As Auraria celebrates many new milestones, I am pleased to introduce you to the first issue of our innovative newsletter, “9th Street News.” This newsletter is written and designed for you, our staff, to keep you informed of the many wonderful things happening within our agency and on the campus. “9th Street News,” which will be published five times a year, will highlight important happenings on campus, as well as celebrate the achievements of our employees. If you have ideas about future articles or areas of interest, please contact me. You may also contact Katy Brown, our Director of Communications & Campus Outreach. She and I welcome your thoughts and input.

The newsletter is a timely addition, as I know you have recognized the significant development taking place on campus. Our recent adoption of the expanded neighborhood concept has paved the way for pioneering solutions to our campus population growth and declining funds. The institutions that we serve have risen to the occasion, working in partnership with AHEC on expansion of not only their neighborhoods, but also the shared core.

Also of note is the recent release of the second Auraria Campus Annual Report. This wonderful report underscores the successes of the Auraria Campus, and certainly of our AHEC staff. It is, in essence, our report card and it illustrates the various accomplishments for the year. The contents reflect features that we should all be very proud of.

Volunteers Welcome New Students to Campus

This fall, the "Auraria Welcomes" team continued the tradition of helping new students on campus find their way the first two days of the semester. Stationed at 10 different locations across the campus, nearly 60 Auraria Higher Education Center employee volunteers answered questions, pointed out buildings, and gave directions to countless grateful students.
including that we are part of a unique campus built upon the commitment of individual employees. We work together as a “One Auraria” team to achieve the very best outcomes. I invite you to review the report and share directly in that sense of pride. The report is available online here, or you can pick up a printed hard copy at the EVPA Office.

Finally, I invite you to join me at one of our upcoming “State of Auraria” roundtable discussions where you will have an opportunity to meet with me in a small-group setting to receive detailed updates about the future of the Auraria Campus and have the chance to ask questions. Dates are listed in the newsletter below; stay tuned for the formal invitation.

I look forward to seeing you and celebrating our AHEC triumphs together!

Barb Weiske  
Executive Vice President for Administration  
Agency Chief Executive Officer

CAMPUS NEWS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER

Cherry Creek Upgrades Support Students and Learning

Not only did the Cherry Creek building, formerly known as the South Classroom, get a new name, but it also experienced a full remodel over the summer.

Every part of the building received an upgrade at some level:

- A large, more open café was built with better seating for students to study and relax.
- 57 total classrooms and labs were either newly constructed or remodeled.
- All restrooms were completely remodeled.
- A unisex restroom and 2 staff-only restrooms were added.
- Office space was added and existing offices were fully remodeled.
- A new entrance and welcome center were added.
- More student-focused space was added onto the first and second floors.
- The entire courtyard was remodeled and landscaped to include green space for students, better seating, and a concrete canopy with additional student-focused study areas.

Food, Fun, & Community Building at Employee Appreciation BBQ

This summer’s One Auraria Employee Appreciation event, held on August 9th in 9th Street Park, was a fun opportunity for all employees of the Auraria Higher Education Center to gather, relax, and enjoy good food and wonderful company before the new school year began. Famous Dave’s BBQ catered the meal while Adam Roybal from Human Resources provided the tunes.  

View photo slideshow »

Elm Lot Makes Way for 5th Street Parking Garage

The large structure being built in the Elm Lot is a 307,000 square foot multi-level garage that will offer 926 parking spaces when complete.

The 5th Street Garage will be a fully-automated facility, with the lower level reserved for future retail and commercial space.

Construction on the garage began this past summer; it is slated to open for fall 2014.
New Academic Building Opening in Fall 2014

CU Denver’s new Academic Building on the corner of Speer Boulevard and Larimer Street is on target to open in August 2014. At 146,000 gross square feet, it will provide one location for student services, including admissions, registration, student affairs, and financial services.

The building will have a variety of large lecture hall and classroom spaces, as well as offices for many College of Liberal Arts and Sciences departments. It will offer both indoor and outdoor public spaces, helping to bridge the campus with downtown Denver.

On October 31st, CU Denver faculty, staff, and students are invited to sign the steel beam that will eventually be lifted to the roof for installation.

Learn more »

New Building & New Degree Approved

by Rebecca Anna Jones, MSU Denver Internal Communications

The MSU Denver Board of Trustees has granted approval for a program plan and concept design for a $60 million Aerospace Engineering Sciences building. The plan will now be submitted to the Colorado Department of Higher Education for consideration.

The building, to be located at 7th Street and Auraria Parkway, will house Aviation & Aerospace Sciences, Mechanical, Electrical, and Civil Engineering Technologies, Industrial Design and Physics departments, and Computer Science program.

Getting to Know Your Human Resources Department

by Adam Roybal

The Human Resources Office provides a full spectrum of services and support to all employees of the Auraria Higher Education Center.

New Hire Services
- New Employee Orientation
- Policy Information
- Benefit Options and Packages
- Payroll Withholding
- Direct Deposit Enrollment

General Support
- Employee Wellness
- Affordable Care Act
- Domestic Partner Initiatives
- Personnel Board Rules
- Administrative Procedures

Workplace Support
- Job Performance (for both managers and employees)
- Work–Life Balance
- Mediation Services

Please feel free to contact any of the HR staff with questions about our services and support.

Human Resources
Administration Building, #370
303.556.3384
www.ahec.edu/hr
“We’re building a building to educate students in an interdisciplinary fashion,” said Sandra Haynes, dean of the School of Professional Studies. “This building is being purposely built for interdisciplinary collaboration. We want to make sure our students have the soft skills employers are asking for, not just the technical knowledge, and communication and teamwork are the primary soft skills employers want.”

The proposal calls for a third of the funding to come from the state, a third from private investors and a third from student fees. Once funding is secured, construction can move forward. The goal is to break ground in 2015 with project completion in the spring of 2017.

ROUNDTABLES WITH THE EVPA

State of Auraria Roundtable Discussions

Barb Weiske invites all Auraria Higher Education Center employees to join her for one of the upcoming roundtable discussions where she will share updates on the accomplishments of the last year and talk about the future of the campus. In a small-group setting, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn about the goals for the next year.

Space is limited in each session; please RSVP in advance to Mary Anne Delapp: 303.556.3294.

All Roundtables will take place at the Golda Meir House. Light refreshments will be served.

Monday, October 28 | 2:30–3:30 p.m.
Monday, November 4 | 2:30–3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 5 | 8:30–9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, November 6 | 2:30–3:30 p.m.
Friday, November 8 | 2:00–3:00 p.m.
Friday, November 8 | 3:30–4:30 p.m.
Monday, November 11 | 2:30–3:30 p.m.
Friday, November 15 | 2:00–3:00 p.m.

ONE AURARIA NEWS

Auraria Campus Police Department Honors New Officers and Campus Heroes

The Auraria Campus Police Department held a ceremony before the start of the semester for officers and dispatchers to be sworn in and to honor officers receiving outstanding service awards. Former Chief

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

John Simpson, IT Wizard

While John Simpson's title is Information Technology Professional, to most who know him, he’s an IT Wizard who can fix the most difficult issues related to computers, servers, and mobile devices. He’s been with the Auraria Higher Education Center for almost six years, watching his job responsibilities grow as technologies change.

Simpson grew up on the northeast coast, but wound up in Chicago where he met his wife at the Moody Bible Institute. He earned his BA in communications and broadcasting and began his career at Moody after graduation, providing audiovisual support to the college. He and his wife moved to Colorado two years later and started their family.

Now with four full-grown children and five grandchildren who all live in Colorado, Simpson's hobbies revolve around quality time with his family. But when he finds a few spare moments, he enjoys reading science fiction novels.

Simpson's audiovisual career merged with information technology by necessity. As audiovisual technologies were developing...
John Mackey and Interim Chief Bobby Forrest presided over the ceremony where fellow colleagues, family, and friends gathered to celebrate the officers in the atrium of the Administration Building.

During the swearing-in, each officer took the Oath of Honor, an important public affirmation and ritual in demonstrating ethical standards for police departments.

A number of officers were also honored with awards for their service and bravery. The ceremony served as an important reminder that police officers take risks to protect lives, defend civil liberties, and secure the safety of fellow citizens.

The capstone of the ceremony was in honor of Officer Robert Burnett as the recipient of a Medal of Valor and Purple Heart for his outstanding bravery in the line of duty. On November 10th, 2012, he was the first officer to respond to a dangerous situation on campus where a suspect with a samurai sword was posing a potential threat to a group of ROTC cadets as they prepared for a Veterans Day 5k running event. Officer Burnett was attacked by the suspect, but reacted quickly to the assailant, sustaining serious wounds. He courageously protected the campus from harm and enabled the Veterans Day event to continue.

View photo slideshow »

AHEC Receives Grant to Reduce Water Consumption
by Jon Bortles, AHEC Sustainability Officer

Like most college campuses, much of the 150 acres of the Auraria Higher Education Center is irrigated to support healthy trees, shrubs, sod, and other vegetation. Both well and potable water are used to meet this irrigation demand.

In the summer of 2012, an irrigation audit was performed by Denver Water technicians that outlined many tangible steps that the campus could take to reduce water consumption associated with the irrigation system. Perhaps most notably, the study recommended that the campus update obsolete irrigation controllers in order to automate the scheduling of the various zones across campus more efficiently.

By using "smart" evapotranspiration (ET) technology in conjunction with a new controller, the campus had the opportunity to save a significant amount of water during warm summer months.

AHEC Sustainability Officer, Jon Bortles, applied for and received grant funding from the Governor's Pollution Prevention Advisory Board and the Auraria Sustainable Campus Program (SCP) to pursue Denver Water's recommendation. Specifically the project included the following components:

A new irrigation controller for the 9th Street Historic Park–one of the larger water-consuming areas on campus due to its lush and aesthetically-pleasing landscaping.

The installation of a new weather station that reports evapotranspiration (ET) conditions such as humidity, wind, rain, and temperature.

Last year, Simpson also proved his fiscal prowess, discovering a huge cost-savings measure when he was reviewing the contracts for the cellular modems in the parking lot pay stations. He found that the data plans were much greater than what was technically necessary. By making a reduction in all the data plans, AHEC is now saving nearly $15,000 a year.

5 Questions for John Simpson

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

Before transitioning to IT, I did audiovisual support for a number of hotels and companies. In 1983, after the USFL Championship in Denver, the press conference was at the hotel where I worked. I placed a conference call to Air Force One so Ronald Reagan could congratulate the coach of the Michigan Panthers.

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

Right now. I’ve got 5 grandkids with another due in March. Spending time with them is one of my favorite activities.

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

Google. Very few computer problems are unique—you just need to find out how someone else solved the issue.
A new hydrometer (flow meter) for the 9th Street Historic Park irrigation system that reports water consumption to the central irrigation controls.

Implementing new software that utilizes the ET data, hydrometer readings, and pre-programmed settings to schedule irrigation as efficiently as possible. The software also reports any problems that have been identified during runtime—alerting technicians of potential problems such as a broken line.

The 9th Street Historic Park was chosen as the "pilot" area of the campus due to its irrigation intensity. Data acquired from this specific controller will be used as a "case study" for other state agencies and institutions of higher education. However, the weather station and software that has been purchased can be utilized across all irrigation controllers that are remotely connected to AHEC’s central irrigation computer. This means that the water savings potential expands much further than just 9th Street—it stands to save water campus-wide to the tune of 8.6 million gallons of water per year once all controllers are connected to the ET software.

**HUMBLE HEROES**

Custodial Crew One in front of the Tivoli Student Union (Back Row: Codie Miller, Nam Su Kim, Shawn Romero, Sherrie Sauer, Loretta Solano; Front Row: Andres Mamani, Ofelia Gaona, Blanca Gastulo, Dinorah Lopez, Julie Alvarado, Teresa Acosta; Not Pictured: Deborah Roybal)

**Custodial Crew One: Teamwork Defined**

The Auraria Campus custodial crews supply the campus with a service that is core to the AHEC mission: to provide an effective, efficient, and supportive environment which facilitates the missions of the Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and University of Colorado Denver.

Working behind the scenes through the night shift, Custodial Crew One, managed by Sherrie Sauer, was nominated for the Humble Heroes column because of their amazing teamwork and dedication to making the campus a clean and comfortable environment for students, faculty, and staff.

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

Scotland. My wife and I vacationed there around the turn of the century and have wanted to go back. I have a kilt my wife made for me with tartan from a woolen mill in Edinburgh—I wear it a few times a year when we go to the Scottish Highland Games in Colorado.

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

First, the people—most of the people who work here have a servant heart and a team attitude. Second, the variety—I have a number of different areas I support: access programming, cell phone upgrades, server and storage area network maintenance, long distance toll billing, website coding, desktop support, email spam filtering, RAVE support, PC upgrades etc. Every day is different.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

_Best College Reviews_ ranked the Tivoli Student Union number 9 out of the top 25 student unions in the nation.
Working tirelessly, Custodial Crew One is responsible for a very large campus zone, which includes the Tivoli, Golda Meir, St. Cajetan’s, the Early Learning Center, Parking & Transportation, Facilities Services, the Modulars, the Rectory, and Clear Creek. They ensure the Auraria Campus facilities they clean are spotless and ready to greet the campus community on a daily basis. With a student population of nearly 44,000 and an additional 5,000 faculty and staff, this is no small task. Custodial work is important in supporting the community with accomplishing their educational and professional goals.

Over the years, this team has learned how to unite, especially in times when the campus is in the national spotlight. With high-profile campus visits, such as President Barack Obama, former Presidential Nominee Mitt Romney, and U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Custodial Crew One has banded together, working diligently to present Auraria as a clean, beautiful, and well-cared-for urban campus that supports three prominent academic institutions.

**CALENDAR**

**October 23**
Free Electronics Recycling
10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Tivoli Square
[www.sustainableauraria.org/events](http://www.sustainableauraria.org/events)

**October 29**
Wellness Fair
7:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
Tivoli Turnhalle

**November 12**
Auraria Campus Safe Night
5:00–7:00 p.m.
Tivoli Multicultural Lounge
[www.ahec.edu/safenight](http://www.ahec.edu/safenight)

**December 20**
Winterfest 2013
2:00–3:30 p.m.
Tivoli Turnhalle

**REMEMINDER**

**November 1-31**
Benefits Open Enrollment for Non-Classified Employees

More information will be available soon. Visit the Wellness Fair on October 29th to learn more.

Questions: Contact [Dany McCoy](mailto:Dany.McCoy@asu.edu), 303.556.4557