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THE CHAMBER Impact

SEP/OCT 2023

Aurora Chamber President and CEO Kevin Hougen Celebrated at Retirement Party



Aurora Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Kevin Hougen's retirement celebration at Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club on August 16 was an incredibly festive event, as nearly 400 people showed up to honor and thank Kevin for his nearly three decades of service and commitment to the business community and the community at large.

When the original invitation was sent out, there was a request for those who wanted to speak at the event. However, since nearly 50 people responded, and that would

have taken all night – the list had to be reduced to former “bosses,” a good friend of Kevin's, and Kevin's brother. You can see a video on The Chamber's Facebook page, with comments from a wide variety of enthusiastic members and friends.

A proclamation establishing August 16 as Kevin Hougen Day was read by friend and MC of the event, Founder and Executive Director of the Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation Rick Crandall:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce has been led by President and CEO Kevin Hougen for 28 years.

WHEREAS, Kevin Hougen is retiring from his position as president and CEO on September 1, 2023, and the community gathered on August 16, 2023, to honor and to thank him for his nearly three decades of service and commitment.

WHEREAS, Kevin's legacy of dedication and perseverance in the best interests of business and the community will have a perpetual impact on the mission of The Chamber: To be a catalyst for business growth, a convener of leaders and influencers, and a champion for a strong community.

*THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, The Chamber staff, and the community gathered on this 16th day of August 2023, do hereby present this Proclamation to Kevin Hougen as testimonial to the dedicated services he has performed for the betterment of the business community and the community at large, and do hereby proclaim August 16 as **Kevin Hougen Day***



Kevin Hougen is surrounded by current (in the Hawaiian shirts with Kevin's face) and former staff attending his retirement party. **Left to right back row:** Alicia Rose, Mitzi Schindler, Mary Beth Sharp, Rachel Gruber, Rene Simard, George Peck, Katie Anthony, Linda Lillyblad, and Celeste Delehanty. **Left to right front row:** Naomi Colwell, Tamara Mohamed, and, of course, Kevin Hougen.



Kevin Hougen (far left, standing) takes a photo of the crowd assembled at his retirement party on August 16, 2023.

To see upcoming Chamber meetings
as well as Chamber member events –
go to the calendar!

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President's Letter

After 28 years of dedicated service, Aurora Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Kevin Hougen has retired – and the first thing members might ask is “What happens now?” As the interim president and CEO since July 1, 2023, I have been addressing this question as we navigate through the transition.

I want you to know that Kevin has set The Chamber up for ongoing success, and that is a gift that not every incoming president and CEO receives – and for that I am incredibly grateful! As one of the top Chambers in the state we have been strategically putting money into reserves and Certificate of Deposits over the year to establish and maintain the financial security of the organization.

I, like Kevin, am dedicated to The Chamber and have a long history with the organization. I started at The Chamber in 1999, as the marketing and events director – and took



Naomi Colwell
Interim President & CEO

on other responsibilities, as needed. Following my graduation in 2017 from the three-year Western Association of Chamber Executive Academy, I accepted a position as the President and CEO of the Brighton Chamber in 2018. Three years later, then Aurora Police Chief Nick Metz asked me to be the Chief Executive Director of the Aurora Police Foundation - which for those of you who know me, know I could not pass up!

Coincidentally, that brought me back to The Chamber,

as that was the mailing address for the Foundation, and Kevin was on the Board of the Foundation. When The Chamber's finance director Linda Lillyblad retired three years ago, I came back into 'The Chamber fold' as the director of finance.

So here we are.

I am telling you all this to assure you that although Kevin will be missed, his legacy of our successful Chamber will continue and grow with our small but mighty leadership

team of myself, Rene Simard, Mitzi Schindler, Alicia Rose, and Steve Phillips. In September 2023, we welcome Penny Krueger to take over as our new finance director and office manager. As you might imagine, I am thrilled about Penny starting with us, as this will free me up to do one job instead of two – as the president and CEO.

The team and the board are talking about our future endeavors, including working with small and large businesses for their success and growth; ensuring that we are providing what our members need and want from their Chamber; and how to best contribute to help our growing community.

So, if you have made it to the end of this letter, you are either really invested in The Chamber or looking for the joke that is at the bottom of every Tuesday's broadcast email. Maybe both – and thank you for that.

I am looking forward to moving us onward and upward and glad you are coming along for the ride!

Naomi Colwell
Interim President and CEO
Aurora Chamber of Commerce

ChamberBoard

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Kristi Kleinholz | *Mesa Moving and Storage*

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Tyrone Adams | *Colorado Association of Realtors*

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Brian Sowl | *Nelnet*

PAST CHAIR ONCE REMOVED

Chad Nielsen | *Wagner Equipment*

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Kelly Phillips-Henry |
Aurora Mental Health & Recovery

SECRETARY

Joel Boyd | *Town Center at Aurora*

VICE CHAIR-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Joel Boyd | *Town Center at Aurora*

VICE CHAIR-COMMUNITY SERVICES

Beth Braaten | *Colorado Technical University*

VICE CHAIR-MEMBER SERVICES

Brian Sowl | *Nelnet*

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Dr. Mordecai Brownlee | *Community College of Aurora*
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Katie Denman | *Children's Hospital Colorado*
Jennifer Dunn | *FirstBank*
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Timothy Kunkleman | *Lumen*
Karen Lovett | *UHealth*
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Yvonne Valdez | *Citywide Banks*
Hallie Woods | *The Medical Center of Aurora*

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Chris Fashing | *Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig*
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Steve O'Dorisio | *Adams County Board of Commissioners*
Col. Jamie Pieper | *140th Wing (Colorado Air National Guard)*
Donald Sheehan | *City of Centennial*
Michael Sheldon | *The Aurora Highlands*

STAFF

Naomi Colwell | *Interim President & CEO*
Rene J. Simard | *Executive Vice President*
Steve Phillips | *Director of Membership Development*
Alicia Rose | *Director of Business Development*
Mitzi Schindler | *Senior Director of Communications*

ASSOCIATES

Colorado Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC)
Six & Six, inc. | Incredible Newsletter Design
Great Western Printing, Inc. | Newsletter Printer

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

ChamberCommittees

An Inside Look

ARTS + BUSINESS CONNECTION

The Art of Coffee and Community

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

It was a beautiful first day of August when the Arts + Business Connection (ABC) committee met at Jubilee Roasting company to hear about owner Peter Wanberg's path to opening and growing his coffee shop that not only sells and produces high-quality coffee, but also offers affordable artists' studio space and room for community connections. A perfect combination for an ABC presentation!



The August 1, 2023, ABC meeting was held on the inviting back patio of Jubilee Roasting at 1452 Kenton St. in Aurora.

After graduating from college, Wanberg, a self-acclaimed, hard core coffee hobbyist, rented the building at 1452 Kenton St. in Aurora from his father to open a coffee shop where people could gather and enjoy conversations and coffee. Being also interested in the arts and wanting to be engaged in the community, he adapted the extra space in the building to artists' studio space.

Wanberg likes the concept of being a community contributor and believes that Jubilee fulfills that by being flexible to be a safe gathering spot, and to support community integration and connectivity. Going forward, Wanberg hopes that Jubilee might eventually offer service to the community in the form of job training.

Wanberg has certainly utilized his creativity to solve business problems, and to enhance the environment of Jubilee, including a colorful mural on the back of the building where the outside patio offers additional seating space.

The business has a second location in downtown Denver, and Wanberg is now distributing his coffee to grocery stores.

TRANSPORTATION

Update on Arapahoe County Transportation

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

Arapahoe County Director of Public Works and Development Bryan Weimer, along with Transportation Division Manager Jim Katzer, presented about the state of transportation in Arapahoe County.

Weimer began with a broad overview, stating that the department has 136 employees managing more than \$1.2 billion of assets (roads, bridges, signs, signals, culverts, pavement markings and equipment). He pointed out that current pavement condition is below their goal value for good/fair pavements, and that the average household only pays \$34.50 per year of transportation-related taxes, making it financially difficult to maintain the roads.

Katzer gave updates on some of the current major projects: improved ramp from Dry Creek onto SB I-25 recently completed construction; Iliff Avenue between Quebec and Parker Rd is scheduled to finish later this year; and the overpass for High Plains Trail over South Parker Rd was installed in July. Major projects in development include improvements to I-25 and Belleview interchange; upgraded interchange at I-70 and Airport; improvements to Parker Rd from Hampden to Mississippi; a Countywide micro mobility study; an Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan; and a Countywide Fiber Master Plan.



Bryan Weimer



Jim Katzer

Additional improvements currently being designed include right-sizing Inverness Drive West; Dry Creek at Inverness operational improvements; widening Gun Club south of Quincy; underpass at High Line Canal and Colfax; and signal at Gun Club and Alameda.

At the end of his presentation, Weimer shared slides of recent flood damage from severe 2023 spring and summer weather.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, AND ENERGY (PUBLIC ISSUES)

Proposition HH – Opposition

Thursday, August 2, 2023

The August Government Affairs meeting hosted State Representative Rod Bockenfeld, who talked Proposition HH, which will be on the November 2023 ballot.

Rep. Bockenfeld opposes the Proposition and believes that HH is written to take away the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR), which provides taxpayers with a refund of revenue in excess of the TABOR limit. Although the language of the bill begins with "Shall the State reduce property taxes for homes and businesses..." Bockenfeld argues that HH drops residential assessments rates only slightly, and if passed the changes would provide only \$300 million in relief from the projected \$4 billion increase, which would still be a \$3.7 billion increase in property taxes.

HH effectively changes TABOR, by raising the TABOR cap by 1% beyond inflation plus population growth each year, effectively allowing the state to spend \$10 billion of



Representative Rod Bockenfeld

[continued on page 4]

Switching it Up



Tim Harris with Horrocks Engineers (right) served as the chair of the Transportation committee for the past two years, and Tony DeVito with AECOM (left) served as vice-chair. At the August 2 meeting, it was announced that they would switch positions, with DeVito taking over as chair and Harris now serving as vice-chair – hence the double name tents!

TABOR refunds over the next decade.

Proponents of HH will present at the September 6 Government Affairs, Education, and Energy meeting.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Progressive Luncheon @ Southlands

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

On August 22, 2023, the Women in Business committee met for the annual progressive luncheon hosted at the Southlands Shopping Center. Carmen Hanagriff with Elevations Credit Union and chair of the WIB Committee, volunteered her time to plan and create the fun itinerary and delicious menu. The enthusiastic group started with eggroll appetizers at Sweet Basil Café of Aurora, followed by entrée choices of a grilled chicken breast, cedar plan salmon, or bison meatloaf at Ted's Montana Grill, then on to their cookie of choice at The Cookie Company, followed by a wine tasting of six wines with owner of the Wine Experience Café Eldon Larson. Director of Marketing for M&J Wilkow Joyce Rocha provided Southlands goodie bags with store discounts and fun items, including a 20% discount through the end of September at Calla Vie Boutique from owner Heather Crow.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Happy Hour @ Launch Pad Brewery Co-Hosted by Community College of Aurora and the Rotary Club of Aurora

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

On July 12, with more than 90 registered, the Young Professionals event 'blasted off' into happy hour at Launch Pad Brewery located at 884 S Buckley Rd, Aurora, CO 80017.

The Brewery was founded by two air force veterans, David Levesque and Henry Rusch. The brewery produces over 30 handcrafted brews on tap and the drinks were generously sponsored by Dr. Mordecai Brownlee, president of the Community College of Aurora. Casey Bloyer, distribution manager with Launch Pad and a Leadership Aurora Class of 2022 graduate, welcomed the YPs and gave a brief introduction and overview of the brewery.

Representatives of the Rotary Club of Aurora then gave an overview of their club, the community projects it is involved with, and how the club impacts and benefits the community. To name a few, Rotary Club of Aurora is involved with the Salvation Army bell ringing, exchange student programs, building parks, and annual events like Shots for Tots, State of the Base, and State of the City.

Each guest filled out a brief survey for the Rotary Club to gain insight into what dates, times, and fees would be ideal for them to



Top to bottom progression of the August 22 Women in Business Progressive Luncheon: Sweet Basil Café; Ted's Montana Grill, The Cookie Company; and The Wine Experience in Southlands.

become involved. Kendra Thibault, who is on the Young Professionals Executive Committee and a member of the Gateway Rotary Club,

spoke about her Rotary experience and encouraged other YPs to get involved, too.

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Left to right at the July 12 YP event at Launch Pad Brewery: Phil Gibson of Unity Group at Keller Williams, Tyler Ehlers with Bank of Colorado, Skip Arms with the Aurora Rotary Club, Dr. Mordecai Brownlee with the Community College of Aurora, and Doug Anthony with the Aurora Rotary Club.

Visiting Visit Aurora and Stanley Marketplace

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

On August 9, 2023, Visit Aurora Director of Marketing Alexis Watts hosted the Young Professionals in Visit Aurora's conference room for a fun and educational presentation. She introduced Visit Aurora CEO Bruce Dalton, and the marketing team which consists of Randi Morritt, Watts, David Jacobson, Elise Cameron, and Marisa Lowe. Watts explained that Visit Aurora is a Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) which promotes a location as an attractive travel destination. She also announced that the 2023 rebranding launch will occur at the Visit Aurora Annual meeting on October 31, 2023. She shared a preview of the new Aurora CO logo and talked about the community T-shirt campaign.

A DMO benefits residents and the community by creating jobs and supporting economic growth through the visitors' lodging tax which creates tax revenue for the city, that can be used for schools, roads, attractions, and new businesses.

Following the presentation by Watts, Mark Shaker, founder of the Stanley Marketplace and owner of the Stanley Beer Hall, took attendees on a tour of the 100,000 square foot Stanley Marketplace, formerly the Stanley Aviation building - exploring the 50+ independently owned Colorado businesses. Shaker has a unique history with the marketplace beginnings. As the visionary and mastermind for transforming the abandoned aircraft ejector seats manufacturing plant into an urban marketplace, he was involved in the revitalization planning with the City of Aurora and had to compete against big investors to close on the property. He also made magic happen when he convinced both the Denver and Aurora mayors to work together to remove an eyesore fence that divided Aurora and Denver residents.

The tour wrapped up at the Stanley Beer Hall where Shaker generously covered the first round of drinks. The Stanley Beer Hall has 51 beer, wine, and cocktail taps, a food & brunch menu, and a large covered outdoor patio.



The YP meeting on August 9, 2023 at Visit Aurora in Stanley Marketplace culminated with a refreshing visit to the Stanley Beer Hall.

DEFENSE COUNCIL

The Defense Council did not meet in July, 2023

Defense Council Executive Committee - Annual Planning Meeting/Retreat

Friday, July 28, 2023

The Defense Council Executive Committee held their annual planning meeting on July 28, 2023, at Visit Aurora in The Stanley Marketplace.

The incoming Defense Council Chair Jim Puscian, presided over the meeting. Visit Aurora President and CEO Bruce Dalton welcomed the committee and provided an overview of

Visit **AURORA**

Visit Aurora. Rick Crandall, the new Defense Council vice chair, and executive director of the Colorado Freedom Memorial (CFM), provided an update on the CFM Visitor and Education Center capital campaign. Crandall also discussed highlights from his recent trip to Normandy, France, and his plans to develop educational partnerships.

Lt. Colonel Amanda Hill, director of the Colorado National Guard's new Joint Resiliency Directorate, discussed the organization's one-stop for service members and families to access prevention, response, and readiness services. In addition, Chris Boyer, executive director of the Honor Bell Foundation, provided a thorough history of the Foundation and its dedication to serving those who have served.

The committee reviewed the Defense Council mission and goals and the structure and responsibilities of subcommittees, and venues and focus for the 2023-24 Defense Council meetings were determined. Meeting locations/hosts include the Colorado National Guard's Artillery Training Center, Rocky Mountain VA Regional Medical Center, Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center, the Aerospace Data Facility Colorado, and a joint meeting with the Colorado Springs Military Affairs Council at the United States Air Force Academy. ■



Lt. Colonel Amanda Hill addresses the Defense Council executive committee on July 28, 2023.

RibbonCuttings & OpenHouses

Ribbon cuttings
mean business: **60 Jobs**



Westerra Credit Union – 4231 S Buckley Rd, Unit B, Aurora, CO 80013

On July 13, 2023, CEO Steven Schmidle cuts the ribbon to celebrate the grand opening of Westerra Credit Union's new state-of-the-art banking center in Aurora, CO. Upon entering, members experience a significant difference compared to traditional bank lobbies. With a sleek, modern design, welcoming atmosphere, three impressive art installations and zero teller lines, every aspect of this new location complements our digital world. It was designed to enhance self-service, digital-based transactions. All guests received two celebratory drink tickets to the Jade Mountain Brewery & Teahouse next to the Credit Union, and enjoyed sandwiches from Jimmy Johns. (7/13/2023) <https://www.westerracu.com/> (303) 563-6625



Homes for Heroes, Inc. – 6020 Greenwood Plaza Blvd, Ste 100, Greenwood Village, CO 0111

On July 17, 2023, Troy L. Williams, U.S. Marine Corp Veteran and realtor with RE/MAX Professionals, cut the ribbon to celebrate Homes For Heroes, Inc., which was established to give back to firefighters, EMS, law enforcement, military (active, reserves & veterans), healthcare professionals, and teachers for all they do. When a hero buys or sells their home through a Homes for Heroes Affiliate, like Williams, they receive a rebate after closing. On average, the hero receives \$2,300. At the ribbon cutting, Williams personally presented checks of \$250 each to the Colorado Freedom Memorial in Aurora, CO, and the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial in Golden, CO, plus an additional \$210 to each organization from the proceeds of the raffle at the event. Guests also enjoyed pizza, sandwiches, cupcakes, drinks, a raffle for 3 gift baskets, a tour, tee-shirts, and gift bags to take home. (7/17/23) www.RealtorHelpingHeroes.com (720) 363-6363

ANYLABTEST NOW!



Any Lab Test Now

180 S Gun Club Rd, Unit A
Aurora, CO 80016

On July 21, 2023, owner Samreen Habib cut the ribbon to celebrate the grand opening of Any Lab Test Now in Aurora, CO. Guests enjoyed FREE B-12 injections, light refreshments, and a chance to win a Complete Hormone Profile Test worth \$259. Any Lab Test Now is a direct access lab, providing over 8,000 different blood, urine, and DNA tests. A doctor's prescription is not required for testing, and they can perform clinical tests, DNA tests, and toxicology testing for drugs and alcohol. (7/21/2023) <https://www.anylabtestnow.com/aurora-80016/> (720) 464-5154

Row House Smoky Hill

5616 S Gibraltar Way, Unit G
Centennial, CO 80015

On July 14, 2023, owner Erica Hulings cuts the ribbon to celebrate the re-grand opening of the Row House Smoky Hill. A rowing-based fitness program can burn calories, improve posture, and strengthen your body from head to toe. Each workout produces maximum results by engaging over 86% of your body's muscles. Special guests included Centennial Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Holt, and City Council Members Marlo Alston and Don Sheehan. (7/14/2023) <https://www.therowhouse.com/location/smoky-hill> (720) 699-7788



ROW HOUSE

PULL TOGETHER.



Natura Med Spa & IV Bar – 6755 S Cornerstar Way, Unit A, Aurora, CO 80016

On August 4, 2023, left to right, partners Curtis Roundtree, Abba Jad, and Curtis Brannan, cut the ribbon to celebrate the grand opening of Natura Med Spa & IV Bar located on Parker & Arapahoe Road at Cornerstar shopping mall. Guests enjoyed refreshments, hors d'oeuvres, a photo booth, ax throwing, free IV's, and \$20,000 in raffled prizes! Natura offers body contouring, facial rejuvenation services, and an IV bar that boosts hydration with vitamins and minerals to promote ongoing well-being. (8/4/2023) <https://naturamedspaivbar.com/> (303) 276-2273



Eye Envy Vision – 700 S Buckley Rd, Unit K, Aurora, CO 80017

On July 20, 2023, Co-Owners Danielle Gloster, OD, and Optician Bryson Knight, cut the ribbon to celebrate the grand opening of Eye Envy Vision. Guests enjoyed sushi, mimosas, tours, and a raffle for sunglasses! Eye Envy Vision is an independent private optometry practice owned by Colorado natives from the local community. When is the last time you had your eyes checked? (7/20/2023) <http://eyeenvyvision.com> (720) 588-5303



Beyond Elegance
EVENTS & WEDDINGS

Beyond Elegance Events & Weddings, LLC – 1180 S Buckley Rd, Unit E, Aurora, CO 80017

On June 29, Tracy Baxter, founder, along with her husband Arthur, cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of Beyond Elegance Events & Weddings. The venue can accommodate weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions, and offers silent disco parties, jazz concerts, and seminars. Beyond Elegance Events and Weddings strives to create memorable experiences, not just events, and they are dedicated to serving the community. (6/29/2023) <https://www.beyondeleganceevents.com/> (720) 663-7732.



Bella Vita Senior Living

1470 S. Havana St., Aurora, CO 80012

On June 30, Bella Vita's Sales and Leasing Concierge Glenda Dozier (far left), invited Chamber members to a rooftop patio brunch and mimosas Open House at Bella Vita Senior Living. Guests were treated to a variety of pastries and bagels, cream cheese, yogurt parfait cups, fruit, breakfast burritos, coffee, and mimosas. Bella Vita is an all-inclusive, luxury active adult community in Aurora, CO, and is a 3-5-minute walk to retail and restaurants. (6/30/23) <http://livebellavita.com> (303) 500-7002



Sanjay Tyagi honored

Sanjay Tyagi with Schooley Mitchell was the chair of The Chamber's Lead by Example (LBE) tips and leads group for 2022-2023. Tyagi was recently presented with a plaque for his dedicated service as chair of the group by Chamber Executive Vice President Rene Simard. LBE is now being led by Jason Read, co-owner of RTB Technologies as chair, and Chris Adams, owner of Adams and Adams, LLC, as vice-chair. The group has exchanged more than leads in the past year, and currently has 11 members. For inquiries about the group, contact Steve.Phillips@aurorachamber.org.

CCA Awards Aurora Gives Scholarships



The Community College of Aurora Foundation has announced the recipients of the 2023-2024 Aurora Gives Scholarship. This award gives select Aurora area high school students the opportunity to pursue a community college education debt-free at CCA.

"The idea is to get students that might otherwise stay home or go into the workforce to help out with family, to pursue a community college degree at no cost," said Brittany Davis, with the CCA Foundation. "The scholarship pays for everything, so they can go and start that next step of their education with zero debt."

Students who apply, undergo an interview process, and are selected based on various factors. Davis said the goal is to help students earn an associate degree within two years, and then they are encouraged to continue to a four-year university to pursue a bachelor's degree and beyond.

Executive Director of the CCA Foundation John Wolfkill says he often encounters previous scholarship awardees, who have shared their successes after attending CCA. "There are past students who are nurses, and others who are engineers," Wolfkill said. "It's really great to see our students out in the world doing incredibly well."

This year's recipients and their academic pathways include:

Rosalba Rico-Cardenas, associate of arts, business emphasis; Pedro Estrada, EMT; Jocelyn Garcia, pre-engineering computer science; Huyen Ho, chemistry, biology, healthcare, nursing pathway; Kimberly Nava, science, pre-engineering, healthcare, early childhood education; Tanya Ramirez, bookkeeping, banking essentials, supervision fundamentals, human resources management; Joselyn Carrillo Ortega, nursing pathway; Elizabeth Zuniga Solis, criminal justice AA and AAS (Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy); and Guadalupe Zuniga Solis, psychology.

Fitzsimons Credit Union Awards Scholarships to Local Students

Fitzsimons Credit Union believes that education has the power to transform communities and is pleased to announce the 2023 recipients of the Sandra B. Neves Scholarship. Established by the board of directors and supported by the credit union, the scholarship is named in honor of former CEO, Sandra Neves, and was founded after her retirement in 2017. Ms. Neves has always been passionate about higher education asserting that "lifelong learning is essential to success and happiness, combined with integrity, upstanding character and continuous personal and spiritual development, education is your key to a joyful life."

Fitzsimons' current President & CEO, Robert M. Fryberger Jr., states "We take immense pride in announcing the scholarship awardees, continuing our commitment to support the educational journey of our future leaders."

This year's scholarship recipients were chosen based upon academic achievement, career aspirations, community service, extracurricular participation, and financial need. They received equal amounts, totaling \$5,000 in awarded scholarships.



The awardees are Jenise Ramos, Jazmyn Jóhannassen, Maggie Saving, Ciara Andrew, and Jordyn Richard.

RMHC-Denver's Chef-Led Meal Program: Easy Way to Volunteer

A hot meal can do wonders for families who spend long days caring for their seriously ill children. If you're looking for a rewarding way to give back, consider volunteering to serve a hot meal to families staying at Ronald McDonald House-Denver through the Chef-Led Meal Program. You'll be nourishing them — both body and soul. Previously only available in Denver, the opportunity has now been expanded to the Aurora Ronald McDonald House.

The Chef-Led Meal Program is fun and an easy way to volunteer. Trained chefs — Torie in Aurora and Mary in Denver — handle the meal planning and the shopping. Then, they'll lead your volunteer group of 3-8 people through the meal preparation and service. To participate, just choose your date and make a tax-deductible donation of \$500. The Chefs do the rest.

The Chef-Led opportunity is available on Tuesday evenings at Aurora or Denver Ronald McDonald House.

Contact Jonna Busack at 303-503-5592 with questions or go to www.rmhc-denver.org.



Chefs Torie and Mary

Celebrating Adams and Arapahoe County Fairs

The July 27, 2023, Chamber Business After Hours was the annual Boots Not Suits kick off to the Arapahoe County Fair. The event welcomed more than 400 guests that enjoyed a BBQ dinner, open bar, live music, raffled prizes, and networking with elected officials and community leaders – followed by the opportunity to enjoy the festivities of the fair! ■



Aurora Chamber and Aurora Economic Development Council (AEDC) staff helped kick off the Adams County Fair with western flair at the Boots & Business appreciation networking event on August 3, 2023. Left to right: Aurora Chamber (ACC) Director of Membership Development Steve Phillips, ACC Senior Director of Communications Mitzi Schindler, AEDC Project Manager & Market Analyst Jonathan Woodward, ACC Interim President and CEO Naomi Colwell, and ACC Director of Business Development Alicia Rose.

MemberRenewals

Academy Roofing
 Advantage Aurora Chase Mortuary
 AEG Construction & Restoration
 Allstate Insurance / Danielle Shannon Agency
 Andre's Junk Removal, LLC
 Arapahoe County Department of Human Services
 Aurora Collision Center
 Aurora Symphony Orchestra
 Cambria Hotel Denver International Airport
 Colorado Association of Realtors
 Comitis Crisis Center
 Community Banks of Colorado-Greenwood Village
 DoubleTree by Hilton Denver International Airport
 DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Denver
 Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)
 Edge Home Finance
 Edward Jones - Jake Sinderman
 Edward Jones - Kendra Thibault
 Ent Credit Union
 Expeditors International
 Fairfield Inn & Suites - Aurora/Parker
 Fitzmartin Consulting
 Floor Coverings International East Central Denver
 Fuji Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi
 Garden Plaza of Aurora
 GEO Secure Services
 GOAL Academy
 Grand Design, Inc.
 Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center
 ICR (Ideas, Commitment, Results)
 iPlace Seniors

Jordan Road CARSTAR Collision
 JWC Development Systems
 Kaiser Permanente
 Lowry Conference Center
 Lumen
 McGrath, Jane
 MD Solve
 Michael Baker Corporation
 Movie Tavern by Marcus
 Music Go Round
 My Electric Home
 National Charter Bus Denver
 National Cremation Society
 Novella Real Estate
 Parker Adventist Hospital
 Peck, George and Barbara
 Plante Moran
 Restoration1 of West Denver
 Row House - Smoky Hill
 RTB Technologies
 RTL Networks, Inc.
 Smash My Trash - Denver NE/Airport
 Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital
 SpyderSec
 Sunny Homes and Assoc. Inc.
 SYLO Hotel Denver, a Ramada by Wyndham
 The Learning Experience
 The Mathes Insurance Agency
 Town Center at Aurora
 University of Colorado Medicine
 Visit Aurora

WaveMAX Laundry Aurora
 West & Main Homes - Bev Marsh
 Wheeler Advisory Group LLC
 Wiggins, Bill J.

NewMembers

Advance, Inc.
 Alpine Bank
 Christian Brothers Automotive South Aurora
 Compass Financial Group, LLC
 Compositive Primary
 Council for a Strong America Colorado
 GGirls Closet LLC
 Hampton Inn & Suites - Aurora South Denver
 Jes Jansen Financial, LLC
 Meadowood Church
 Morgan Mckelvy, LLC
 Natura Med Spa & IV Bar
 River Valley Architects
 Rocky Mountain Sound Light & Video
 Royal Financial Investment Group
 Soccer Stars of Aurora
 Star Strategy Marketing
 The Dental Bar
 U n I Personal Chef Services
 Unlikely Gift Productions LLC
 Upsocial Agency
 USAirport Parking
 Veritas Funding
 Web Welder

Advertisers: Chamber members can use the IMPACT to advertise products and services to other members. Advertising space only available to members. The IMPACT also accepts preprinted inserts. Contact The Chamber for details.

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