Sanchez, Mile High United Way; Nancy Freed, City of Aurora; Major Kinder Blacke, Air National Guard 140th Wing; and Jamie LaDuke, City of Aurora. (Photo by Teri Mingilton, Elemental Photography)

University. Table sponsors included The Aurora Association of University Women, Aurora Mental Health Center, City of Aurora, Citywide Banks, Community Banks of Colorado, Community College of Aurora, Metro Energy, Mile High United Way, NAACP Aurora Branch, Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation, Visit Aurora, and Wells Fargo Bank. ■



Left to right: Theresa Bailey, UCHealth; Jennifer Dunn, FirstBank; Cathleen Ehrenfeucht, UCHealth; Kim Koch, Arapahoe County Government; Vicki Mackie, Sites and Insights; Chartashia Miller, NAACP; Oma Mohamed, Aurora Chamber Volunteer; Aurora Ogg, Office of Congressman Mike Coffman; Deb Peek, Sites and Insights; Chris Reeve, Adams County Board of Commissioners; Megan Vizina, Colfax Community Network; and Kim Wisneski, Pickens Technical College. Not Pictured: Sarah McGregor, Aurora Symphony Orchestra; and Karen Willett, Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC). (Photo by Teri Mingilton, Elemental Photography)

Aurora Public Schools Inaugural Job Fair

If your company recruits local high school students, you will want to attend Aurora Public Schools' (APS) Inaugural Job Fair, April 24, 2018.



For this first-time event, APS is bringing top students from each high school together to connect with local employers. This free event, sponsored by the Hangar at Stanley, is formatted to offer a full day of 15-minute interviews with students as potential employees. Details are being finalized now, and space is limited; register soon to reserve your spot.

What: APS Inaugural Job Fair

When: April 24, 2018 8:00am-3:00pm

Where: The Hangar at Stanley, 2015 Dallas Street, Aurora, CO

Registration: To register, complete the online form: <https://tinyurl.com/APSJobFair>

Attending students will be Juniors and Seniors with an 80 percent average daily school attendance, who are on track to graduate (or graduating in May), and have a clean school discipline record. They will have completed resumes and will have been through mandatory training on professionalism and interview skills prior to the event.

For more information, contact Josh Kusch, Specialist for Programs & Partnerships, at jfkusch@aps.k12.co.us or by phone at (303) 340-0859.

Stanwood Joins Visit Aurora



Brian-Douglas S. Stanwood

Visit Aurora continues to grow its team, most recently welcoming Brian-Douglas S. Stanwood as Group Sales Manager. In this role, Stanwood will identify and connect with meeting, convention, and association planners to drive overnight visitors to the city.

"I've experienced first-hand the shift in Colorado's hospitality industry and I can say without a doubt, Aurora is truly a destination on the rise," said Stanwood. "With the introduction of the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center in 2018, we're continuing to gain ground in Colorado's growing meetings market."

Comcast Grants Awarded to 60 Colorado Organizations

Comcast in Colorado contributes approximately \$15 million in financial and in-kind resources each year to programs and partnerships helping communities across the state



thrive. These contributions include grants from the Comcast Foundation, which totaled more than \$650,000 to 60 Colorado nonprofit organizations in 2017. The grants help grow the impact of programs aimed at expanding digital literacy, promoting service, and mentoring tomorrow's leaders.

Chamber members receiving grant funding in 2017 were **Aurora Public Schools Foundation** and the **Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation**.

"The important work of these nonprofit organizations ensures that Colorado is a better place to call home," said Rich Jennings, senior vice president of Comcast Mountain West Region.

Jim 'N Nick's Receives Purple Heart

Jim 'N Nick's Bar-B-Q received the designation of a *Military Order of the Purple Heart Restaurant* for their years of support of the Military. They are the first restaurant in Colorado to receive the distinction. The designation was celebrated on January 4 at the **Jim 'N Nick's** in Northfield, 8264 E. 49th Ave., Denver, CO 80266.



Avitus Group Launches New Service



Avitus Group recently launched **Avitus Professional Acceleration**, offering training and consulting services designed

to help companies develop their managers and employees, including how to:

- better communicate
- deal with difficult employees
- identify and prevent harassment
- lead employees
- manage time and stress
- serve customers, and
- reduce risk in the workplace, particularly during active shooter events

"**Avitus Group** continues to expand our services to meet businesses' ever-changing needs," said Ken Balster, president of Avitus Business Services, Inc. "**Avitus Professional Acceleration** will enable companies to maximize their greatest assets, their employees."

Interested businesses can get a preview of **Avitus Professional Acceleration** courses and meet the trainers at two events in spring 2018. The company is holding *Active Shooter* training April 10, and *Dealing with Difficult People* training May 22 in the Eastern Metro area in partnership with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Wow Events' Jim Berz Auctions a Successful Night for AHA

Jim Berz of **Wow Events Denver**, served as the fundraiser/auctioneer at the American Heart Association's Denver Heart Ball on January 27 - which raised more than \$1 million, including \$100k from the live auction. **Wow Events Denver** is the sister company of **Latitude Sports Marketing**.

Mike Landess, longtime local personality and CW2 TV News Anchor hosted the event, and said "Auctioneer Jim Berz was outstanding!" ■



Jim Berz of **Wow Events Denver**, live auctioneering at the American Heart Association's Denver Heart Ball

LEADERSHIP AURORA (con't)

were allowed to take photos on the set and were then escorted back to the lobby by Mike Landess, who then hopped on the bus and thanked us once more for stopping by!

When the bus dropped us off back at the Municipal Center, we were ready for class photos and lunch. After a delicious meal sponsored by Adolfson & Peterson Construction, we were ready for our Aurora 8 experience.

Different stations were manned as the groups were put through a studio rotation. While half of the class was sitting in the control room, working the cameras on the set or actually being filmed, the other portion was treated to an engaging lecture from Jamie

Alvarez from GBSM on messaging and communication.

While watching each group go through the process had its humorous moments, there was a great amount of information being absorbed. Watching our body language on camera, hearing ourselves respond to different types of questions, and understanding the importance of preparation for an interview, were all impactful. It was easy to see how much one could struggle without having a foundation already prepared. These experiences, combined with the earlier tour, provided valuable insight that should prove useful throughout our many careers. ■

RibbonCuttings

Ribbon cuttings mean business: 270 jobs



Aurora Police Department District 2 Station 6 North Abilene Street, Aurora, CO 80012

On January 10, 2018, the new **Aurora Police Department District 2 Station** was dedicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony, with left to right, Chief Nick Metz, Captain (Ret.) Bob Stef, and Administrative Specialist Mary Johnson. **APD District 2** includes most of northeast Aurora, and is divided into eight areas. **District 2** also has a team of Police Area Representatives (PAR), working with local businesses, schools, and residents to maintain quality of life. (1/10/18) https://www.auroragov.org/residents/public_safety/police/district_2/ (303) 739-6050

Tangible

14200 East Alameda Ave., Aurora, CO 80012
(Located in the Town Center at Aurora, in the lower level common area near the play area)

Tangible is a curated collective, showcasing up-and-coming e-commerce purveyors, innovative brands, and authentic physical interaction. **Tangible** brings a handpicked online items to a traditional retail environment, allowing consumers to discover what's next, now. **Tangible** opened their doors with Aurora Mayor Pro-Tem Marsha Berzins, Town Center at Aurora's General Manager and Chamber Board Member Don Cloutier, Tangible's General Manager Noemi Winn, and Chamber Ambassadors and staff. (1/17/18) <https://towncenterataurora.com/stores/tangible> (614) 632-4808



PROTEINHOUSE HEALTHY · FIT · KITCHEN

ProteinHouse - Aurora

6790 S. Cornerstar Way, Unit A, Aurora, CO 80016

ProteinHouse celebrates their ribbon cutting and grand opening with Founder Larissa Reis, Director of Franchise Operations Robert Wank, Director of Web, Media and Marketing Corey Thomas, and General Managers Thais and Andrei Krivokrasov, members of the community and Chamber staff. **ProteinHouse** is committed to making every aspect of your healthy dining experience the best it can be every time, by eating clean. It's the **ProteinHouse** promise to provide an inviting, comfortable, modern, health food restaurant atmosphere, coupled with superior, healthy dining — featuring a variety of uncommon yet unbelievably delicious gluten-free and vegetarian menu items served and prepared by a friendly and courteous staff. (1/6/18) <https://www.protein-house.com/aurora-co/> (303) 690-4921

Springhill Suites by Marriot – Denver Airport

18350 East 68th Ave., Denver, CO 80249

Springhill Suites by Marriot – Denver Airport opened their doors to the community for an unveiling celebration and ribbon cutting of their completed renovation. Included in the celebration were Centennial Mayor Stephanie Piko, Springhill Suites General Manager Brian Elliott, and Chamber Ambassadors and staff. **Springhill Suites by Marriot – Denver Airport** renovated 125 studio suites to provide comfort and functionality with upscale furnishings, separate living and sleeping areas, and kitchenettes including a microwave and mini-refrigerator. The property also features a new 250 sq. ft. boardroom. (2.8.18) <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-rooms/denda-springhill-suites-denver-airport/> (303) 371-9400



Spinning the Year off Right!

On January 31, 2018, Chamber board and members were invited to **CycleBar Southlands** to “sweat off the stress” and bond at a spin class. **CycleBar Southlands** hosted the Pre-Opening Private Social for The Chamber, providing an opportunity for members to experience a premium indoor cycling workout class. **CycleBar** is located in Southlands at 6300 S. Main St., Unit N103, Aurora, CO 80016. (1.31.18) <https://southlands.cyclebar.com> (303) 974-6480.

CoraFaye's Café

16251 East Colfax Ave. #210 Aurora, CO 80011

CoraFaye's Café, Southern Cook'n and Soul Food in the Rockies, recently moved to Laredo and Airport Boulevard in a White Dome building. **CoraFaye's Café** is known for their fried chicken and has been featured on Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives, was nominated as #1 Homestyle in Colorado by USA Today Best, and won “Best of Fried Chicken” by the 5280 Magazine/Westword. Have fun eating your way through food history with family recipes dating over 100 years. Owner, Priscilla Smith, celebrates their ribbon cutting with members of the community, staff, Chamber Board, Ambassadors, and Chamber staff. (1/10/18) www.corafayes.com (303) 333-5551



Around the Corner:

The Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon, May 4, 2018

For 42 years, The Aurora Chamber of Commerce has joined with the business community in recognizing and honoring American service members assigned to units in the Aurora and Denver Metro area, through the Annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon. This prestigious event, sponsored by Colorado Technical University and coordinated by The Chamber's Defense Council, recognizes the growing number of active duty service members in the area. It also reaches out to those who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

The luncheon includes an award ceremony for our Military Persons of the Year - 12 individuals who have been selected by their service branches for their outstanding achievements during the past year. There's also a category for our Commonwealth Partners. Additionally, we recognize a member of the community who has contributed significantly to building greater understanding and support of the military with the Bob Cardenas Award.

"This luncheon is our way of recognizing members of the armed forces - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard — throughout Northern Colorado including the Denver-Aurora area," said Chamber President

Kevin Hougén. "They make a great contribution to our community and to our nation."

Nearly 600 people attend the luncheon including around 250 uniformed guests from military organizations throughout the area. Nominees for the Military Persons of the Year are chosen by their units and the twelve winners represent active duty, commonwealth partners, National Guard, and Reserve components from all the services.

The 2018 Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Denver, 3203 Quebec St., Denver CO 80207 on May 4, 2018. Doors open at 11 a.m. with a formal flag ceremony to kick off the luncheon at 11:45 a.m. This year's Keynote speaker is Brigadier General (retired)

Ron Huntley - <http://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/108866/brigadier-general-ronald-l-huntley/>

Additional information and sponsorship opportunities are available on the chamber website at: <http://business.aurorachamber.org/events/details/42nd-annual-armed-forces-recognition-luncheon-96403> or by contacting Rene Simard, rene.simard@aurorachamber.org at the Aurora Chamber or by calling 303-344-1500. ■



That Phone Conversation Isn't Going Anywhere, But Your Car Is

Have you ever arrived at your destination with no recollection of the trip, missed an off-ramp exit, or not see the brake lights in front of you? These are a form of distracted driving called inattention blindness.

Drivers using cell phones look at, but fail to see up to 50 percent of the information in their driving environment. They do not process everything in order to effectively monitor their surroundings, identify potential hazards, and react to unexpected situations. The danger of inattention blindness is that when a driver fails to notice certain events, it's impossible to perform a safe response such as braking or maneuvering the steering wheel to avoid a crash. Just the act of using a cell phone while driving, even hands-free, increases your crash

risk by 4 times.

In 2015, Colorado saw a minimum of 40 distracted-driving crashes every day. From 2014 to 2016 the percentage of Americans who owned a cell phone rose from 75 to 81 percent. Therefore, your chances of interacting with a distracted driver each time you get behind the wheel is significant.

What can you do? Make a pledge to keep your eyes on the road, your hands on the wheel, and your mind on driving:

- Put your cell phone in the glove compartment while driving
- Install an app on your phone that tells callers you are driving and will text or call back when you have arrived at your destination



- Place your device in a cell phone slip that deactivates your phone while driving
- Be a positive role model for your children who watch your driving behaviors every time they get in the car with you

For more information or to schedule a free one hour presentation on distracted driving, contact Laurie Lovedale, Injury Prevention Specialist with University of Colorado Hospital Trauma Services at 720-848-5165 or Laurie.Lovedale@uchealth.org. ■

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ACA Insurance LTD - Peter Lee
Adams 14 Education Foundation
Adams County Board of Commissioners
Albertsons Safeway
Allegra Marketing.Print.Mail (Flatirons Marketing)
Alpine Carstar Auto Body
Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter
American Automation Building Solutions
American Sentinel University
Anadarko Petroleum Corp
Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners
Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council
Arapahoe County Security Center, Inc.
Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center
Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership
Aurora Association of Realtors
Aurora Family Y.M.C.A.
Aurora Housing Authority
Bennett, Town of
Best Western Plus Gateway Inn & Suites
Boxing Frog Marketing LLC
Boys Hope Girls Hope
Bradley M. Pierce Legal Services, Inc.
Centennial Airport/A.C. Public Airport Auth.
Centennial, City of
City of Aurora - City Management
Citywide Banks - Mississippi
Cold Stone Creamery
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Colorado Academy of Family Physicians
Colorado Early Colleges Aurora
Colorado State Bank and Trust Mortgage
Comcast
CommonGround Golf Course
Community College of Aurora
Craig Wagner Trial Law
Education Foundation for the Colorado National Guard
EMO Trans Inc Regional
Equity Real Estate - Carri Cameron
Euflorea

Fairfield Inn & Suites - Denver Aurora/ Medical Center
Fairmount Funeral Home & Cemetery
Finish Line Car Wash
Food Bank of the Rockies
Gateway Business Park/ PaulsCorp
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Good Chemistry
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KeyBank - S. Buckley Rd.
King Soopers - Corporate Office
La Cueva Restaurant
LeGare, Bob
Len Lyall Chevrolet, Inc.
Lotus School For Excellence
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M & M Auto Reconditioning, Inc.
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Salud Family Health Center
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NewMembers

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AT&T Spring Mobile - Josh Hicks
CareNow Urgent Care
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Colorado Department of Labor and Employment - Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation / Jeff Sidders M.D.
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EIS Solutions, Inc.
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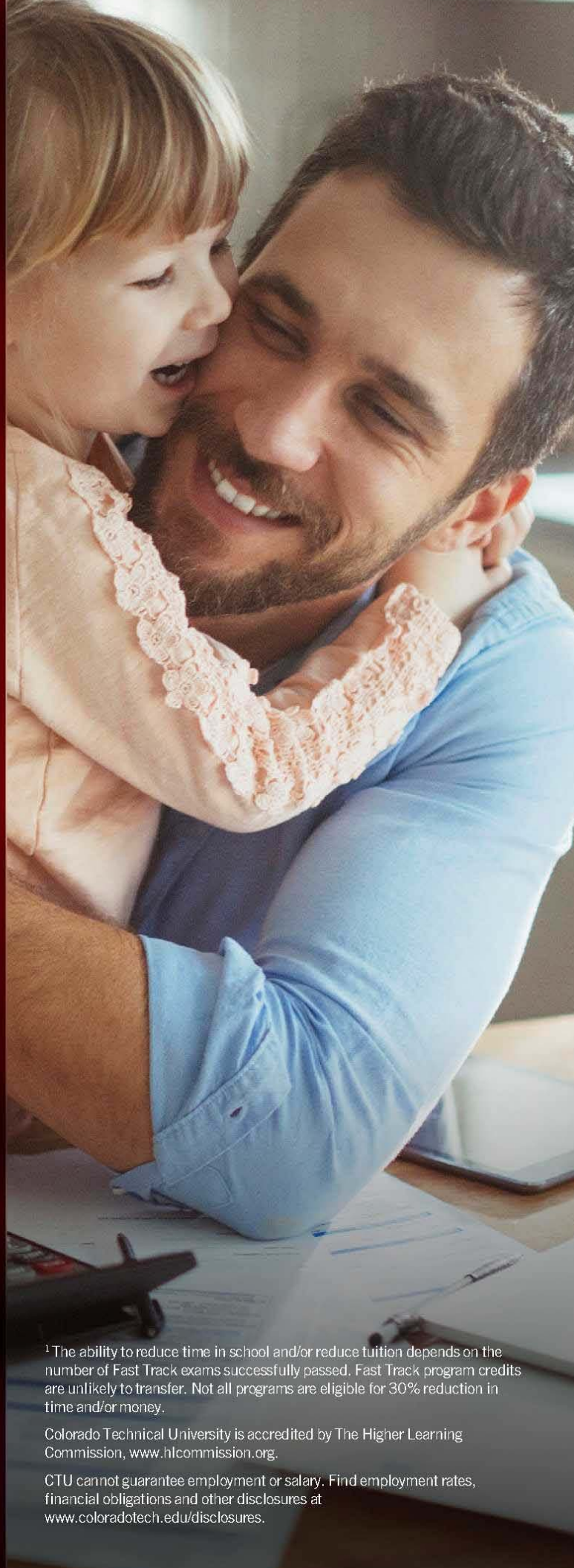
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