AURARIA
CAMPUS
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022
Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD) recommends saving our emergency services numbers in your contact list:

**ACPD Dispatch:**
303-556-5000

**Text-A-Tip:**
720-593-TIPS (8477)

If immediate assistance is required on campus, please dial the ACPD dispatch number. Calls placed to 9-1-1 are received by the Denver Police Department dispatch center and will be rerouted to ACPD, resulting in delayed response time.
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Dear Auraria Campus Students, Faculty and Staff,

As we reflect on the past year and look to the one ahead, please know we value the opportunity to continue to serve this community and every individual who comprises it. My vision for our campus is for it to be a safe, inspiring and inclusive place for students to discover and realize their academic potential, and a warm and inviting environment for faculty and staff to work.

The Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD) acknowledges the history of racial inequities that the Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) community faces in all aspects of life in our country, as well as the problematic practices that have impeded respect and trust of police and the communities we’re called to serve. We do not and will not tolerate racial bias or racially motivated actions by any of our officers or staff. ACPD promises our campus community that we will continue to act with integrity, honesty and transparency to ensure the bonds of trust with our BIPOC community are not broken, but continually strengthened. This past year, ACPD leadership, along with the ACPD Community Advisory Board (CAB), underwent Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI) training with a local DEI professional. This month-long training included discussions about race and policing practices, and we’ll continue to build upon what we’ve learned in the years to come.

In the past, not all voices have had an equitable opportunity to be shared. ACPD is committed to fostering meaningful, robust conversations and relationships with our campus community, and outlined in this report are several programs implemented to do just that. Members of our campus community have more opportunities than ever to have a seat at the table and voice issues of importance.

From the creation and expansion of the ACPD CAB, our trusted team of Neighborhood Community Officers, and our Community Relations Team, we are well-equipped to not only serve and protect our community but connect and build relationships with those who call our community their academic home and workplace. We look forward to participating in AHEC’s annual events including Fall Fest, Spring Fling and the Auraria Sustainable Campus Program Bike Safety events. We hope you’ll take a moment to say “hello” to the members of our team, including our trusted K-9 officer, Jet.

ACPD staff also participate in campus community panel discussions to address current events and hot-topics, including active shooter scenarios, homelessness and campus resources, drug addiction and recovery, and more.

The ACPD is vested with a substantial amount of public trust from our community. Operating in an urban environment brings unique challenges, and yet the Auraria Campus has one of the lowest campus crime rates in Colorado. I attribute this to the quality of character of the individuals that make up our campus community.

Thank you for taking the time to review ACPD’s annual report. I hope you’ll reach out with any questions or suggestions regarding how ACPD can better serve the Auraria community and thank you again for the opportunity to serve each of you. It is our privilege and honor to call ourselves your Auraria Campus Police Department.

Sincerely,

Chief Michael Phibbs
Chief of Auraria Campus Police Department & Campus Safety
The Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) was built to house and serve 15,000 students, a number we exceeded when we opened our doors in 1976. AHEC has continued to adapt and grow to become a modern campus bustling with activity in the heart of downtown Denver. Today, the Auraria Campus is the largest collective college campus in Colorado, serving over 43,000 students, faculty, and staff. AHEC proudly operates the Auraria Campus on an efficient shared services model to support three of Colorado's finest higher educational institutions: Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and the University of Colorado Denver.

As the state's steward of the Auraria Campus, AHEC's shared services model offers substantial cost savings to each of its institutions, which also provides significant cost savings for our students as well as Colorado taxpayers. The state appropriated funds, which flow through the three institutions, and auxiliary services provide the necessary funds to run the campus. For every dollar invested in the Auraria Campus, there is a triple-multiplier effect, benefiting three institutions and over 43,000 students, faculty, and staff.

The sum of the Auraria Campus is greater than its parts: AHEC provides a solid campus foundation by hosting and maintaining the Tivoli Student Union, the Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD), the Auraria Library, the King Center for the Performing Arts, and the Health Center at Auraria. AHEC also provides the following shared services: parking, purchasing, receiving, mail, facilities maintenance, custodial, trash/recycling, sustainability, and event management. Two RTD light rail stations flank the campus and provide an accessible gateway to our downtown Denver partners.

As previously mentioned, AHEC hosts and maintains the ACPD. The following report aims to provide transparency and illustrate the Department's role on campus, their operational structure, overall mission, and how they execute that mission.
The Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD) is charged with the primary responsibility of providing police and security services to the Auraria Campus, which houses the Community College of Denver (CCD), Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver), and University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver).

The ACPD is committed to enhancing the quality of life on the Auraria Campus for the students, faculty, and staff it serves. Although located in an urban environment, the Auraria Campus has one of the lowest campus crime rates in Colorado.

The ACPD is a full-service police department, operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. As of July 9, 2021, the ACPD employs 31 sworn officers, 12 neighborhood community officers (non-sworn), eight administrative staff including dispatch, one emergency management staff member, one social worker and one Canine (K-9) Unit.

ACPD officers patrol the 150-acre campus in SUVs, cars, hybrid patrol vehicles, on electric motorcycles and bicycles, and on foot.

The Auraria Campus is defined by those properties, private streets, retail operations, and facilities owned by the State of Colorado and used by students, staff, faculty, and visitors, which are roughly bounded by Auraria Parkway, Speer Boulevard, and Colfax Avenue, and includes the Regency Athletic Complex and Lynx’s Crossing apartments.
The ACPD is charged with:

- Protection of Life & Property
- Detection of Crime
- Enforcement of Laws & Regulations
- Traffic Control
- Presentations on Crime Prevention & Personal Safety
- Building & Facility Security
- Investigations
ACPD Patrol & Operations:

The Patrol Division is staffed by uniformed officers who patrol the Auraria Campus, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to prevent crime, maintain peace, apprehend offenders, and protect life and property. Officers respond to a variety of civil and administrative matters, as well as enforce applicable local, state, and federal codes, ordinances, and laws. Other services include:

- After-hours admission to campus buildings
- Night escorts to vehicles on campus
- Vehicle trespass prevention
- Emergency response
- Unlocking vehicles (lost or locked keys in vehicles)
- Bicycle theft prevention

The Bike Unit performs regular patrol duties to maintain campus safety by mountain bike. They are equipped to act in any situation on campus and are often able to respond more quickly than police cruisers given the nature of bicycle maneuverability and access. Members of the Bike Unit are certified through a Bicycle Patrol Unit training course, which emphasizes patrol procedures, safety, and accident avoidance.

The DUI Unit is committed to reducing the number of impaired drivers on the road by enforcing impairment laws (DUI/DWAI) and by delivering alcohol awareness presentations to the campus community. The DUI Unit has been recognized by the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) organization for “Outstanding Team Dedication to DUI Enforcement.”

The Canine (K-9) Unit provides enhanced safety and community policing services for the campus. ACPD’s K-9, Jet, and his handler, ACPD Officer Yama Gafari, are trained in explosives detection. As a team, they respond and investigate calls related to explosive materials on campus. In addition, the team supports high-profile events that require protective sweeps.

ACPD Dispatch handles all campus 911 calls and calls for police service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They monitor regional public safety radio traffic and panic, fire, and intrusion alarms and Text-A-Tip.

- Text-A-Tip allows the campus community to report suspicious or concerning activities discreetly.
- If You See Something, Say Something encourages the campus community to be the eyes and ears for a safer campus.

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is dedicated to ensuring the Auraria Campus faculty, staff, and students are equipped and ready for emergency situations. In partnership with the institutions on campus, the OEM is responsible for:

- Coordinating the planning, training, and preparation for emergencies before they occur
- Responding quickly and effectively when issues arise
- Managing recovery efforts to maintain fundamental campus services and operations after an emergency-related event
As we reflect on the past year and look to the one ahead, please know we value the opportunity to continue to serve this community and every individual who comprises it. Our vision is for campus to be a safe, inspiring, and inclusive place for students to discover and realize their academic potential, and a warm and inviting environment for faculty and staff to work.

Homelessness
The ACPD is committed to providing upstanding service not just to the students, faculty, and staff on Auraria Campus but also to our most vulnerable and un-housed visitors. The ACPD has a working relationship with St. Elizabeth’s, located at the corner of St. Francis Way and Curtis Street, which serves its mission by providing a daily lunch line and clothing drives for persons experiencing homelessness in downtown Denver. These activities occur within the bounds of the Auraria Campus, and all ACPD officers interact with these individuals with respect and awareness of the many social, economic, and health hurdles they face.

While this campus is open to the public, please do not hesitate to contact ACPD in the case of an unauthorized person in non-public buildings. In accordance with city ordinances, camping is not permitted on campus grounds. If an individual or group attempts to camp, ACPD will respond immediately and help them find a safe place to relocate.

Gun Violence
We know that there are heightened concerns and fears about active shooters on campus, in classrooms, and in offices. The ACPD is trained and prepared to effectively respond to any threat or danger on campus. The ability to prevent and respond to threats adequately is our key focus and we consistently assess and engage in the necessary training and tools to help us do our jobs and keep our community safe.

ACPD depends on the campus community to alert us if they see something or someone suspicious. For those interested, ACPD offers monthly classes on Active Harmer Preparedness and Stop the Bleed, a course to teach people how to use tourniquets and control life threatening bleeding. Courses can be found at:

www.ahec.edu/services-departments/emergency-preparedness/training
Cyber/Hacking Threats

As a campus that inspires to always be improving, Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) recently implemented efficiencies by streamlining internal systems, including file automation, and worked with external consultants to develop a secure data center of excellence, conducted tabletop exercises for cyber health, and examined and remediated known web security vulnerabilities.

Sexual Assault/Harassment

Students who have been sexually assaulted can attain services, guidance and intervention by contacting the campus’ Health Center or the Phoenix Center. After meeting with either of these agencies, a student has the option for a forensic evidence-based examination which is provided at no charge. The Health Center has a formalized agreement with Denver Health that provides all students on the Auraria Campus direct access to a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) who is trained to perform medical forensic examinations.

The Health Center at Auraria is available to coordinate and pay for transportation to Denver Health for the SANE exam, if requested. Transportation options include using current ride services such as Uber and Lyft, taxi services and/or various public transportation alternatives. The exact mode of transportation is determined at the time of need, in consultation with the individual needing transportation.

Students who access a SANE for a medical forensic examination are NOT required to participate with law enforcement investigations or any criminal justice response.

24/7 Crisis Lines

MENTAL HEALTH & VICTIM ASSISTANCE CRISIS LINE:

303-615-9911
or text TALK to 38255

THE PHOENIX CENTER AT AURARIA HELP LINE:

303-556-CALL
(303-556-2255)

Information for survivors and concerned others related to interpersonal violence, referrals, options, and next steps
CO-RESPONDER PROGRAM

The Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD) currently employs one co-responder through an agreement with the Mental Health Center of Denver.

A co-responder is a licensed mental health clinician trained to assist people in crisis. Working in close partnership with the ACPD, the clinician responds to calls involving people who have mental illness or co-occurring substance abuse issues. This “collaborative response” approach allows for the clinician to offer the most effective services to resolve the situation and provide long-term community support.

CO-RESPONDER CALLS IN FY 2021–2022

383
Auraria has one of the lowest campus crime rates in Colorado. The most frequent crimes reported on campus are trespassing and minor larceny, also known as petty theft. In fact, bikes are among the most common items stolen on campus. Here are some tips and tricks on how to ensure your bike will still be there when you come back:

- Metal U-locks are always recommended over cable or chain locks.
- If you’re using a U-Lock, try to fill as much of the internal space as possible.
- Lock your bike in a busy place or in front of a monitored building. Locking your bike among other bikes makes it harder for someone to steal it unnoticed.
- Lock your bike to a fixed object like a rack or sign post.
- Lock the frame and wheel of your bike. If only the wheel is locked, someone can remove the wheel and take the rest of your bike.
Building relationships and trust in our campus community is important to us, and we were so happy to participate in in-person gatherings last year as we hosted a variety of fun campus events. ACPD has also been involved in a number of new student open houses and information tables throughout the year.

**ACPD Petting Zoo**

In May, ACPD hosted a petting zoo to help students cope with the stress of finals. We partnered with the counseling centers from each institution, as well as Colorado State Employee Assistance Program, to offer mental health resources.

**Cocoa With the Cops**

Each year, ACPD hosts “Cocoa with the Cops” to create a space where members of the community felt comfortable to engage in dialogue with our staff in a public setting.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BBQ With a Badge

“BBQ with a Badge” was another opportunity for the community to interact with our staff. This event was co-sponsored by the criminal justice departments of each institution so that criminal justice students, as well as community members, could learn about our agency, as well as other local law enforcement agencies.

Spring Fling & Fall Fest

“Spring Fling” and “Fall Fest” are held each semester to allow our staff to engage with members of the community. The purpose of these events is to educate community members about our department, the services we provide, and how to contact us in the event of an emergency.

Campus Safe Night

“Campus Safe Night” is an event where we partner with the community to identify unsafe or areas in need of repair throughout the campus. Examples include lack of lighting, lights that do not work, uneven pavement and more. At this event, Dr. Gail Bruce-Sanford from MSU Denver’s Counseling Center provided a presentation on how to cope with COVID-19 related stressors.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Influenced Public Safety Project

Last year we hired a consultant, Lisa Neal Graves, to engage with the community, learn about their public safety concerns, and provide recommendations to ACPD and the campus. Over the course of five months, Lisa engaged with nearly two thousand people and received over 560 survey responses. Of those who completed the survey, on a scale from 1-to-100, the average score of how safe people felt on campus was 68. Discussions and survey participants provided insight into how the Auraria Campus community feels about their safety. The top concerns included:

- Situational Awareness - being alert in the environment with access to resources as needed.
- Improved Lighting - the interior buildings on campus need more lighting as do some of the parking lots.
- Mutual Aide Center and Integrated Care and Conduct Center due to increased needs of the surrounding unhoused community.

Lisa gave us a Community Influenced Public Safety Report in May 2022. We have already begun addressing these concerns and incorporating her recommendations into future plans for ACPD and the campus.

By The Numbers:

- **1845** INDIVIDUAL/GROUPS PARTICIPATED IN THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS
- **563** TOTAL SURVEY RESPONSES
- **460** MSU PEOPLE ENGAGED
- **520** CU DENVER PEOPLE ENGAGED
- **530** CCD PEOPLE ENGAGED
The ACPD not only works to keep students, faculty and staff safe, but also advocates for policies to make our campus an even more secure and healthy place for our community members to learn, work, and thrive. Below are some of the Legislative issues Chief Phibbs worked on in the 2022 Legislative Session:

- Jail Depopulation and Arrest Standards (SB22-62 & SB 22-273)
- School to Prison Pipeline/School Resource Officers (SB 22-182)
- Protest Reform (SB 22-31)
- Ketamine (HB 22-1251)
- Senate Bill 217 Clean-Up (HB 22-1250)
- Expansion of Mental Health Peace Officer Grant Program (HB 22-1030)
- Peace Officer Credibility Disclosures (SB 22-174)
- Eyewitness Identification Show Up Regulation (HB 22-1142)
- Catalytic Converter Records and Grant Program (HB 222-1217)
- Fentanyl Accountability and Prevention (HB 22-1326)
- Stockpile for Declared Disaster Emergencies (HB 22-1352)
- Remove Peace Officer Residency Requirement (HB 22-1371)
- Crime Prevention Through Safer Streets (SB 22-001)
- Law Enforcement Agency Peace Officer Services (SB 22-005)
- Expand Court Reminder Program (SB 22-018)
- Deceptive Tactics Juvenile Custodian Interrogation (SB 22-023)
- Improving Missing Person Investigations (SB 22-095)
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