We have just completed one year of our process transformation initiative, and have begun to see some significant positive changes in many of our operations. The staff teams that are addressing the projects are identifying cost-saving measures, better use of existing resources, and even have proposed improvements in equipment and software. The majority of their recommendations are being implemented, showing that involvement in the process can truly make a difference.

The critical component of these changes is ensuring that they are sustainable and will become part of the fabric of our operations. The perseverance of the Work Order Process Team has resulted in a 74 percent reduction in work order life cycles (the turnaround time from requested work to completed work to billing). Considering they had 701 work orders in January alone, that is a significant achievement!

The Access Control Process Team proposed new key cutting equipment that is estimated to reduce labor time by up to 75 percent. The Event Management Process Team has developed and implemented a customer satisfaction survey, and is spearheading a change in data collection to ensure that we are being responsive to our clients’ needs. Other initiatives have been internally facing, through onboarding personnel practices, developing software interfaces, and linking departments more efficiently.

Many of the projects are in progress and more will be added. It is all happening through the commitment of the team members, who not only believe in transforming how we do things, but who also take...
CAMPUS NEWS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER

CCD Celebrates Students and Community Leaders in the Spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 19th, the Community College of Denver honored three Denver community leaders—Tracey Lovett, Vice President for the Daniels Fund; Nate Easley, Executive Director of the Denver Scholarship Foundation; and Ed Dwight, a nationally renowned sculptor—at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Leadership Awards.

“Many people confuse community involvement with community leadership,” said CCD President Everett Freeman. “While community involvement is admirable, community leadership takes involvement to another level—it requires vision, sound decision-making, and the ability to inspire others.”

In addition to recognizing community leaders, the CCD Foundation announced the CCD student winners of two Martin Luther King, Jr. scholarships. The Wellington E. Webb MLK scholarship, which is funded by the MLK Holiday Commission, was awarded to CCD students Karissa Schroeder and Theresa Cole. The Dr. Nita Mosby Henry MLK scholarship was awarded to CCD students Kodi Toussaint, John Osborne, and Soad Attai.

Barb Weiske
Chief Executive Officer

Manager of the Year
Sgt. Neil Hamilton
Auraria Campus Police Department

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 items contributed by various community restaurants, organizations, and merchants.

The event concluded with an all-staff drawing for a wide variety of prizes, which were lined up by Employee Recognition Committee member Crystal Duran.

View video slideshow: http://bit.ly/1onWujH

Discover the Joy of Learning at the AELC!

Enrollment is now open for the fall 2016 kindergarten class at the Auraria Early Learning Center.

Learn more: www.ahec.edu/kindergarten
2016 MLK Peace Breakfast

MSU Denver held their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Breakfast on January 15th. The event promotes campus diversity and equality, and was created to commemorate the philosophy, values, and belief system of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The key component of the MLK Peace Breakfast is the awards ceremony, which acknowledges and celebrates individuals on campus and from the Denver community who keep the spirit and dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. alive through their actions and contributions.

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock was in attendance, and TaRhonda Thomas, a 9News reporter, was this year’s emcee.

Paleontologist Discovers First Signs of Dinosaur Mating Behavior

Paleontologist Martin Lockley, a University of Colorado Denver Professor of Geology, recently discovered that mating behavior of dinosaurs was similar to modern birds.

Lockley has found over 50 large dinosaur scrapes in Colorado sandstone outside of Delta, as well as Dinosaur Ridge in Morrison. The fossilized scrapes in these 100 million-year-old rocks are indicative of nesting behavior among modern birds, where males scrape nesting sites to display their abilities and impress potential female mates.

“These are the first sites with evidence of dinosaur mating display rituals ever discovered, and the first physical evidence of courtship behavior,” Lockley said. “These huge scrape displays fill in a missing gap in our understanding of dinosaur behavior.”

Established in 1992, the Working Together Foundation awards grants to State of Colorado employees and retirees for unexpected injuries, accidents or deaths, uninsured medical emergencies, and other crises.

Each year they assist nearly one hundred individuals who experience unforeseen financial crises and/or who lack the resources to meet basic living necessities, such as rent, utilities, and uninsured medical expenses. Learn how to apply for a grant or make a donation:

- Call 303-831-8645
- Send an e-mail: coworkingtogether@gmail.com
- Visit their website: https://sites.google.com/a/state.co.us/working-together-foundation/
Unable to remove the scratches, Lockley and his team created 3-D images of the scrapes and developed rubber molds and fiberglass copies of the sites that are currently being stored at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

The study was published in the journal *Scientific Reports* (Nature Publishing Group) on January 7th, 2015.

**Auraria Campus Leaders Gather for ‘Race Matters’ Roundtable Discussion**

Auraria Campus leaders came together at a campus forum about race issues in January to discuss the importance of being culturally responsive and creating equitable playing fields.

The tri-institutional event featured Auraria Campus experts on equity and inclusion. The speakers, who led smaller roundtable discussions about race issues, included Brenda J. Allen, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion at CU Denver; Myron Anderson, PhD, Associate to the President for Diversity at MSU Denver; and Kathryn Young, PhD, Assistant Professor of Secondary Education at MSU Denver.

Leaders from all three institutions were in attendance, including CCD President Everett Freeman, MSU Denver President Steven Jordan, and CU Denver Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Raul Cardenas, among many others. The conversation engaged community leaders from private industry and nonprofits, as well as the Auraria Higher Education Center, including Auraria Campus Police Department Chief of Police Michael Phibbs.

Allen credited Tami Door, President and CEO of the Downtown Denver Partnership and member of the Auraria Board of Directors, for making the suggestion that Auraria Campus leaders discuss diversity in public forums to position the campus as a thought leader on the subject.
Carol Vigil  
Cook, Early Learning Center

After working at the Fort Logan Mental Institution, Carol Vigil joined the Auraria Early Learning Center in November 2014 as the lead cook, which was a welcome change of scenery. “Coming to work where kids get to eat and enjoy the food I cook is so fulfilling,” she said.

A Colorado Springs native, Vigil is a self-taught chef who knows her way around a kitchen. She has implemented several cost-saving measures when making food orders, but not at the expense of food quality. Representing the “Make an Impact” Guiding Principle, Vigil’s menus feature healthier and fresher ingredients at a lower cost.

“I like to make my menus more creative with the food I serve,” she said. “Exposing kids to new flavors is important.” For example, Vigil will serve something familiar, but will add new ingredients to change things up. Instead of just serving apple slices, she’ll add crushed graham crackers and cinnamon as a topping.

When Vigil is away from work, she enjoys spending time with her husband and grown son. They love being in the mountains doing archery, fishing, and finding four-wheel-drive trails. They’re currently building an off-the-grid cabin outside of South Park that will be solar and wind powered.

5 Questions for Carol

1. Before working for AHEC, what is the most interesting or unusual job you’ve had?
   I worked in a machine shop that made gun parts. I did everything, including operating the machines, delivering parts, and working on the computer.

2. If you could choose any period of history to live, when would it be and why?
   I would live in the early 1900s for the simplicity of life without technology.

3. What is a tool you use for work that you couldn’t live without?
   My assistant cook, Xochi. The workload is a lot, and I couldn’t manage it without her.
4. If you could travel anywhere in the world for a week, where would you go?
I would go to the mountains. All the stress of life is unloaded and left behind when I’m in the mountains.

5. What do you enjoy most about your job and working for AHEC?
When I first started, I was told that the kids didn’t eat much. But that changed. My goal was to make sure that the kids enjoyed their food and went home full. What I love the most is getting positive feedback from the teachers and parents, and when kids stop by the kitchen with “thank you” pictures they’ve made for me.

Abila Implementation Team Pieces Together Complicated Puzzle

A committed group of staff have been diligently working behind the scenes to implement a new business management software system, called Abila. Meeting weekly for over a year, and sometimes more frequently than that, the team has been working closely with a consultant who is helping pull together the various AHEC systems to interface with Abila.

Abila will integrate and streamline processes for accounting, purchasing, information technology, and human resources. Highlights include electronic requisitioning for purchasing, electronic pay advices, user-friendly reporting and financial features, and improved processes for payroll and human resources record keeping. It’s been a complicated process given the number and variety of systems that are being integrated with Abila: T2 for Parking &
Transportation Services, TMA for Facilities Services, Sequoia for Tivoli Station, and CORE, which is the State of Colorado Financial System. Demonstrating the “Own It” Guiding Principle, the Abila team has taken ownership for developing solutions to make all of these systems work together.

“The nature of AHEC and the institutions we serve, as well as being a State institution, makes the project that much more complex,” said Stacy Steelman, Director of Procurement and Distribution Services.

The goal is for the general ledger and purchasing components to go live on April 1st, followed by July 1st for time sheets and payroll. Paul Squillace, Controller, expressed that these dates are not set in stone; they are goals, and adequate training must occur first.

Dianda Coe reiterated his point: “We are committed to not rolling it out until it is 100 percent ready, and all people are trained.”

More information and training sessions will be communicated with users in the coming months.