Making an Impact

Summer semesters seem to be getting shorter and shorter, especially as it becomes obvious that we are about to embark on a new fall semester. Our “One Auraria” team never stops or slows down, and the fruits of everyone’s efforts are apparent. When talking about our achievements, we often think about the large construction projects and major developments, yet there is so much more that makes our campus successful…and it always comes back to our people.

An example includes the latest acquisition of several grants that AHEC staff have pursued and been successful in obtaining. The Early Learning Center has received a $50,000 grant from the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation to support their operating costs. A grant for a structural assessment of St. Cajetan’s has been awarded from History Colorado, the results of which will position us to apply for additional improvement money that will be significant in the future restoration of this historic building.

A Boettcher grant was acquired in the amount of $100,000 to supplement other funds being used to support improvements planned for the Auraria Library in the coming year. And the 5th Street Hub will benefit from an Urban Arts Fund grant, which will help finance a mural on the building. It is known that artwork on buildings deters graffiti, but most importantly, the mural will be an attractive addition to the building, which houses programs based in the sustainable industry.

New Solar PV Panels on Arts Building Generate Clean Electricity

The Auraria Sustainable Campus Program (SCP) has installed 390 solar panels on top of the Arts Building. This 75kW solar array generates roughly 110,000 kWh of “clean” electricity each year from the sun, which has an impact equivalent to the following:

- Planting 1,945 tree seedlings, each grown for 10 years
- Removing 81 metric tons of CO2 from the atmosphere annually
And, thanks to a grant submittal from the **Sustainable Campus Program**, we just learned this week that AHEC will receive a $60,000 grant from Denver Water for irrigation controllers and high efficiency sprinklers, which will subsequently save water on campus.

Many other examples exist that demonstrate commitment and innovation in supporting the Auraria Campus. Our people sustain the success of the campus in so many ways. Your efforts have continued to define Auraria’s reputation for being pioneering advocates of the institutions we serve. I thank you for your ideas and for your unrelenting spirit to serve!

**Barb Weiske**  
Executive Vice President for Administration  
Agency Chief Executive Officer

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### CAMPUS NEWS

#### COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER

#### Confluence: A Green Building

The Community College of Denver (CCD) Confluence Building is one of the most energy-efficient buildings on the Auraria Campus. It is pending GOLD LEED-certification under the United States Green Building Council, which is a national standard for designing, constructing, maintaining, and operating high-performance, sustainable buildings. Confluence boasts energy-saving features, such as chilled beams, radiant floors, plug-load and lighting power density reductions, as well as integrated daylight controls. Another feature is its “green” rooftop, a garden with plants, grasses, and pea gravel.

A green roof offers a number of benefits to make a positive environmental impact:

- Reduces energy use for heating and cooling
- Moderates building temperatures
- Reduces and filters storm water runoff
- Filters pollutants and carbon dioxide out of the air
- Provides a habitat for migratory birds, plants, and insects in an otherwise limited urban area

Stop by Confluence on your next break to take a look at the garden—it not only offers a wonderful backdrop to read or take a breather, it also has a stunning view of the city.

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#### STAFF SPOTLIGHT

#### Ken Tadikonda  
Accounting Manager

In his spare time, Ken Tadikonda likes to play with words—specifically, writing marketing jingles. He speaks four languages, though he says English is his favorite because he finds it to be very noble.

Tadikonda is originally from a town in the southern part of India. He has been in Colorado for 18 years, and started working for AHEC three years ago. Before that he taught accounting and finance at Johnson & Whales University. As a doting and dedicated father and husband, he enjoys spending time with his two children and especially his wife, whom he refers to as “phenomenal.”

While he’s good with words, his true calling is working with numbers. He loves being in the field of higher education and draws inspiration from his mom, who was a principal of a school for underserved students.

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- Diverting 81,472 pounds of coal from the power plant each year

This effort to improve the environmental impact of the campus was made possible by the SCP student green fee.
The Center for Visual Art Presents 3-D Paper Exhibit

The Center for Visual Art (CVA), the off-campus gallery of MSU Denver that showcases contemporary art, is currently presenting “Paper Work,” an exhibition reflecting the transformation of paper, a common two-dimensional material, into three-dimensional sculptural or implied pieces.

Paper is converted in the hands of the artists into something entirely new. “I work with handmade paper specifically for its minimal environmental impact, its utter versatility, its enormous variety and its strength contrasted with its perceived fragility,” says Chicago artist Melissa Jay Craig. In addition to Craig, other artists featured in the exhibit are Jennifer Ghormley, Anne Hallam, Bovey Lee, Diane Martonis, Dawn McFadden, Liz Miller, Mia Pearlman, and Susan Porteous.

“Paper Work” at the Center for Visual Art
965 Santa Fe Drive
Date of exhibit: Open until August 2
Admission: Free
Information: www.metrostatecva.org

The Center for Visual Art was founded in 1990 to expose students to leading-edge art and to broaden MSU Denver’s art program. The non-profit art space makes an important contribution to visual art offerings available in Denver and the Rocky Mountain West, bringing in art that would not otherwise be seen here.

CU Denver Partners with AHEC’s Facilities Services for Marketing Campaign

University Communications at CU Denver installed a mobile “Learn with Purpose” display on the 16th Street Mall in May. The exhibit featured a variety of eye-catching buttons, many designed by CU Denver students, to convey the key messages of the university. The purpose of the wall was to engage downtown Denverites as they were passing by, encouraging them to grab a button and learn more about what the university has to offer.

populations. As an accounting manager for AHEC, Tadikonda feels privileged to “indirectly be involved with students and shaping their lives.” He has been instrumental in helping AHEC achieve four years of clean audits, a remarkable accomplishment.

Tadikonda also gives back to the community, volunteering during tax season by working with the IRS to offer free tax preparations to community members in need.

Whether with numbers or with words, Tadikonda is known for his accuracy. Just ask him—he has written a jingle about it that he would be delighted to share!

5 Questions for Ken

1. Before working for AHEC, what is the most interesting or unusual job you’ve had?

When I was young, one of my jobs besides being an accountant, was being a freelance journalist. I used to write for the Sunday newspaper, mostly on issues concerning women and children. The best article that I worked on was about the women police in the town I am from.

2. If you could choose any period of history to live, when would it be and why?

I would love to be in my teens in the mid-80s. [I like] Michael Jackson and all kinds of musicians from that time.

3. What is a tool you use for work that you couldn’t live without?

My ten-key [calculator] and my spreadsheets!

4. If you could travel anywhere in the world for a week, where would you go?
Early Learning Center Learns from Full-Scale Evacuation Drill

On July 2nd, Auraria Higher Education Center Emergency Preparedness conducted an evacuation drill for the Early Learning Center (ELC). The staff and kids were progressively moved from the ELC to 9th Street Park, and ultimately to the King Center.

Auraria Campus Police, Denver Fire Department, Auraria Early Learning Center staff, AHEC Emergency Preparedness, and AHEC officials all worked together to simulate the events and practice executing response procedures if a fire were actually to happen. Of primary importance was making sure the kids were safe.

Emergency Preparedness Manager Eric Leath says that doing evacuation drills gives all the parties involved a chance to practice “positive preparedness.” The exercise is part of a larger planning process, which includes assessment and training around best practices that are discovered during the drill.

Upon arriving at the King Center, the ELC kids were greeted by MSU Denver’s mascot, Rowdy, the Roadrunner. There were a lot of cheers when he arrived, and his presence made the trek back to the ELC at the conclusion of the drill light and fun.

Leath will prepare an after-action report, which is a full-scale evaluation that details the response and operational specifics related to the evacuation drill, specifically looking at procedures that went well and procedures that need improvement.

Italy. Since childhood I have had a love for Catholicism and Italy. My biggest desire is to visit the Italian cathedrals and do some soul searching.

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

Working for the AHEC team. It is just an awesome place to be, with a great work environment. I get most of my inspiration from here. Everyone is from various walks of life, coming together with a common goal. We get to serve the campus community.

AURARIA WELCOMES 2014

Call for Volunteers!
August 18th & 19th

Auraria Welcomes is a fun opportunity to connect with students and show our “One Auraria” teamwork and pride. During the first two days of fall semester, volunteers are stationed around campus to answer questions and help students locate classrooms, offices, and campus services.

Volunteer Roles
• Tent set-up
• Auraria Welcomes Ambassador
• Cart Driver (replenish supplies/snacks)
• Tent break-down
Spring Commencement Weekend: A Year-Round Undertaking

With over 30,000 people coming to campus during the weekend of commencement, it’s not hard to imagine that the job of planning and coordinating operations is a massive undertaking. Over a year of organization goes into the coordination of event spaces, vendors, volunteers, signage, parking, security, emergency preparedness, custodial operations, event staffing, and working with the institutions to pin down all of the large and small details.

A large percentage of AHEC departments and staff members were involved in making this spring’s commencement weekend a success, including Event Services, led by John Mosley; Student Facilities Services, led by Jerry Mason; day-of operations “go-to guy” Tommy Leonard; Student Facilities Services--Operations, led by Tara Weachter; and the Grounds crew, led by Mike Nichols. Tony Medina and Rob Byers played a huge role in the difficult job of making sure that the large institution banners were safely hung on the Tivoli, and Amber Cook took on the role of coordinating over 40 volunteers. Auraria Campus Police and Parking and Transportation employees also provided key support during the weekend.

Volunteers from departments across AHEC gave a helping hand to pull the loose ends together, ensuring the weekend’s events were special for the graduates and their families, as well as the faculty and staff of the institutions. Volunteers arrived at 6 a.m. to assist with parking, way finding, wiping down and drying off 14,000 chairs, and welcoming and directing guests.

Although the events ended on a Sunday, the work did not. In the aftermath of commencement, all of the mentioned departments were busy with debriefing and assessing, cleaning up the event spaces, taking down decorations, clearing the grounds, putting equipment into storage, following up with vendors, and getting campus ready for summer.

HUMBLE HEROES

Sign Up!
If you would like to participate, please fill out this sign-up form (www.ahec.edu/AW-sign-up.pdf) by Thursday, July 31st. Or, fill out this PDF volunteer form and return it to Katy Brown via email or deliver it to the Tivoli, Suite 325.

Training
A brief training will be provided for volunteers the week before the semester starts (location and time to be determined).

NEW WEBSITE

AHEC Website Gets a Facelift
The new website (www.ahec.edu) for AHEC has launched. Navigation is now organized by audience to improve access to information.

While edits and slight adjustments are still being made, Integrated Marketing & Communications (IMC) would value your feedback and comments. Please contact IMC at imc@ahec.edu.
Sexual Harassment & Workplace Violence Trainings

Human Resources will be conducting sexual harassment and workplace violence trainings on August 5th for all new employees and employees who have not yet taken these seminars. Contact Dany McCoy for details at dany.mccoy@ahec.edu or 303-556-4557.

August 5th | North Classroom 1130
Sexual Harassment Training: 10-11:30 a.m. or 1:30-3 p.m.
Workplace Violence Training: 11:30-12 p.m. or 1-1:30 p.m.

State Employee Wellness Program (Classified Staff)

As the second year begins for CafeWell, the State Employee Wellness Program, there are a few important updates that HR wants to share with classified employees.

Online Health Assessments
 Classified staff members need to complete a new online health assessment to activate this fiscal year’s incentive.

Wellness Rewards
 Each employee who has earned at least 400 coins each quarter will be entered in a drawing to win an iPad from the Wellness Program. In addition, CafeWell will hold a drawing for 20 $50 Amazon gift cards.

Success Stories
 The Wellness Program is looking for employees who have made significant changes in their health. Please contact CafeWell if you have story ideas.

Together Colorado 5k
 The Together Colorado 5K will be on August 23rd at Sloan’s Lake Park. Watch for activity on CafeWell.

Questions: 303-866-3892 or visit www.colorado.gov/wellness