

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 | APRIL 2024

## HEALTHCARE DAY FEBRUARY

As the “Best Class Ever” of the 2023-2024 Leadership Aurora program reaches our midpoint, Healthcare Day offered profound insights into how important our medical systems are and how the City of Aurora contains some of our country’s most advanced medical procedures and technologies making Healthcare Day, a truly unforgettable and enriching experience.



Left:  
Aurora Mental  
Health and  
Recovery  
Panel

It is without question that the evolving post-pandemic world has brought mental health into the limelight, cutting across all industry sectors from professional sports to corporate boardrooms. Mental health has a universal impact, transcending gender, race, socio-economic status, and social status. It is for this reason that for the first time ever, Leadership Aurora uniquely spotlighted mental health with a visit to Aurora Mental Health and Recovery. Katie Snell, COO, shared the organization’s evolution from a grassroots movement in 1975 to its present-day extensive services, including mental illness and substance abuse treatments and adult behavioral health programs, all

contributing significantly to Aurora’s community. A testimony to the importance and success of Aurora Mental Health and Recovery will be the expected construction and completion of their 40,000Sq/ft Potomac Campus that will offer Crisis Services, Detox Services and Connect to Care Services.

Our Healthcare Day continued at The Medical Center of Aurora (TMCA), a Level 2 Trauma Center. We are beyond lucky to have a Level 2 Trauma Center in our backyard as they can provide 24/7 access to all essential medical specialties, staff and equipment needed to treat significant trauma.

Welcomed by Scott Rausch, CEO of HealthONE, we delved into the details of TMCA’s operations, including visits to the ICU, Catheter Lab, Operating Room, and Interventional Radiology. However, what was most impressive about TMCA is their world-renowned reputation



Touring Medical  
Center of Aurora



Medial Center of Aurora

for Stroke Treatment Centers. In fact, TMCA Endovascular team is one of the best in the country drawing attention and engagement from top Vascular Neurologists from around the world. While the Endovascular team here at TMCA have ample bragging rights for the amazing work they do, they humbly describe themselves as, "Brain Plumbers".

The day culminated with an engaging visit to UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital, where Sr. Director of Trauma Services, Regina Kreil, and COO Pradipta Komanduri shared valuable insights into the dangers of distracted driving and an overview of the hospital's operations. Rounding off an enlightening day, tours of the Falck Advanced Life Support Center, the Critical Care Transport and Mobile Simulation Unit, the Emergency Department, and the hospital's Helipad were provided. If you were lucky enough to be on a tour with Kit, we found ourselves 11 stories above the ground, locked outside the hospital on the Helipad! Thankfully, Leadership Aurora member and Senior Director for Pre-Hospital Care at UCHealth, Mark Scherschel was our superhero who came to our rescue by opening those doors 11 stories up! Thank you, Mark and thank you Leadership Aurora for an absolutely incredible day highlighting our amazing medical services we have here right in the City of Aurora!

Ryan Seely,  
Leadership Aurora Class of 2024



Helicopter pad at University of Colorado Hospital



Simulation Lab at UC Health



Simulation Lab at UC Health

# MILITARY DAY MARCH

The “Best Class Ever” of the 2023-2024 Leadership Aurora program had one of its best days ever with the military session on March 21st. The day was action-packed, filled with interesting information and unique experiences.

The day started with several mission briefings starting with an overview of Buckley Space Force Base. In total, there are about 12,000 people who work on the base across every branch of the military and 117 base partners. Specifically the Space Base Delta 2 operations is charged with “delivering unrivaled global combat support” to partners and allies and “empowering uninterrupted missile warning, intelligence and cyber operations” across 10 worldwide operations locations.

The Space Force was established on December 20, 2019 with the 460th Space Wing, which includes Space Base Delta 2 and Space Delta 4, was activated on July 24, 2020. In June 2021, Buckley Air Force Base was officially renamed Buckley Space Force Base. The total economic impact of the base is approximately \$1.3 billion, with the Space Force looking to grow in areas of cyber and intelligence, and maybe even forming their own Space National Guard, in the future.



The Colorado Air National Guard (COANG), otherwise known as the “Mile High Militia”, includes 1650 citizen airmen, 35% of which are full time. The Delta 4 mission briefing touched on their work 365 24/7 to execute global missile warning defense systems and protect the homeland as well as the growing threats to the U.S. and our allies.

The group was then taken on a flightline tour where we learned about the work and money that goes into maintaining the fleet of 23 F16s. The youngest plane on site was 30+ years old, and LA members were able to see for themselves just how little leg room there is when flying one of these!

Following the flightline tour, we heard from a panel of recently enlisted military members across the branches of service, including Space Force, Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

Following the panel, we attempted to tour the Radomes (golf balls), however due to a delay in the security check we were unable to complete the tour into this restricted area. We didn’t want to jeopardize the visit to the Army Aviation Facility where we were taken up in groups in Blackhawk helicopters for a tour of downtown Denver, Red Rocks and the closest flyover of grass in a helicopter many of us will ever experience!

The day ended with a stop at the Colorado Freedom Memorial where its Executive Director, Rick Crandall shared history of the memorial and future plan to memorialize Colorado’s fallen soldiers.

A big thank you to Buckley Space Force Base for their hospitality and the group who helped make it all happen! It was definitely a day for the memory books!

Ashley Verville,  
Leadership Aurora Class of 2024



Below and left: Blackhawk ride!



Left: “Mile High” Stadium



Above: Colorado Freedom Memorial

Below: Social Hour at BJ’s



Below: checking out the F16s



# Letter from the VP

Happy April, BCE '24!

I can't believe we only have a few more months together as a class, time truly has flown by. It's been remarkable to see the relationships we have built together and how we have strengthened the Aurora community with the work we are doing and the connections we are making. As I look back on the last several months, it's been incredible to see the journey we have taken - from learning how to best support our local community to taking helicopter rides over the Denver Metro area, we have not only learned a lot but we have found ways in which to give back to our community and to continue to support and uplift one another. I know that this will only be the beginning of such a wonderful journey for many years to come. I couldn't imagine knowing better people and leaders to call my friends and I know we're only getting started.

See you soon,  
*Joseph*

## This Saturday

LAUNCH  
PAD  
BREWERY

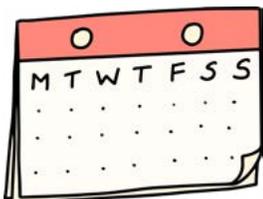


### FUNDRAISER

Saturday, April 6th

12:30-4:30

884 South Buckley Road, Aurora, CO, 80017



Click [HERE](#)  
for **UPCOMING**  
**Chamber Events**

## MINI CLASS PROJECT

**APRIL 18:  
HYGIENE PRODUCTS**

(SHAMPOO, SOAPS, TOOTHPASTE,  
TOOTHBRUSHES, ETC)



TOO OFTEN WE UNDERESTIMATE  
THE POWER OF A TOUCH, A SMILE,  
A KIND WORD, A LISTENING EAR,  
AN HONEST COMPLIMENT, OR THE  
SMALLEST ACT OF CARING, ALL OF  
WHICH HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO  
TURN A LIFE AROUND.

-LEO BUSCAGLIA

Thank you to the Newsletter Committee  
for their contributions

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Wendy Reneé  
Ethan Ruterbories  
Ryan Seely  
Mitch Stillman  
Ashley Verville

**POLICE  
DAY**

**SEE YOU ON  
APRIL 18!**

## SUBMISSIONS

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

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