REFLECTIONS FROM 9TH

Horizons

It’s hard to believe how much the Auraria Campus has evolved. Just a few short years ago, the campus was beginning to sprout its wings under the guidance of the 2012 Campus Master Plan. In 2017, we updated that plan to further embrace our community’s growth, and I’m actually proud to say that in 2018 the plan is already in need of an update. This is evidence that we have achieved the collective vision of just how far we want this community to go…and we aren’t afraid to incorporate changes that continue to make the campus stronger and more unique.

You’ve heard the statistics before—in the past several years, “more than $630 million has been directly invested in new construction, acquisitions, renovations, and projects.” We now have over 4.5 million built square feet on campus, up from 3.2 million in 2006, and well over the 1.2 million when the campus opened in 1976. That statistic will continue to rise as additional campus structures are built within the next five years, including a student housing complex that will be the first of its kind located within the heart of campus.

Our surrounding community continues to advance, as well. The Central Platte Valley-Auraria (CPV-Auraria) district to our south and west will be transformed. Called the River Mile Development, the area will include unique projects, such as Meow Wolf, which is destined to shape this area of the city. What has traditionally been viewed as the back door of the campus will grow into the vision we
have always had for the Fifth Street edge: to enhance the transit-oriented development opportunities and bring enriched life to this (and all boundaries) of the campus.

As the journey moves forward, we will continue to stand on new and exciting horizons of change.

Barb Weiske
Chief Executive Officer

CAMPUS NEWS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER

CCD’s State-of-the-Art Criminal Justice Program

Community College of Denver’s state-of-the-art criminal justice program provides a multi-faceted approach to instruction in all parts of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, the court system, and the correctional system. It supports students interested in pursuing careers in policing, court administration, probation and parole, victim services, crime scene investigation, and corrections.

The program introduces both the theory and practice of the criminal justice system to students. The unique curriculum includes drone surveillance, as well as a realistic situational awareness room with nearly a thousand different scenarios that help students practice techniques for reacting to and deescalating critical situations. The Auraria Campus Police Department has been able to use the situational awareness room for training, which has been extremely beneficial to the department and the campus.

Assistant Professor and Program Chair Thomas Williams leads the program for CCD. A former police officer for both the Little Rock, Arkansas and Aurora, Colorado police departments, Thomas has 30 years’ experience in law enforcement. During that time, he was a patrol officer, school resource officer, community policing officer, bicycle patrol sergeant, community policing sergeant, and a major crimes and general crimes sergeant.

Watch the promotional video for more information about CCD’s Criminal Justice Program. Video: CCD

STAFF SPOTLIGHT
Charlie Strother
Neighborhood Community Officer, Auraria Campus Police Department

Charleen Strother, a Neighborhood Community Officer, loves her job with the Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD). Extremely driven and eternally positive, Strother said she has wanted to be in law enforcement from the time she was seven years old. Discarding Barbies to play James Bond, she set her intentions young, eventually graduating from MSU Denver's Criminal Justice program in May 2017. Two days later, she transitioned from being a student to serving students with her first law enforcement job with the ACPD.

Strother said the community aspect of her position is what she loves the most. She’s a shining...
Davidson’s Inauguration: Dedicated to the Future of Students and the State

The MSU Denver community celebrated the Inauguration of President Janine Davidson, Ph.D., September 4th–7th. The celebration included nine events over four days, ranging from panel discussions to a ribbon-cutting for the university’s beer labs.

Inauguration week was not just about welcoming President Davidson to MSU Denver; it was about engaging with some of the most pressing issues of our day. Each of three panel-discussion events featured nationally recognized experts and state leaders, tackling topics such as the future of higher education, cybersecurity, and sustainable workforce development.

Community engagement was a focus for the week with events that included a Roadrunner student BBQ, campus celebration for faculty, staff, and students, as well as the third annual fundraising soiree, benefiting the Classroom to Career Hub initiative.

The highlight of the week was the investiture ceremony, where Davidson was officially installed as president. The celebration included remarks from notable local and national leaders, including Mayor Michael Hancock, plus a keynote address from President Davidson.
Lola & Rob Salazar Student Wellness Center Opens its Doors to CU Denver Community

The long-awaited Lola & Rob Salazar Student Wellness Center was officially dedicated amid a cheering crowd this summer. More than 200 supporters lined the stone benches of the building’s front courtyard, vowing with hoots and hollers to support the new culture the modern, 85,000-square-foot facility represents.

The $42-million center and its breadth of wellness and fitness facilities is certain to become a regular destination for CU Denver students—a place to recreate, relax, study, and socialize. Amenities include meditation rooms, an outdoor adventure center, study rooms, lap pool, 38-foot-tall climbing wall, and even a designated napping spot.

“We are confident that the programming and physical amenities inside this building across the multiple dimensions of wellness will have a very positive impact on our students’ experiences now and for years to come,” Chancellor Dorothy Horrell told the audience gathered to celebrate the center that has been four years in the making.

“What makes this so special is that this building was conceived by, and is being funded by, our remarkable students,” Horrell said, noting that their dream could not come true without the immeasurable support of CU and city community members, including the namesakes for the building, Lola and Rob Salazar, and Joanne Posner-Mayer, a CU Denver alumna and fitness-ball exercise pioneer who supported a student kitchen for the facility.

CU Denver students take a break from classes to use the climbing wall at the new Lola & Rob Salazar Student Wellness Center.

Discover colleagues who have recently joined the “One Auraria” community, and recognize those who have retired.

NEW HIRES

ACCOUNTING
Jessica Carter
Accountant I

AURARIA CAMPUS POLICE
Yessenia Chavez-Hernandez
Neighborhood Community Officer
Tracey Lee
Police Officer
Chase Leonard
Police Officer

EARLY LEARNING CENTER
Sue Clarke
Supervising Teacher
Paige Strongman
Supervising Teacher

FACILITIES SERVICES
Daniel Huffman
Structural Trades II
Brett Jones
Grounds & Nursery I
Shay Trembly
Electronics Specialist II

HUMAN RESOURCES
Nicole Yanez
HR Technician

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
Jacob Arck
Parking Specialist
Justin Lopez
Parking Specialist
Manuel Soto-Gonzalez
Parking Specialist

SUPPORT SERVICES
Alejandro Aviles
Custodian I
Nole Carrillo
Custodian I
Ana Castillo Soto
Custodian I
Auraria Early Learning Center Earns Rare Level 5 Rating from Colorado Shines

A child’s first years of life are critical for learning and development. Colorado Shines, a quality rating and improvement system for all of Colorado’s licensed early learning programs, encourages and supports early learning centers to improve their quality to prepare children for academic success.

The Auraria Early Learning Center (AELC) was evaluated this year for the third time by Colorado Shines, receiving the highest rating possible: a Level Five. Out of the 3,927 centers that are rated in Colorado, only 69 (two percent) earned a Level Five rating.

“We’ve always known we’re a Level Five center, but it’s nice to be recognized as one officially,” said AELC Director Mary McCain. “Having the ability to accomplish this and offer high quality education to our campus community is our greatest accomplishment.”

The AELC is evaluated every three years, but works on maintaining their high standards and quality continually. “We are always evaluating what we can do better and how we can stay current in the field,” said McCain.

The rating process requires a huge effort on top of the AELC’s daily responsibilities. Preparation includes ensuring that all classrooms have the necessary equipment, the center follows an appropriate schedule, and that staff are trained on and aware of all of the rating requirements and routines. The center must gather and provide data that shows their depth of daily programming and communication, as well as data from parent and staff surveys that shows evidence of family engagement.

In addition, all teachers must be registered in the Professional Development Information System, which tracks qualifications, professional development, and experience. The AELC must ensure that all building and playground maintenance issues are addressed.
New Venue, New Energy for Annual Celebration

The Employee Recognition Committee changed up the annual summer barbeque this year in favor of something a little different. Held on July 27th, the event took place in the Tivoli Turnhalle as a Hawaiian-themed luau. Catered by s’ONO, AHEC staff enjoyed traditional Hawaiian cuisine, while relaxing with colleagues and friends.


SUMMER STAFF CELEBRATION

They also partner with outside organizations to have the center evaluated and to obtain coaching hours, which helps with their rating.

“I am so proud of my team,” McCain continued. “They really put in the maximum effort to make the center an outstanding place for children and families. The whole Auraria community came together to support us in this process.”

New Venue, New Energy for Annual Celebration

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CALENDAR & REMINDERS

October 31, 2018
Mid-year classified staff evaluations due

November 1–30, 2018
Benefits open enrollment for non-classified staff

November 8, 2018
Campus Safe Night

November 19–25, 2018
Fall Break (no classes, campus open)

November 22, 2018
Thanksgiving Holiday (campus closed)

The ERC will drop off one pumpkin to each department to decorate at the beginning of the week. Judging will take place at the end of the week by Executive Office staff.

The winning department will earn bragging rights, a trophy, and some Halloween treats! Stay tuned for details.

Story Ideas & Newsletter Feedback
Contact: Katy Brown, 9th Street News Editor (katy.brown@ahec.edu or 303.556.8090)

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