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THE CHAMBER Impact

MAY/JUN 2022

Aurora Chamber honors 10 at Awards Banquet



On Thursday, April 7, 2022, 10 awards were presented by The Aurora Chamber of Commerce at its Annual Awards Banquet at the Stampede at 2430 S. Havana, St., Aurora, CO 80014. It was a festive evening, with a fun and engaging western theme.

The Chamber's Annual Awards honor individuals and businesses for their commitment to the business community and the community at-large.

Thanks goes to our sponsors: The Aurora Highlands - title sponsor; Amazon, Arapahoe County, and Community College of Aurora - supporting sponsors; Stampede - cocktail sponsor, CSU Global - program sponsor; and Centura - company sponsor. ■



Left to right, award recipients, back row: Austin Gallegos (Dion's), Jordan Dixon (Dion's), Kevin Hougen, Chad Nielsen, Steve O'Dorisio, Tim Fredregill (Milender White), Beth Braaten. Front row: Cherise Nieto (Dion's), Sanjay Tyagi, Rebecca Kelley, Chris Fasching, Marcia McGilley (Aurora-South Metro SBDC), and Yvonne Valdez. Not pictured: Daisy Gonzales, representing Rodeo Dental and Orthodontics. (Photo by Rapid Fire Photos, Stephanie Skeans)

Ken Melcher Ambassador of the Year – Sanjay Tyagi



Since joining The Chamber in 2019, Sanjay Tyagi has become an integral part of both the Ambassador Team and the Lead by Example group, of which he is the 2022-2023 chair. Sanjay was chosen by his fellow Ambassadors

for this award because of his genuine and kind demeanor, and his unfaltering attendance at Chamber member ribbon cuttings. Sanjay Tyagi epitomizes the definition of a Chamber Ambassador by his actions, participation, and commitment, and is truly deserving of the 2021 Ken Melcher Ambassador of the Year Award.

Arts + Business Connection Award – Milender White



Through the process of implementing the required Transit-Oriented Development District public art at Parkside @ City Center, Milender White Development Executive Tim Fredregill became a staunch supporter and champion of integrating art into development. Fredregill states that "I don't think I'll ever build another development without public art." The work of Fredregill and Milender White embodies the mission of the Arts + Business Connection committee by demonstrating the very real value of public art in private development, and by illustrating how embracing art, aesthetics, and culture enhances the community. Because

of their work integrating art as a business tool, Milender White is truly deserving of the 2021 Arts + Business Connection Award.

Humanitarian Award - Rodeo Dental and Orthodontics



With a core value of #DoTheRightThing, Rodeo Dental and Orthodontics has consistently and enthusiastically provided ongoing educational and community programs to positively impact their local community. In 2021, Rodeo Dental and Orthodontics became the first in the dental service industry to be named a Certified B Corporation by B Lab, verifying that they meet the highest standards

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President's Letter



Kevin Hougen
President & CEO

Your Chamber Of Commerce!

The Chamber's prestigious awards banquet was held just a few weeks ago on April 7 at The Stampede on Havana Street. With the community's movers and shakers in attendance, the annual dinner

gala is a celebration of the past year's accomplishments, acknowledgment of new officers and directors, and, most exciting – are the recipients of the ten annual awards. The 66th Annual Awards Banquet and Silent Auction is the longest running event of its kind celebrating the best that our business members in the Eastern Metro Area have to offer!

As we all know, the last two years have been a challenging one for all of us in Colorado. The focus of The Chamber has been on the economy and what we as business leaders can do, in partnership with others, to accelerate the recovery and build a solid foundation for the future. At a time when everyone is focused on the economic recovery, The Chamber continues to spend a large percentage of our resources and time

on growing our local economy, whether it's through our Government Affairs program, our hard-working Defense Council, or the much-needed recovery monies that we helped distribute to our small business members.

With only 11 days left in the General Assembly at the State Capitol, our aggressive local and regional pro-business legislation work continues to be contacting and educating our elected officials on what "unintended consequences" their rule making have on our businesses and government offices. We held our Legislative Breakfast at The Medical Center of Aurora South Campus on Monday, April 4. Our staff and volunteer members have been tracking close to 100 bills at the Colorado State Capitol and we have attended over 25 meetings that are affecting our business communities. Please keep active and don't hesitate to contact your elected officials – your grass roots lobbying is being heard!

We are working hard with more than 900 business members, representing over 90,000 employees to earn the reputation of one of our State's most successful and innovative Chambers of Commerce. More importantly, we have worked to earn your trust and respect. Universally, we are all working lean and scrutinizing budgets – and you might be asking yourself the question "Could

my business survive without my Chamber Membership?" The answer is: Maybe. But if the Chamber isn't out there fighting for your needs and networking you to other businesses, then who is? Our goal is that you get out of your Chamber membership more than you will ever invest. We appreciate your past commitment and look forward to working together in the future to get the economy back on its feet again after two very challenging years.

Membership Has Its Privileges

You've all heard the adage "Membership has its privileges." As a member of The Chamber, you'll find this statement could not be more accurate. Through your Chamber membership, you have the opportunity to participate in exceptional training programs, gain exposure for your business at numerous networking events, and to take advantage of the many business services we provide. Other reasons to belong to our dynamic organization include community leadership and advocacy, business prestige and credibility, support and knowledge of other members, and giving back to your community... Thanks for taking the time and for your valued investment in YOUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE!

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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!

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

for positive social and environmental impact. Because of their social responsibility efforts, mission-driven orientation, and support of the community, Rodeo Dental and Orthodontics is a deserving recipient of the 2021 Humanitarian Award.

Chamber Leadership Award - Rebecca Kelley



As the Chair of the Chamber's Board of Directors during the height of COVID-19, Rebecca Kelley, partner at Plante Moran, purposefully led The Board through difficult and uncharted times with her strong and caring leadership style. She guided The Chamber through the worst of times and made sure that the organization did the same for its members. Rebecca is also always willing to pitch in with her expertise in accounting to assist with complicated financial matters. As a dedicated and compassionate leader of The Chamber and in the community, Rebecca Kelley is truly deserving of the 2021 Chamber Leadership Award.

Community Leadership Award - Yvonne Valdez



Yvonne Valdez, senior vice president and operations area manager at Citywide Banks, is an expert at bringing others together for the common good. She utilizes her tenure with Citywide Banks to network within the community and is always finding ways to use her service-oriented leadership style to add value to the community. Just one example of this is her involvement in the Leadership Aurora Board, working with community partners to plan curriculum for the monthly sessions. This educates class members about the community so that they can become more engaged. It is because of her dedication to being a leader in the community that Yvonne Valdez is truly deserving of the 2021 Community Leadership Award.

Small Business of the Year - Dion's Pizza



Their tag line is "Where great food and good people meet," and that is exactly what Dion's Pizza does, not only in terms of their customers, but also their employees. With three locations in Colorado, one being in Aurora, Dion's employees are dedicated to serving quality food in a comfortable, clean environment. For employees, Dion's provides a friendly work environment to start

and build fulfilling lives and careers. And for communities, Dion's is committed to fostering youth development. The commitment to customers, employees, and community – along with delicious pizza – makes Dion's Pizza a deserving recipient of the 2021 Small Business of the Year Award.

Businessperson of the Year - Chris Fasching



Since joining The Chamber, Chris Fasching, principal with Felsburg Holt and Ullevig, has been a consistent member of the Transportation committee, serving as the chair 2009-2010. Chris contributes with thoughtful comments and valuable questions, and further enriches the discussion with his knowledge of both public and private sector industries. For his dedication to analyzing situations and understanding the myriad of analytical tools both within his industry and in the business world, Chris Fasching is truly deserving of the 2021 Businessperson of the Year Award.

Business of the Year - Aurora-South Metro Small Business Development Center

There were so many uncertainties for small business during 2020-2021, and although there were avenues of financial assistance, many business owners weren't clear on which direction to go – all the time trying to save their business. The Aurora-South Metro SBDC staff launched into action immediately at the beginning of the pandemic, helping businesses to access and apply for available grants and loans. They guided business owners to the appropriate resources for their needs and were always available for advice and counsel. The team at Aurora-South Metro SBDC provided crucial assistance during a time of great need for small businesses,



and for that — and all that they do — are a deserving recipient of the 2021 Business of the Year Award.

Woman of the Year - Beth Braaten



As campus vice president of Community Relations at CTU, Beth Braaten is a champion of education, and is a natural community and personal relationship builder. She has spent most of her career in higher education, and is committed to team development within CTU, and to being positively involved in the communities that CTU serves. Her collaborative leadership style encourages diverse ideas, contributing the quality of the educational experience for students. For her dedication to quality education and to building relationships in the community, Beth Braaten is the 2021 Woman of the Year.

Man of the Year - Steve O'Dorisio



As an Adams County Commissioner, Steve O'Dorisio is dedicated to public service through hard work and dedication to community and family. He is a champion of strong and vibrant businesses, healthy and affordable living for all residents, quality of life in neighborhoods, and open and inclusive government. His role as a commissioner gives Steve opportunities to innovate new strategies for the future of Adams County and to work with its neighboring counties for the good of all. It is because of all that he does for his community, and for bringing people together for a shared vision that Adams County Commissioner Steve O'Dorisio is the 2021 Man of the Year. ■



Left to right by row: City of Aurora Development Services Manager and SBDC Host Manager Andrea Amonick, and Aurora South-Metro SBDC staff: Executive Director Marcia McGilley; Associate Director Elena Vasconez; Program Coordinator Frankie Anderson; Administrative Specialist Leslie Epperson; and SBDC Certified Consultants Laurie Womer, Claudia Yáñez, Kelyn Lanier, Adriane Sanford, Rocio Almanza-Guillén, and Sabrina Almanza-Guillén.

ChamberCommittees

An Inside Look

ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION

Art: What's in it for Business?

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

By Reneé Leon, Arts + Business Connection Chair

The focus of the March ABC meeting was how public art consultants work with clients - including private developers, businesses, and collectors - to bring businesses and artists together, creating significant and impactful works - for everyone's benefit.

Molly Casey, chief curator at NINE dot ARTS, kicked things off by explaining how they help to create places where people want to be. They represent business client, and work with them to discover how art can enhance their business goals. They then find the artists and art that fits those goals. They work primarily with property managers and businesses that recognize the value of how art can enhance engagement, utilizing the proven concept that increased business engagement in art investment, increases the return on investment for the business.

John Grant, founder of Public Art Services, has focused on creating art in spaces that people inhabit. His creative project management firm specializes in large, multi-year projects. These are often big infrastructure projects for state and federal contracts, that can sometimes take longer than other projects. He works to pair art that creates identity for the client and strives to build the "aha moment" artwork; the thing you must take a friend to see.

NINE dot ARTS and Public Art Services were both hired as consultants for Milender White's Parkside @ City Center project, which received The Chamber's 2021 Arts + Business Connection Award for its integration of art and business/development.

Arts + Retail and Community

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

By Reneé Leon, Arts + Business Connection Chair

The Town Center at Aurora (TCA) integrates art and community into the mall - creating a



Joel Boyd and Alexis Watts



Artwork at one of the entrances to Town Center at Aurora.

welcoming, interesting, and community friendly place to shop and gather.

At the April ABC meeting, General Manager Joel Boyd and Director of Marketing Alexis Watts shared an engaging presentation of the many ways they engage the arts into the life of TCA.

The complex has murals at a couple of the entrances - with more in the works. These murals celebrate the diversity in Aurora and are meant to give guests a sense of belonging before even entering the mall.

Celebration of Cultures at TCA began in the Fall of 2020 with the support of Visit Aurora. These socially distanced (at the time) celebrations included performers, canvas artists, food vendors, and a kid's corner. One example is the Black History Month celebration, which included Black fashion designers and models for a fashion show with live music.

Events & Activations happen throughout the year - including holiday events, Canvas Project, a youth shoe design showcase, Earth Day, Aurora Public Schools Festival of the Arts, and more! These events often include elements of the arts, sometimes with a live band, a cellist, violinist, or a DJ. The mall is also open to busker-style performers, provided they follow the proper approval channels.

All events at TCA are kids & family focused, and the mall's nursing lounge has recently been renovated so nursing moms have a cozy and clean environment in which to take care of their infants. There are also some recent additions at TCA including Fieldhouse USA and the Aurora Eatery. And coming soon: a Selfie Museum!

"The Town Center at Aurora is committed to finding ways to engage in the arts to be an active and positive community-centered space," said Boyd.

TRANSPORTATION



Cities of Lone Tree and Greenwood Village Transportation

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair

Director of Public Works for Greenwood Village Jeremy Hanak, and Lone Tree Director of Public Works and Mobility Justin Schmitz presented at the February 2022 Transportation meeting about their respective city's transportation planning and implementation.

Hanak talked about how the role of government agencies in transportation is changing to a mix of traditional roadway and non-capacity projects, many including new technologies. He also shared that although Greenwood Village's overall traffic volumes are back to 90 percent of pre-COVID levels, that peak hour volumes are 20 percent lower, and business traffic district traffic volumes are 75 percent lower due to the rise in remote work.

Two active design projects in Greenwood Village are improvements to the I-25 and Belleview Avenue interchange and improvements based on a study of the circulation of traffic near the Cherry Creek campus. Less traditional transportation projects include signal coordination, installation of communication fibers, support for electric vehicles, and modifying parking to reflect the changing patterns of dining and shopping. Hanak emphasized the need for - and value of - partnerships among agencies for coordinated improvements.

Schmitz echoed the trends of emerging technologies and the high value of partnerships for delivery of large-scale projects in Lone Tree. He talked about how those elements were demonstrated in the Yosemite St. corridor adaptive signal project. That system, adopted in August 2020, uses roadway sensors and cameras, to coordinate traffic signal operations on the corridor in Greenwood Village, Centennial, and Lone Tree. It has reduced travel time in the corridor and reduced delays to side street traffic during fluctuations in traffic volume.



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To further emphasize the importance of partnerships, he presented a case study of the emergency response to the incident which damaged the Sky Ridge Avenue bridge over I-25 in 2021. The City of Lone Tree, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and a contractor, cooperated to efficiently remove and repair the hazards jeopardizing safe interstate highway traffic.

Partnerships are also being demonstrated on a project to improve traffic flow and mobility at I-25 and Lincoln Ave. Funds from Lone Tree, Douglas County, SPIMD, and federal funds through DRCOG are being used to study potential improvements to the interchange and the Lincoln Ave. corridor to Havana St. They are coordinating with multiple other local stakeholders and including transit operations in developing solutions.

Centennial Airport and CDOT Aviation

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair

A highlight of the March 2022 Transportation meeting was that both speakers were in-person!

Mike Fronapfel, the new executive director of Centennial Airport, presented on the history, governance, major clients and funding of the airport.

The airport opened in 1968, is the second busiest general aviation facility in the nation, and currently generates over \$2 billion of economic impact annually.

A new administration building was completed in 2020, additional hangars are under construction, and the airport is actively pursuing federal funding to construct a new control tower. Development of electric and supersonic airplanes is ongoing by various companies and the airport is continuing its activities related to educational and charitable organizations. The airport also has a strong environmental sustainability program related to lighting, recycling, and alternative energy.

David Ulane, director of Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Division



CDOT Colorado Division of Aeronautics Director David Ulane, Centennial Airport Executive Director Mike Fronapfel, and Aurora Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee Chair Tim Harris with Horrocks Engineers, at the March 2, 2022 Transportation committee meeting - all about the growing economy of aviation.

of Aeronautics presented on how his organization supports 66 airports throughout the State.

Distribution of funding grants, internships/educational programs, and airport directories along with aeronautical charts are all provided on a regular basis by the Division. A current initiative is installation of cameras at airports to supplement the mountaintop weather stations previously installed by CDOT.

The Division updated their Strategic Plan in 2021 and the focus is on emerging technologies in aviation. Alternative energies are likely to need new or different supporting infrastructure and an analysis of funding impacts related to those alternative fuels needs to be monitored.

Another exciting innovation is a "Virtual Tower" which can control air traffic at multiple airports using cameras and computer screens. One of these is being developed at the Northern Colorado airport near Loveland.

CDOT Innovative Mobility, Front Range Passenger Rail and I-25 Managed Motorways

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

By Tim Harris, Transportation Committee Chair

The April 6, 2022, Transportation committee meeting focused on the future and innovations for transportation.

Kay Kelly, chief of Innovative Mobility at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), discussed the initiatives to reduce pollution in our air and congestion on our roads. CDOT is developing a combination of transit services, electrification of vehicles, and use of emerging technologies such as automated or connected vehicles to help achieve Colorado's 2050 climate goals. CDOT operates the Bustang family of transit and has deployed electric vehicles and automated truck attenuators within their fleet while also providing millions of dollars of grants to multiple agencies across the state.

Getting to Colorado's 2050 Climate Goals

David Singer, the Passenger Rail Branch manager at CDOT, is leading the State's efforts to develop the Front Range Passenger Rail Service. He gave an update on meeting the vision of rail service between Pueblo and Fort Collins as the backbone of transit along the Front Range. A special district was created by the Legislature in 2021 for implementation of such a service. Service, financial, and operational plans are currently being developed in advance of a ballot initiative requesting taxpayer funding. The strategy is to create an expandable system that can be incrementally delivered in coordination with Amtrak, RTD, and existing railroads.

The third presentation by Zach Miller of CDOT and Scott Pitera of WSP was about



SMART 25 Managed Motorways pilot

the SMART 25 Managed Motorways pilot demonstration. The project has upgraded the signalized metering system on northbound I-25 ramps between Ridgeway and University Blvd. These systems coordinate the signals on all ramps, including new signals at the interchanges with C-470, E-470, and I-225 — to improve traffic flow on I-25. Initial pilot test period will end the summer of 2022 and will then be evaluated for effectiveness to determine continuation or expansion of the technology.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY (PUBLIC ISSUES)

Aurora City Council Member at Large Dustin Zvonek

Thursday, March 3, 2022

The March 2022 Government Affairs, Education, and Energy meeting featured Aurora City Council Member At Large Dustin Zvonek.

Zvonek gave an update on the camping ban in Aurora, saying that homeless camping will be illegal on all private property in Aurora starting April 28, 2022. He pushed that it is a safety and health issue and a concern for Aurora business owners and residents for homeless to be allowed to camp. Along with the camping ban, Zvonek shared transportation struggles in the city, as well as concern for the high crime rates.

He urges that Aurora must come up with strategies to answer the crime and violence issue in the city. These can include data driven policies, rebuilding Aurora's Gang Reduction Impact Program (A-GRIP), expand crisis response teams, and the implementation of the urban camping ban. You can read more of Zvonek's ideas and updates at: <https://dustinforaurora.com/news/>



Dustin Zvonek

Mid-Term Legislator's Breakfast Monday, April 4, 2022

The Colorado State Legislator's Mid-Term breakfast was hosted by The Medical Center of Aurora (TMCA) on Monday, April 4, 2022.

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TMCA President and CEO Ryan Simpson welcomed and thanked The Chamber's Government Affairs Committee members for attending.

Representative Rod Bockenfeld (HD 56), and Representative Mike Weissman (HD 36) gave updates before heading to the Capitol for the session which started that morning.

Attendees also heard from Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman, Centennial Mayor Stephanie Piko, and District Attorney John Kellner (18th Judicial District).

Many elected officials and city council members were in attendance and also provided updates.

The Chamber's Government Affairs/Public Issues committee is sponsored by



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

Centura Health's Diversity and Inclusion Journey

Friday, March 11, 2022



Maria Milagros Kneusel

The March 2022 Diversity and Inclusion Council meeting featured Maria Milagros Kneusel, a DE&I consultant for Centura Health, who talked about the organization's DE&I journey which began in 2018 – including lessons learned and their vision for the future. She also talked about inspiring others who are newly entering the DE&I space.

When the Centura Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council was formed, leadership was present, it was established as a safe space, and all were heard – positive and negative. The Council, which included members from a variety of backgrounds, created a survey to determine how employees were perceiving their experience and sense of belonging and inclusion at Centura. The lesson learned from the low response rate to the survey was that diversity and inclusion is about relationships, and that a survey is not necessarily a way to build relationships.

Milagros Kneusel talked about the challenges and barriers encountered when working to create culture change around DE&I in a large healthcare organization. She also shared insights and ideas for collaboration to achieve DE&I goals.



Mid-Term breakfast hosted by The Medical Center of Aurora (TMCA).

United for Business Mile High United Way

Friday, April 8, 2022



Corey Palencia

The April 8 D&I Council presentation featured Corey Palencia with Mile High United Way, who talked about the United for Business program's focus of DE&I through its work.

Palencia emphasized that during times of crisis, entrepreneurship skyrocketed, and that access

to capital is a vital piece of the success of a small business. BIPOC businesses have historically had limited access to capital. United for Business looks to create stability and self-supported local economies for BIPOC businesses by providing no-cost advising and consulting services to small businesses in underserved communities.

The Chamber's Diversity and Inclusion Council is sponsored by



WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Women in Business did not meet in March 2022.

Women in Business is sponsored by



WORK WELL 2.0 HEALTH SERIES

The Importance of Breathing – and Other Ways to Reduce Stress

Thursday, March 10, 2022

How do you manage your stress? We all have different stressors in our lives, and sometimes it feels overwhelming. The March Work Well 2.0 Health Series presenters, Megan Flanagan and Melissa Ford with Kaiser Permanente's Workforce Health Department shared some stress relieving actions that you can do right away – that don't cost anything – and will absolutely help.

Flanagan and Ford began by leading participants through a short but therapeutic breathing exercise. Breathwork is one of the

simplest and quickest ways to reduce stress and can reduce depressive symptoms and improve focus.

They also talked about gratitude, and how those who practice being grateful get better sleep, have better immune systems, get more exercise, have stronger relationships, protect themselves against depression and substance abuse, and are stronger in the face of daily stresses. To be grateful, focus on the positive, make a list of what you are grateful for, and write a letter of thankfulness to someone – and deliver it. Self-compassion is a useful tool for stress reduction, because unlike self-criticism, which asks if you're good enough, self-compassion asks, "What's good for you?" These are just a few simple, no-cost ways to help relieve stress.

"So, what is the one thing you will do for your emotional wellbeing this week?" asked Flanagan and Ford at the conclusion of their presentation.

How to Increase Employee Satisfaction Through Preventive Health

Thursday, April 14, 2022

On April 14, the subject of the Health Series was Increasing Employee Satisfaction through Preventive Health, because delivery of healthcare has changed because of the pandemic.

The presentation was moderated by Leslie Levine, MPH, 9Health:365 business development manager. Speakers included Margaret Eagan, MD lifestyle medicine physician, David Shapiro, program manager at the Center for Health, Work, and Environment; and Jeff Voss with CirrusMD.

Dr. Eagan began by talking about the importance of connection to health. She emphasized that organizations should actually have a chief connection officer, especially now that some businesses are completely virtual or hybrid. What we have seen because of the pandemic is personal disconnection, which can lead to depression and unhealthy habits, she said.

Shapiro discussed how now, more than ever, health and safety in the workplace need to be addressed. For example, if an employee is moving heavy equipment, there should be



Megan Flanagan and Melissa Ford – relieving stress together.

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CU Medicine Launches Revenue Services Apprenticeship Program



University of Colorado Medicine

University of Colorado Medicine (CU Medicine) recently announced the launch of their Revenue Services Apprenticeship Program, which has been validated by and registered with the U.S. Department of Labor as a Registered Apprenticeship Program.

The Apprenticeship Program opens doors to a larger talent pool and provides program participants with a high-quality career pathway, paid work experience, virtual classroom instruction, and a portable and nationally recognized credential upon completion.

"We are excited to offer this apprenticeship program and create meaningful career paths for people interested in exploring opportunities in health care billing, finance, and revenue services," said CU Medicine COO Gail Albertson, MD. "We look forward to connecting with professionals seeking to grow their careers in these lucrative fields."

CU Medicine is a multi-specialty physician group practice with 3,500 University of Colorado School of Medicine physicians and advanced practice providers. CU Medicine also delivers business operations and administrative services to support patients and providers.

Aurora AutoPros Continues to Give Back to the Community

Upon opening their automotive repair shop in 2013, Renee' and Edgar Leon, owners of Aurora AutoPros, made a personal promise that their business would consistently engage in community action — and they are keeping that promise.

During March 2022, they held a donation campaign, committing 10 percent of all brake-related sales to support the Village Exchange Center (VEC). Renee' became aware of VEC when she participated in Leadership Aurora, and again as Chair of the Arts + Business Connection committee, when vice-chair Mark Smith of PhotoSmith Colorado, arranged for a presentation about how VEC utilizes the arts



Three in a Row!

Past, present, and future Leadership Aurora Board Chairs were at Legends of Aurora Sports Grill on March 31 for an event supporting the Aurora Police Department. Left to right: Steve Sundberg, Legends of Aurora and Aurora City Council (past Chair); Jennifer Evans, Advantage Security (current Chair); and Alan Antolak, Adolfson & Peterson Construction (incoming Chair).



Left to right: Amanda Blaurock, VEC co-founder and executive director; Edgar and Renee' Leon, Aurora AutoPros; and Marcel Narucki, VEC co-founder and director of Multi-Faith and Community Affairs.

in the organization.

"I have such appreciation for the coordinated efforts and careful intention the staff and volunteers at VEC put into supporting the immigrant and refugee communities," said Renee'. "We are grateful to be able to create a donation campaign, and while \$1000 isn't going to cover all their needs, we know it will make a positive impact."

The Village Exchange Center is a non-profit organization formed to serve immigrants and refugees in the Aurora/Denver metro area. As a community center and multi-faith worship space it seeks to celebrate cultural and religious diversity by creating an inclusive environment where residents from



Honorary Co-Commanders Ceremony

At the induction ceremony for Honorary Co-Commanders Program on March 16, 2022, left to right are Colonel Marcus Jackson, Aurora Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen, and Buckley Garrison Command Chief Master Sergeant Rob Devall. The Program pairs community leaders with senior military leaders on Buckley Space Force Base in Aurora, CO.

all backgrounds interact, share and develop together. If interested in volunteering, go to <https://villageexchangecenter.org/volunteer/>.

RE/MAX Broker Associates Provide "Goodies For The Guard"

Broker Associates with RE/MAX Masters Millennium – Homes for Heroes in Greenwood Village collected nearly 400 pounds of treats and snacks during March for deployed members of the Colorado National Guard's 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron, also known as the Mile High Militia at Buckley Space Force Base in Aurora, Colorado. The charitable endeavor, called "Goodies For The Guard," was coordinated by Troy Williams, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a top producing Realtor at RE/MAX Masters Millennium in Greenwood Village.

"On behalf of RE/MAX Masters Millennium and its agents, we are honored to show support to the men and women of our Armed Forces, and especially for our Colorado heroes," said Williams. "We need to let them know that we understand their sacrifice and how much we appreciate them"

For more information about Homes for Heroes, go to www.RealtorsHelpingHeroes.com or contact Williams at 720-363-6363. ■



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Nutrishop Parker

15900 E. Briarwood Cir., Aurora, CO 80016

Adrienne Dobbs, owner, cuts the ribbon to mark the grand opening of Nutrishop Parker, located in 24 Hour Fitness. Nutrishop is a health, wellness, and sports nutrition center with a variety of supplements to help people achieve their fitness goals. In addition to top-quality nutritional supplements, Nutrishop offers complimentary composition assessment tools, meal plans, and vital nutritional support and guidance. Dobbs also conducts in-store transformation challenges, and corporate wellness programs in the community. (4/4/2022) <http://www.nutrishopparker.com/> (303) 362-1466.

Advance Auto Parts – #8259

12820 E. Mississippi Ave. Unit A,
Aurora, CO 80012

Adrian Vazquez, store manager, cuts the ribbon for the grand opening of Advance Auto Parts #8259. Advance Auto Parts provides auto replacement parts, performance parts, accessories, oil & fluids. They also offer in-store services including battery testing and installation, wiper blade installation, check engine light scanning, starter and alternator testing, and oil and battery recycling – and free loaner tools. (3/10/2022) <https://stores.advanceautoparts.com/co/aurora/12820-e-mississippi-ave> (720) 479-1207.



Tandy Leather

13900 E. Florida Ave.
Aurora, CO 80012

James Baker, store manager, enthusiastically cuts the ribbon for the Tandy Leather store in Aurora, CO. Tandy Leather is a distributor of premium leather and supplies for leathercrafters - providing quality leather, machines, tools, kits, and teaching resources for beginners and seasoned pros. Visit the store for in-store leathers and manager specials, to demo a machine, to chat with one of their knowledgeable associates, or to take advantage of their open table to try out tools and techniques. (4/14/2022) <https://tandy-leather.com/pages/Tandy-Leather-Denver-02> (303) 333-2295.



instruction about stretching and flexing to make the task less dangerous physically.

Voss shared how telehealth has increased accessibility and equity in healthcare. It also provides much faster and more convenient access to medical advice, directly from a physician. "Instead of waiting three hours or more at a facility, a medical provider will text you back in about 10 seconds. They will ask questions and determine the best course of action for the issue," said Voss.

The Work Well 2.0 Health Series is sponsored by:



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Firearms Safety Class

Monday, February 28, 2022

(rescheduled January 2022 event)

Tim Christopherson, owner of the Shoot Indoors Buckley franchise located at 1310 S Abilene St, Aurora, Colorado 80012, welcomed Young Professionals to a firearms safety course at the end of February. The business offers monthly memberships, training courses, special events, gun rentals, and ammunition purchases.

Attendees learned about firearm part names and functions, how to properly handle a gun, and shooting range rules and etiquette – including keeping your finger off the trigger, keeping the firearm unloaded, and always



pointing the gun down-range. The class was followed by a Q&A session and then a tour of the facilities. The tour included watching live target practice and those attending experienced the intensity of each shot fired. BOOM!

DEFENSE COUNCIL

Buckley State of the Base

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Commander of the Buckley Garrison and Buckley Space Force Base Installation Colonel Marcus Jackson, along with Buckley Garrison Command Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt) Rob Devall, addressed more than 200 military and community leaders at the annual State of the Base at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Denver-Aurora on March 30, 2022.

Colonel Jackson and Chief Devall highlighted the men and women of the Buckley Garrison in addition to the

six major base partners representing "Team Buckley" that play such an important role in our nation's defense: Aerospace Data Facility Colorado, 140th Wing (Air National Guard); Space Delta 4; Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center; Naval Operational Support Center; and the Army Aviation Support Facility. Colonel Jackson also announced that in 2021, Buckley's fiscal impact on the local economy was almost \$1.37 billion.

The annual luncheon was organized jointly by the Aurora Chamber Defense Council and the Rotary Club of Aurora and supported by table sponsors: Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners; Aurora Chamber of Commerce; The City of Aurora – Mayor and City Council; Colorado Technical University; Community College of Aurora; Leidos Northrop Grumman; Rotary Club of Aurora; and Visit Aurora. ■



Left to right: Colonel Marcus Jackson, Buckley Garrison and Buckley Space Force Base Commander; Danielle Lammon Rotary Club of Aurora President; Jim Puscian, Aurora Chamber Defense Council Vice Chair; and Chief Rob Devall, Buckley Garrison Command CMSgt.

MemberRenewals

140th Wing (Colorado Air National Guard)
Air Force Association
Alzheimer's Association Colorado Chapter
Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners
Arapahoe County Security Center, Inc.
Centennial Airport/Arapahoe County Public Airport Authority
City of Aurora - City Management
Cold Stone Creamery
Colorado Technical University
Comcast
Community Living Alternatives, Inc.
Community Medical Services - Opioid Treatment Program
Courtyard by Marriott - DIA
Denver International Airport- DEN
Education Foundation for the Colorado National Guard
Embassy Suites by Hilton Denver Central Park
Evolve Planning & Insurance
Fairfield Inn & Suites - Denver Aurora/Medical Center
Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
Freund & Company
GEO Secure Services

Good Chemistry
Great Western Printing, Inc.
Hampton Inn & Suites - DIA/Gateway Park
Homewood Suites by Hilton Denver International Airport
KeyBank - S. Buckley Rd.
Len Lyall Chevrolet, Inc.
Majestic Realty Co.
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Michael A. Sheldon & Associates, LLP
National Technology Transfer Inc. - NTT Training
Navy Federal Credit Union
Oakwood Homes, LLC
RE/MAX Leaders - David J. Barber
Southlands
Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital
Springhill Suites Denver at Anschutz Medical Center
Staybridge Suites Denver – Central Park
STRIDE Community Health Center
Terrapin Care Station
The Aurora Highlands
The Salvation Army
Twinstare Technologies
Xcel Energy

NewMembers

911 Restoration of Denver Metro
Allstate Valliere Agency
Barke Insurance Agency Inc
Boxer Property: Clock Tower Square
Colorado Advocates
CrossCountry Mortgage - Chaz Vaughan
Greg Lopez
Jenkins Restorations
JJ Custom Openings, LLC
Legacy at Fitz
Metro Brokers Elite
Northwestern Mutual Denver Tech Center
Nurishop Parker
Premier Martial Arts Arapahoe
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