The AHEC Logo

I have received many queries from new employees recently, asking about the meaning of our unique AHEC logo. Consequently, I thought it would be a good time to revisit an article that I shared several years ago explaining its symbolism and importance.

The logo for the Auraria Higher Education Center encompasses valuable meaning for our agency that reflects the “pride of service” by which we operate. The outer edges of the logo symbolize the three institutions we serve. If you look closely, you’ll see that each component is distinct in that the shapes are similar, but not identical. This is representative of the uniqueness of each of the institutions. They reside in one community (the Auraria Campus), but are distinct in their goals, missions, and neighborhoods. We recognize and celebrate these differences in the services that we provide to each.

The center of the logo symbolizes AHEC and its vital contribution as the core, serving the Auraria community at-large. It also represents the center crossroads of the campus—a unifying component of the common and shared elements. Both the inner and overall outer components of the logo are triangular, reflecting a pyramidal shape that is often recognized as a symbol of higher learning. The elements of our logo work together to represent one vibrant community—one that is a rich environment of collaboration.

On December 19th, AHEC staff gathered in the Tivoli Turnhalle for the annual Winterfest employee appreciation event.

A total of 31 AHEC employees received State of Colorado service awards for milestone work anniversaries. In addition, the annual employee awards were announced:

**Student of the Year**
Cin’Niceon Mitchell
Student Employee
Student Facilities Services

**Employees of the Year**
Ray Windfield
Custodian I
Student Facilities Services

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In January, Judi Diaz Bonacquisti joined the Community College of Denver as the Vice President for Enrollment Administration and Student Success. She’s not new to campus, however. For the past eight years, Bonacquisti served as Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services at MSU Denver. While there, she co-chaired the task force to develop recommendations for policies, programs, and strategies to increase the number of Latino students. Previously, Bonacquisti was the director of the minority engineering program at Colorado School of Mines.

“I am pleased to welcome Judi to our leadership team,” said Dr. Everette Freeman, President of CCD. “Judi’s passion for our mission and wealth of experience and knowledge will help to continue our growth in attracting and serving minority students.”

In 2011, Bonacquisti was appointed by Governor Hickenlooper to serve on the Educational Leadership Council and was nominated and jointly appointed by the State Board of Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to serve on the Educational Success Task Force. Recognized by the Denver Business Journal as a “40 Under 40 Winner,” Bonacquisti is an alumna of Harvard’s Institute for Management and Leadership in Education, Leadership Denver, and is a founding member of the Colorado Coalition for the Educational Advancement of Latinos.

A native of Pueblo, she holds an MBA from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and a bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University. She and her family reside in Denver and own Bonacquisti Wine Company.

The colors in our logo are a combination of blues. Blue can signify many meanings, but some of the most common are truth, honesty, integrity, and reliability…the very attributes that make up the fabric of AHEC employees.

AHEC enjoys a proud purpose of serving the institutions and supporting them in achieving their goals. Our logo symbolizes that commitment and pride!

Barb Weiske
Executive Vice President for Administration
Agency Chief Executive Officer

Obie Jones
Parking Field Coordinator
Parking & Transportation Services

Manager of the Year
Tara Weachter
Director, Facilities Operations
Facilities Services

A generous amount of non-perishable food items were collected before the event for the tri-institutional food banks. A raffle was held for the food bank donors to win prizes contributed by various community restaurants, organizations, and merchants, all arranged by the Employee Recognition Committee. And the event concluded with an all-staff drawing for various prizes lined up by Employee Recognition Committee member, Crystal Duran.

View photo slideshow:
http://bit.ly/1vQfsCi

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KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

NOW ENROLLING for Kindergarten Fall 2015

Set the Foundation for Your Child to Thrive!

Enrollment is now open for the fall 2015 kindergarten class at the Auraria Early Learning Center.

Learn more about the accredited, high-quality kindergarten program:
http://www.ahec.edu/ELCKindergarten
**Students ‘Get Rowdy’ for Homecoming Week**

MSU Denver students showed their school pride, participating in a week of spirit-filled Homecoming celebrations February 2nd-7th. With the theme “Bright Lights, Big City,” each day featured activities ranging from a parade to crafts to goofy competitions for points towards winning the Homecoming Cup, a friendly competition for student groups.

Breakdown of the week’s festivities:

- **Feb. 2, Flash Parade** – Students paraded through campus, starting and ending at the Tivoli Turnhalle.
- **Feb. 3, Spirit Day** – Students gathered at the Tivoli Commons to make spirit gear for Saturday’s Homecoming basketball games.
- **Feb. 4, Rowdy Games** – Student organizations competed in a five-stage obstacle course. Following the competition, there was party at Sigi’s Pool Hall.
- **Feb. 7, Homecoming Bash and Basketball Games** – The culmination of Homecoming activities before Saturday’s basketball games, the Bash featured food trucks, inflatables, and carnival games. And, Sigma Lambda Beta international fraternity was announced as this year’s Homecoming Cup winner at the games.

**Roadrunners Basketball**

MSU Denver’s men’s and women’s basketball teams competed against the Colorado School of Mines on February 7th. The men’s team won 67-57; the women’s team lost 64-67.

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER**

**Auraria Campus Bookstore**

Our Biggest Apple® Sale, Ever

**Wednesday, March 4**

9 a.m.–6 p.m.

Preorder by February 20th

Everyday academic pricing saves you hundreds of dollars on Mac® and iPad®. An additional 10% discount offers savings you can’t beat!

Join us for the chance to win an Apple Watch™, a free gift with every Apple purchase, refreshments, and more.

Learn how to preorder and find more information on the event: [http://www.aurariabooks-promo.com](http://www.aurariabooks-promo.com)
Auraria Campus

Auraria Campus
Police Department
Partners with
Colorado Rangers

In the past, AHEC has relied on troopers and officers from other agencies to assist with traffic control during the very busy first week of each semester. With placement at every intersection, the additional officers help ensure that flow in and out of parking lots is efficient, while ensuring the safety of pedestrians.

This semester, Chief Michael Phibbs reached out to the Colorado Rangers, a volunteer-based auxiliary unit that provides support to law enforcement agencies, instead of hiring additional officers and troopers. The 13 Rangers who volunteered covered a total of 22 different shifts on campus, saving the agency over $6,000.

“Working with the Colorado Rangers for traffic control during the start of the semester was a great experience,” said Chief Phibbs. “We were able to provide exceptional service and saved a significant amount of money for AHEC by using this great community-minded volunteer unit.”

The Auraria Campus Police Department will invite the Rangers to return to campus for beginning of the semester traffic control, as well as large events like commencement.

Avoiding Slips, Trips, and Falls

Slips, trips, and falls are leading causes of workplace accidents. Slips happen when there is too little friction or traction between your footwear and a walking surface. Trips happen when your foot collides (strikes, hits) an object causing you to lose balance. Falls result from slips and trips.

Following are some tips to help avoid these accidents:

Plan ahead; take your time
- Study the area; pay attention
- Don’t carry too many objects at once; take several trips
- Ask for help if carrying a large load of items

Stay organized
- Maintain clear, tidy work areas
- Keep clutter to a minimum

Walk safely
- Pay attention to your surroundings
- Don’t take shortcuts
- Follow normal routes and sidewalks

Wear proper footwear
- Wear shoes with good traction

Most slips, trips, and falls are preventable. Paying attention to your surroundings and eliminating potentially hazardous situations will reduce your chances of being injured.

If you have questions, please contact Human Resources at 303.556.3384.
Auraria Early Learning Center

The staff at the Auraria Early Learning Center (AELC) teach, guide, and safeguard the well-being of 267 children, ages 12-months to 5-years-old, from the Auraria Campus and Denver-area community. With the AELC earning a 4-out-of-4 star rating on the Qualistar system, their diligent efforts to create a high-quality learning center have paid off.

The AELC staff share a commitment to meet each child’s individual needs while providing a nurturing environment for all. “Coming to work to be around kids is the best thing about the ELC,” said the Director, Mary McCain, who has worked for Center for 20 years. “Watching the kids grow is amazing—we make a difference in their lives every day.”

What does it take to make the AELC successful? A team of dedicated, passionate One Auraria staff:

- 4 administrators
- 3 educational specialists
- 3 cooks
- 12 supervising teachers
- 9 assistant teachers
- 84 teacher aides
- 4 volunteer grandparents

A true testament to the AELC, two students from MSU Denver, Jessica Garcia and Aztzin Lopez, who attended the AELC as children, have returned as staff—starting and completing their education on the Auraria Campus.

Software Update

New Business Management Software Coming Soon

Over the past several months, a committee has been evaluating business management software systems for AHEC. Abila, a dynamic software solution used by nonprofit and government agencies, has been selected by the committee for the agency's new system.

It will integrate and streamline processes for accounting, purchasing, and human resources. Highlights include electronic requisitioning for purchasing, more user-friendly reporting and financial features, and improved processes for payroll and human resources record keeping.

Implementation is scheduled to begin in July 2015, with a targeted completion date of March 2016. These dates are dependent on a number of factors, so they may fluctuate.

More information and training sessions will be communicated with users as the implementation process begins.
Roble Noor grew up in Nairobi, Kenya and moved to the United States in 1994. He attended Metropolitan State University of Denver where he first studied chemistry, but changed his major after taking a computer course, finally graduating with a degree in information technology.

Noor joined AHEC in the summer of 2014, but he wasn’t new to the agency. When Noor was a student, he worked for AHEC in Parking & Transportation Services and for the Auraria Campus Bookstore. Many years after graduating, he returned to his original employment roots, joining the IT/Telecom department as an IT Professional.

On December 20th, after living in the U.S. for 20 years, Noor earned his U.S. citizenship. The oldest of eight children, he and his brother were the first of his siblings to move to the U.S., with most of them now in Colorado. His father, who worked as an accountant for the American Embassy in Kenya and the Middle East, was a big influence, making the transition to the U.S. a natural progression.

Noor enjoys spending time with his wife, Reem Dable, and their two young sons, Guled and Omaar. While he is not a skier yet, he plans to learn with his sons as they grow up.

5 Questions for Roble

1. Before working for AHEC, what is the most interesting or unusual job you’ve had?
   My most interesting job so far was working for United Airlines as a contractor for their IT Department, which afforded me the opportunity to travel across the Rocky Mountain region and the west coast.

2. If you could choose any period of history to live, when would it be and why?
   The 1970s. It's an interesting and cool decade, especially the music and fashion.

3. What is a tool you use for work that you couldn’t live without?
   Active Directory—a database that allows us to centralize and manage all user accounts and computers on the AHEC network.

4. If you could travel anywhere in the world for a week, where would you go?
   Kenya. It has been 20 years since I have been back home, and also I would like to show my kids where I grew up.
5. What do you enjoy most about your job and working for AHEC?
Without a doubt I enjoy the people who have been so generous and welcoming. It has been a pleasure to work with and serve the AHEC community. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my coworkers for all their help and support, which has been invaluable since day one.