Another Sensational Set of Milestones

It's always hard to believe when December rolls around. Another semester is over and another year is drawing to a close. Yet, in our arena, progress is continuing…it never seems to stop, regardless of the calendar. Significant construction projects have a life of their own that define the essence of a new day on campus. The Auraria Library project is now taking on the appearance of a new building; the Tivoli Coffee Patio is under construction; the Tivoli Quad is taking rapid shape; CU Denver’s Wellness Center is in full planning mode; the MSU Denver Aerospace and Engineering Sciences project has broken ground; and CU Denver is leading a major renovation of the North Classroom.

Looking over our shoulder at the past year, we can also recognize sensational milestones—the Tivoli Starbucks is now open and thriving; the Tivoli Tap Room is humming and the Brewery is nearing completion; the Tivoli Theaters are transforming into the new CU Denver Media & Film Center; the 5th Street Garage is completed and operable; CCD has fully programmed their new outdoor spaces with activities; and newly enhanced crosswalks and bike lanes are connecting the campus with Denver. The square footage and vibrancy added to the campus is tangible and exciting, as our campus mirrors the growth and vitality of the downtown Denver skyline.
Rhonda Epper Selected as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

In November, CCD President Everette Freeman announced the appointment of Dr. Rhonda Epper as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs beginning January 1, 2016. Epper served on an interim basis in the same role for the past semester.

Epper has a wealth of experience in higher education, beginning her community college career at CCD in 2002, and then continuing to the Colorado Community College System office where she led CCCOnline and served as assistant provost. In addition, she has worked for the California State University System, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), and State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) during her 25-year career. In her most recent role at the Colorado Department of Higher Education, Epper managed policy development and implementation on behalf of the state in transfer/articulation, new program approval, remedial education, concurrent enrollment, supplemental academic instruction, admissions, extended studies, educator preparation, and prior learning assessment.

“Rhonda has quickly become an integral member of our executive leadership team and our academic team at CCD,” said Freeman. “I am delighted that CCD will benefit from her continued service and leadership.”

Barb Weiske
Chief Executive Officer

Reminders

Addresses for W2s
W2s will be processed starting in January. Please verify that your address is correct on your pay advice. If it needs to be updated, contact your supervisor, paymaster, or the Human Resources Office. All corrections must be received by January 8th, 2016.
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

North Classroom Slated for Renovations

North Classroom, originally built in 1987, will undergo major renovations starting this summer. Led by CU Denver, the project will be phased to enable the largest projects to take place during semester breaks. Completion is anticipated for late 2017.

Many of the general classrooms on the first floor will be renovated, with some receiving a complete transformation to better support modern, active learning. All classrooms will receive new technology, ADA compliance features, furnishings, lighting, as well as paint and flooring. In some classrooms, the room layouts will be restructured for improved tiered seating, and some will also have natural lighting introduced.

METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Aerospace and Engineering Sciences Building Breaks Ground

A large and enthusiastic crowd—made up of industry and community leaders, MSU Denver faculty, staff, students, and alumni, legislators and other stakeholders—gathered on October 8th for the groundbreaking of MSU Denver’s Aerospace and Engineering Sciences (AES) Building.

The $60 million facility promises to revolutionize aerospace and advanced manufacturing education with an innovative, cross-disciplinary curriculum that offers the industry a direct pipeline of highly educated, skilled workers.

Opening in 2017, the AES building will be home to the following areas of study:

- aviation and aerospace science
- industrial design
- civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering technology
- computer information systems
- computer science

Campus Closures

With winter weather and the possibility of heavy snow, it’s a good time to be reminded of the Auraria Campus Closure Policy. The decision to close the campus is made by the Campus CEO, Barb Weiske, along with the Auraria Executives Council, which includes leadership from the three institutions. Decisions to close are only made when extreme weather conditions pose an immediate health or safety hazard to campus constituents.

You will receive a text and email alert if a decision is made to close campus, assuming your current information is on file with the Rave Alert System. You may also call the Auraria Campus 24-hour information line for an update: 303-556-2401.

Specific information on closure procedures and notifications can be found in the Campus Closure Policy at www.ahec.edu/policies.

Holiday Schedule

The Human Resources Office and the majority of other AHEC offices will be closed from Friday, December 25th, 2015 through Friday, January 1st, 2016.

To better serve staffing needs, some departments have been granted the discretion of assigning holidays to alternate days throughout the year. For those departments that observe an alternate holiday schedule, employees should contact their supervisor regarding the use of leave.

View the 2016 Holiday Schedule: www.ahec.edu/holidays.
The $33 million project will touch every part of the building, bringing improvements to the restrooms, corridors, wayfinding, and elevator cabs. Additionally, building systems are slated for improvements: a new roof, new chiller, fire sprinkler system replacement, new air handling units, and new electrical transformers.

**‘ONE AURARIA’ NEWS**

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT**

**Matt Keller**  
Director of the Media Center and Classroom Support Services

Matt Keller has just begun his 10th year with AHEC. Initially, he was hired as a production manager in the Media Center, but moved to his current position as Director of the Media Center and Classroom Support Services about nine years ago.

Following the “Yes” Before “No” Guiding Principle, Keller and his staff seek out issues and jump to meet the needs of the institutions through technical assistance for campus classrooms, while also running media spaces for academic purposes. Some of the department’s projects of note include initiating an after-hours call center for the institutions, providing high-tech upgrades to the technical broadcasting studio (which inspired two new classes at CU Denver), and becoming the official education content provider for Comcast and CenturyLink’s PEG (public, educational, and governmental access) programming.

In addition to his interest in technical production, Keller enjoys fishing, golfing, and travel. He has been to Italy, England, Israel, and France, among many other destinations. Keller will continue to make traveling a priority; he enjoys experiencing other cultures and seeing the accomplishments of other countries, as well as getting to know people around the world.

While Keller has travelled extensively, his home has always been Colorado. He and his wife of 29 years, Diane, enjoy spending time with their family: daughter Kate and her husband Nick, daughter Emily, and two rescue dogs—a 10-year-old chocolate lab, Sophie, and an 8-month-old golden lab mix, Capra, who is named after Frank Capra, the director of It’s a Wonderful Life.

**5 Questions for Matt**

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

   The most interesting job I have ever had was freelancing as a super slow-motion replay operator for network sporting events (basketball, football, and baseball). I traveled all over the United States and met

**RECENT NEW HIRES**

Discover new colleagues who have recently joined the “One Auraria” community.

- **Rogelio Diaz**, Equipment Mechanic, Facilities Services
- **Patrick Gaimara**, Custodian, Student Facilities Services
- **Kristi Gladem**, Grounds & Nursery, Facilities Services
- **Christopher Hallgren**, Pipe Mechanic Trades, Facilities Services
- **Donavon Lenhart**, Custodian, Student Facilities Services
- **MacKenzie Lowe**, Stagehand, Academic Support Services
- **George Neihouse**, Custodian, Student Facilities Services
- **Kathy Wagoner**, Accounting Manager, Accounting Services
and saw all the greats—Larry Bird, Michael Jordan, Derek Jeter, Joe Torrey, Joe Namath, Bart Starr, Terry Bradshaw, and Joe Montana, just to name a few.

2. If you could choose any period of history to live, when would it be and why?
The 1940s—I really like that time period. It was very romantic. It had great music. It was a very traditional time, and people were held to a higher standard.

3. What is a tool you use for work that you couldn’t live without?
That's easy! My Lord, Jesus Christ; my wife, Diane, and our family; and my team: Kent Courtnage, Randy Williams, Charlie Bryant, John Simpson, Mike Shinn, Dave Ayler, Troy Lucero, Zach Thompson, Mark Nichols, Rob Byers, and Jeff Stamper. I hope they’re not offended that I’m calling them tools—I think they get my meaning.

4. If you could travel anywhere in the world for a week, where would you go?
Earth’s orbit. Technically you’re being held in Earth’s orbit by the gravitational pull. So, that’s my answer and I’m sticking to it.

5. What do you enjoy most about your job and working for AHEC?
It’s a team effort. We all have the same goal in mind. It’s all about the students and staff members of the institutions. We are here for our clients—CCD, MSU Denver, and CU Denver.

HUMBLE HEROES

AHEC Team Hosts Large-Scale Emergency Preparedness Exercise

During fall break, the Auraria Higher Education Center and the Health Center at Auraria held a large-scale Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise to prepare for public health emergencies and to practice their response.

After nearly a year of comprehensive planning, Emergency Preparedness Manager Eric Leath was responsible for organizing approximately 100 campus stakeholders and community volunteers from a wide range of organizations, including Denver Public Health,

SPECIAL OFFER FOR AHEC STAFF

Tavern Downtown Discount for AHEC Staff

The Tavern Downtown, located at 1949 Market Street, is offering a generous discount to all AHEC staff.

Swing by with your AHEC ID to enjoy 15% off all food and beverages.

Discount details
• 15% off food & beverage
• Valid only at Tavern Downtown
• Valid for staff with a valid Auraria Higher Education ID
• Valid for ID holder only
• Valid every day until 8 p.m.
• Not valid toward cover or ticket price for an event
• Not valid toward tax or gratuity
• Not valid with other offers or discounts

CALENDAR & REMINDERS

December 18, 2015
Winterfest
2–3:30 p.m. | Tivoli Turnhalle

Campus Closed

January 19, 2016
Spring Semester begins

January 20, 2016
AELC Kindergarten Open House
5–6 p.m. | Room 129
Early Learning Center
Denver Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Denver Department of Environmental Health, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the American Red Cross, among many others.

The cross-disciplinary AHEC team that Leath assembled to contribute to the exercise included staff from the **Auraria Campus Police Department, King Center, Tivoli Station, Integrated Marketing & Communications, Student Facilities Services**, and the **Executive Office**.

With the **Guiding Principle “Delight Our Customers”** in mind, the team worked together to ensure the exercise was as realistic as possible for all the campus stakeholders. They provided logistical support, safety, marketing and support materials, as well as the facilities. Some individuals from these departments participated as actors for the exercise scenario.

“All in all,” said Leath, “Denver Public Health and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment were extremely impressed with our operation—they feel we are ahead of the game.”

The POD exercise was an incredibly important emergency preparedness event for the campus community. If a serious public health situation were to occur as a result of a natural disaster, an act of terrorism, or a pandemic event, the Auraria Campus and the Health Center at Auraria would work in partnership with Denver Public Health as a POD location to distribute medication, vaccines, and/or medical supplies to thousands of people in a very short period of time in order to reduce serious health risks to the community.