Opportunity

Partnership. It’s what makes the Auraria Campus so successful. We partner with CCD, MSU Denver, and CU Denver on a variety of levels—providing support for their daily needs, assisting with design and construction of their neighborhoods and the shared core, and exploring innovative ways to improve the overall campus experience.

Most recently we have partnered on the Tivoli Park/Quadrangle project. The Auraria Foundation partnered with us by providing significant seed funding for the initiative. The students are fully engaged in partnership and are voting on assessing themselves a fee to complete this critical improvement to student life. The design process has been a partnership of tri-institutional input, with everyone visioning what was believed to be unachievable just years ago. We are partnering with the City of Denver to ensure that the roadway improvements are completed, allowing greater access to parking, the MSU Denver hotel, the CU Denver neighborhood, and the tri-institutional Tivoli Park. These partnerships and overall integration of campus needs are sure to make this one of the most successful developments on the Auraria Campus.

This is just one example of the possibilities that result from strong partnerships. Our partnership at AHEC involves every one of our employees, as we identify new ways of approaching problems and issues. We currently have a variety of “transformation teams” working
in partnership on various initiatives designed to create efficiencies or to simplify our operations. AHEC staff involved in these projects have already expressed how refreshing it is to challenge some long-term practices and to be able to make a difference in the future of Auraria.

It is our partnerships at all levels that make us strong and revolutionize our success. Partnership: it is equal to opportunity.

Barb Weiske
Chief Executive Officer

CAMPUS NEWS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER

Mayor Hancock Pays a Visit to CCD Students

On March 16th, the Community College of Denver had a special visit from Mayor Michael B. Hancock. He spent time with students in the Confluence Building, answering their questions and engaging them about their education goals.

Mayor Hancock has been a long-time supporter of higher education. He launched the Denver Education Compact in 2011, which is a collaboration between 20+ Denver institutions to create a robust educational continuum for Denver’s youth, where all students enter kindergarten prepared, graduate high school prepared, complete a postsecondary pathway, and ultimately obtain gainful employment.

METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

JBC Approves Funding for AES Building

The state legislature’s Joint Budget Committee (JBC) approved the proposed state capital budget on March 19th, which includes an appropriation of $14.8 million for MSU Denver’s Aerospace and Engineering Sciences (AES) building.

Did You Know?

The Auraria Campus Bookstore sells more than just books, technology, and apparel. Stop by for quick and convenient snack items, including:

- Sandwiches
- Drinks
- Chips
- Nuts
- Candy

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Chantel Atencio
Data Specialist, Access Control

In her position as Data Specialist in Access Control for Facilities Services, Chantel Atencio manually updates the schedules for all buildings on campus. She also programs ID access for all students, faculty, and staff (with the exception of the Tivoli Student Union).
Tivoli Theatres Overhauled for CAM Students

In what once housed tired theatre seats, tattered film screens, and dusty projectors, now lives the vision for a fresh, bright learning space for CU Denver’s College of Arts & Media (CAM). The bottom floor of the Tivoli Theatres is being renovated to create six specialized spaces. State-of-the-art equipment will be installed in each of the acoustically isolated rooms to create flexible learning environments.

“The Tivoli Student [Union] symbolizes Denver’s historic identity and its ability to reinvent,” CAM Dean Larry Kaptain said. “This is proudly shown with these new renovations, where the space will be adapted for creativity, design, technology, and other programmatic areas represented in CAM.”

Phase one involves developing the infrastructure for the theatres. The highlight of the renovation is a 160-seat screening room that will house not only art lectures and film classes, but also a community theatre for the Auraria Campus and the public. Next to the screening room will be a TV studio outfitted with drop-down tables and an equipment stage.

The renovations are expected to be complete by mid-November.

5 Questions for Chantel

1. Before working for AHEC, what is the most interesting or unusual job you’ve had?
   My first job was a summer job at Elitch Gardens, between sophomore and junior year. I enjoyed it because I got to see a lot of my friends during the day, while learning the importance of having and keeping a job. It’s not too interesting or unusual, but prior to AHEC this was my only other job.

2. If you could choose any period of history to live, when would it be and why?
   From the stories my grandparents and parents tell, the 50s would have been awesome. Also, during the 50s, many things were being introduced for the first time, like color TV. I think it would be awesome to see where it all started.

3. What is a tool you use for work that you couldn’t live without?
   Without a doubt, my work phone is something I can’t live without. Having the ability to remotely use my desktop to make any urgent
**Tivoli Park/Quad Construction to Start in May**

Thanks to a generous donation from the Auraria Foundation, the Tivoli Park/Quad was partially funded for the initial development of an outdoor space that will support the campus institutions with an engaging place for concerts, recreation, graduation, and other partnership activities with the surrounding community.

This week, students from CCD, MSU Denver, and CU Denver are voting on a $5 fee that would supply the remainder of the necessary funds for the Tivoli Park/Quad project, as well as future gathering spaces across campus.

The first phase of construction will begin with renovations to the field on the east of the Tivoli Student Union. Pending results from the referendum, it will become a pedestrian park with seating, shade trees, an amphitheater, a water feature, and a two-way bike lane connecting the north and south sides of campus.

A new coffee lounge (possibly Starbucks) is in the works for the Tivoli, and if students vote in favor of the referendum, an outdoor patio could be built as an extension to the coffee lounge to offer a seating area for studying, meeting, and relaxing.

Additional details will be forthcoming once the results of the vote are announced.

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**‘ONE AURARIA’ NEWS**

**HUMBLE HEROES**

**Human Resources Team**

The Human Resources (HR) team is a critical component of AHEC. In addition to interpreting complex state rules and applying them to the agency, essential personnel functions fall under the department’s responsibilities.

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**E-RECYCLING**

**Free Electronics Recycling**

**April 22 & 23**

10 a.m–2 p.m | Tivoli Square

The Sustainable Campus Program is hosting a free electronics recycling event on April 22nd and 23rd.

Information on items that will be accepted » www.ahec.edu/earthweek

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building access changes makes my life much easier. I love being able to take care of any problems at any time of the day. Without my phone, I would be making many trips to campus during off-hours.

4. **If you could travel anywhere in the world for a week, where would you go?**

   Paris. I have always wanted to add a love lock to the Pont Des Arts bridge. The bridge and locks show the power of love, and I am all about love. (Also, it’s pretty funny considering that I work with locks all day.)

5. **What do you enjoy most about your job and working for AHEC?**

   I enjoy meeting and working with people from all institutions on our campus. I take pride in satisfying our customers while maintaining the control side of access. AHEC has been my home for so long that everyone is like family. I look forward to accomplishing so much more.

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**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Thomas Whiteley, Adam Roybal, Lisa Finn, Dianda Coe, Crystal Duran, Ferris Rabieh
Employee benefits, such as annual and sick leave, health insurance, family and medical leave, and worker’s compensation, are all managed through HR. Recently, they have succeeded in updating the leave request process, while also adding additional providers for on-the-job injuries. “We are constantly looking for ways to streamline and enhance AHEC’s employee benefit experience,” says Benefits Administrator Thomas Whiteley, who also manages new employee orientations.

Another major function of the HR Department is to organize employee data, ensuring accuracy for key deadlines. As the HR Specialist, Lisa Finn provides decades of historical agency knowledge. She is a system expert, managing all information related to employee performance evaluation tracking, which requires timely and accurate reporting to the State of Colorado. The data she manages interfaces with the payroll and timekeeping systems, ensuring that employees are paid correctly and on time.

Ferris Rabieh, Administrative Assistant, and Crystal Duran, Human Resources Tech II, both started as switchboard operators in the HR Department. As the first point of contact for the campus, they give outstanding customer service, fielding all phone calls to the general agency number. They operate as an anchor for the department by collecting, verifying, recording, and filing employment documentation on all staff, including approximately 500 students in the spring and fall.

HR serves as the first step for recruitment and talent selection. Adam Roybal, Employment and Classification Specialist, is a resource for job applicants and also works with supervisors to craft position qualifications. Due to state regulations, the process is complicated, and Roybal serves as a guide from start to finish.

Led by Dianda Coe, the HR Department is comprised of a modest team that works extremely hard behind the scenes to ensure the agency’s staff are supported in performing their job responsibilities. In addition to traditional HR functions, the department also leads and supports employee recognition events, provides mediation services, and holds trainings on violence, sexual harassment, and safety in the workplace. Although humble, it’s easy to see that the HR team is the glue that holds our agency together.