Extending Larimer Street

The connection between the Auraria Campus and downtown Denver has been a prominent goal since 2007. In fact, we have initiated several “now-term” projects to begin to foster that connection, including adding the downtown off-mall planters to Larimer Street, walkway flags commemorating the institutions, brick crosswalks, and other more extensive design initiatives. We have long recognized the economic impact of the campus with our nearly 50,000 students, faculty, and staff. An additional motivator is the presence of our constituent institution’s buildings across Speer Boulevard, further increasing the daily movement of our population and the desire for enhanced safety and pedestrian comfort.

In striving to achieve a long-term solution, the Auraria Board directed that a “conceptual walkway” plan be developed to improve that connection. A process commenced with an outside design firm and a stakeholder’s group that was impressive in representation. The group included multiple city officials, Downtown Denver Partnership Board and staff members, Auraria Board members, leaders of our constituent institutions, and AHEC representatives. The result is a plan that has gained significant momentum in a way that was not dreamed possible.
The premise of the plan is based on the notion that this is more about extending Larimer Street rather than just crossing Speer. It includes phases of an at-grade “road diet” (reducing the number of vehicle lanes, adding a protected bike lane, and widening sidewalks). A parallel phase adds an open and inviting elevated walkway, which connects Auraria and Denver, with a proposed activated central building, park-like amenities, and retail opportunities. The concept is being embraced by a growing throng of supporters on both sides of the connection spectrum. The road diet and elevated walkway phases have been submitted to the City of Denver to be considered for potential funding from the general obligations bonds.

If you have an interest in additional details of the plan, I welcome your questions. This is an exciting prospect that has shared commitment. After years of developing various studies, we believe this plan is the one that will be brought to life—stay tuned!

Barb Weiske
Chief Executive Officer

CAMPUS NEWS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER

CCD Honors Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Leadership Awardees

On January 19th, the Community College of Denver honored three Denver community leaders—Carlotta Walls LaNier, Erin Brown, and the late Francie Anhut—at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Leadership Awards held at St. Cajetan’s.

Even though the rec center operates under MSU Denver, AHEC staff can use the facilities for $40/semester. Sign up in the main office, located in the PE/Events Center, room 108, with a valid staff ID.

Hours and Information:
msudenver.edu/campusrec/

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Vivian Cohen
Program Assistant
Facilities Services

Facilities Services Program Assistant Vivian Cohen cites her current position as the best she’s ever had. Prior to joining AHEC, she was a camera car operator for a company that did asset recovery (searching for stolen vehicles). She said it was a horrible experience.

Cohen loves working for Facilities Services and embodies the “Own It” Guiding Principle. “It’s not the typical government job,” she said. “Everyone is so
This year's honorees have each led the Denver community forward and inspired others with their vision, passion, and sustained commitment to the community.

At age 14, Carlotta Walls LaNier was the youngest of nine students chosen to integrate Little Rock Central High School. The students became known as the Little Rock Nine, and with great courage and determination, they changed American education forever. A resident of Denver since the mid-1960s, LaNier has received many awards, including the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor, five honorary doctorate degrees, the Spingarn Medal, Pierre Marquette Award, and the Abraham Lincoln Leadership Prize.

Erin Brown is the Executive Director for the Office of Children's Affairs with the City and County of Denver. As an advocate for children and youth in Denver, Brown leads the Office of Children's Affairs in accomplishing Mayor Hancock’s goals for children and youth as they relate to early childhood experiences, grade-level reading, re-engaging disconnected youth, completing post-secondary pathways that lead to employment, and decreasing childhood obesity.

Francie Anhut joined Community College of Denver in May 2014 as Executive Director of the CCD Foundation and College Advancement. In her two years in that role, Anhut helped raise nearly $2 million to support student scholarships. Anhut passed away October 24, 2016 after a 16-month battle with cancer. Before her death, a scholarship fund was established to honor her legacy. The fund has already awarded one scholarship, and, once endowed, will give scholarships in her name in perpetuity.

**Janine Davidson Named New President**

MSU Denver Board of Trustees Chair Michelle Lucero announced on February 14th that Janine Davidson, Ph.D., will be the next president of Metropolitan State University of Denver, effective July 1st, 2017.

“Among the dozens of candidates who applied for this position, Dr. Davidson’s name kept rising to the top,” said Lucero. “In interviews with the selection committee and campus stakeholder groups, she was described as ‘strategic,’ ‘dynamic,’ ‘collaborative,’

Cohen just earned her black belt in Lean Six Sigma for the WebTMA project she just completed. This process transformation project afforded the department a huge change in the way they do business—they’re now faster and more efficient. Her next project is to set up an interface between the new accounting software, MIP, with WebTMA to automate the invoicing process. Currently, they must duplicate entries, creating a greater possibility for errors.

A native of Denver, Cohen grew up in north Denver and now lives in southeast Aurora with her two daughters, Jordan (16), and Dani (13). She’s passionate about her family and helping her girls grow into successful humans.

A self-proclaimed nerd, she loves science fiction and fantasy novels and looks forward to Denver Comic Con every year. Her daughters now join her as a reward for working hard in school. If they get a 4.0, she lets them attend all three days.
‘high energy’ and ‘entrepreneurial,’ and those are just a few of the positive things said about her. Our board members believe she will raise the profile of the institution both internally and externally.”

Davidson will succeed Stephen M. Jordan, Ph.D., who has served as president of the institution for 12 years, and grew a small local college into a nationally recognized university. Davidson plans to build on Jordan’s legacy and will bring her considerable experience leading large and complex organizations to bear on that task.

“I was attracted to MSU Denver because of the progressive, entrepreneurial leadership Dr. Jordan and the board have displayed,” she said. “As president, I will be 100 percent committed to the vision that defines the University—accessibility, affordability, and diversity.”

All told, Davidson has nearly 30 years of experience in military operations, national security policy, and academic research. Most recently, she served as the 32nd undersecretary of the United States Navy, where she managed all Department of the Navy affairs.

The incoming president is also well versed in the academic arena. She was a senior fellow for defense policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, where she is a lifetime member. She has taught national security policy and political science at Davidson College, Georgetown University, and George Mason University.

Davidson holds master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of South Carolina and a bachelor’s degree in architectural engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She was a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Squadron Officer School and was the first woman to fly the Air Force’s tactical C-130.

HOBBIES
Hiking, cycling, swimming, pub trivia, sci-fi/fantasy books and shows, physics (astro-, geo-, theoretical)

BEVERAGE OF CHOICE
Water or coffee

BUCKET LIST ITEM
I’d like to hike from Mt. Bierstadt to Echo Lake someday. It’s 13 miles and 7 peaks in one day, so it’s a bit ambitious.

MUSIC
I listen to almost everything from classical and country to metal, rock, and pop. I have to have music while I work to be able to focus.

INFLUENTIAL PERSON I’D LIKE TO MEET
Albert Einstein or Neil deGrasse Tyson

AURARIA EARLY LEARNING CENTER
Now Enrolling for Kindergarten 2017
Enroll your child for kindergarten at the Auraria Early Learning Center. Our fully accredited program provides a fun, supportive, and engaging learning environment to prepare children for success in first grade and beyond.
While it’s difficult to see the development inside of the fencing, CU Denver’s Wellness Center construction is progressing well, and the building is on course to open in March 2018.

What's complete and what's next?

- Relocation of two large water lines and a gas line
- Foundation for the building has been poured
- Masonry continues on the perimeter
- Construction of the steel will begin in April to early May, which is when the “bones” of the building will start to appear

Once complete, the Wellness Center will offer a host of amenities, including: gyms, cardio and weight room, fitness rooms, lap pool, rock wall, student kitchen, coffee vendor, lockers, study rooms, game room, lounge space, and seminar and reflection rooms.

Student fees will cover entry for CU Denver students, but non-students (including other Auraria Campus institutions’ faculty, staff, and students) will be able to purchase memberships (price to be determined).

'ONE AURARIA' NEWS

HUMBLE HEROES

Early Learning Center's ASK Team Gives Kids the Boost They Need to Succeed

The Auraria Early Learning Center provides a unique support service to children, families, and teachers through the Auraria Supports Kids (ASK) Team. Comprised of three warm, caring professionals, the ASK Team contributes expertise and assistance in the areas of social-emotional behavioral care, fine-motor and sensory issues, as well as curriculum development and implementation. Their ultimate goal is to help children thrive.

Identifying issues early in childhood development is key. Educational Specialist Theresa Meyers, who leads the team, says she’s compassionate, yet assertive in her approach and doesn’t believe in the “wait and see” method.
“Supporting children early in their development is key to their success,” she said. “Current research shows that the first five years of life are critical for brain development and that there are critical periods or prime windows of opportunity for early intervention. Simply put it’s much easier for a child’s brain to respond to help when they are under the age of five but more difficult as they become older.”

The ASK Team identifies children who need support through a variety of methods—sometimes a teacher refers a child who is having difficulties in the classroom; other times parents ask for an assessment; and also, the ASK Team identifies struggling children during their classroom visitations.

Connecting with the families is something Meyers enjoys most about her role. Many times, it’s the ASK Team that informs parents for the first time that their child might be dealing with an issue, which can be emotional and difficult. “Collaborating with parents so they don’t feel like they’re alone is really important to me,” said Meyers.

Christina Sevilla is the AELC’s Occupational Therapist Consultant, and helps children who are experiencing fine-motor delays and sensory processing issues. She also provides guidance to parents on how to help their children at home. She believes her role is to “facilitate a boost” to help children be successful in the classroom.

Family Support Consultant Erin Arcand helps kids struggling with emotional and behavioral issues, including friendships, anxiety, and even aggression. She helps brainstorm strategies and provides support to teachers, parents, and children to give kids the tools they need to thrive.

The ASK Team exemplifies the “Make an Impact” Guiding Principle. “It’s been said that making a difference in the life of one is impactful, but we get to help so many at all levels—children, parents, and teachers,” said Meyers. “It’s so fulfilling to watch kids progress and feel good about themselves and know we contributed in that process.”

**K9 DASH’S ADVENTURES**

**Puppy Love at Tivoli Station**

No one on the Auraria Campus went without a special someone this Valentine’s Day thanks to Dash the K9. Dash and his handler Officer Corey Averill served up plenty of puppy love in the form of selfies and tail wags at Tivoli Station.
Dash posed for photos, entertained students, and charmed the media. Partnering with Tivoli Station, Dash also held a contest to give a $25 bookstore gift card to the student who posted the most-liked photo on Instagram with the hashtag: #lovek9dash. Congratulations to CU Denver student Mia Dorsey, who won the contest.

Until his next appearance, follow Dash’s adventures on Instagram at @dashthek9.

CALENDAR & REMINDERS

March 20–24, 2017
Spring Break (no classes; campus open)

May 11, 2017
CCD Commencement

May 12, 2017
MSU Denver Commencement

May 13, 2017
CU Denver Commencement