SERVING

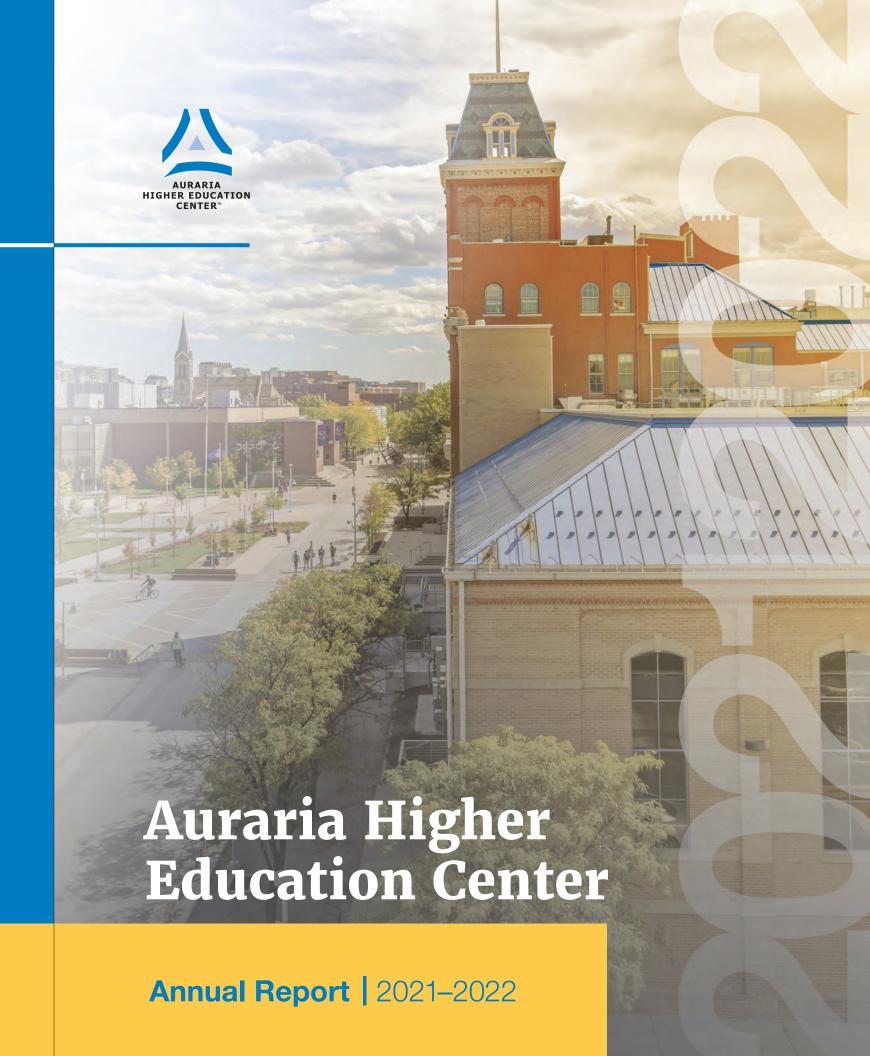
Community College of Denver

Metropolitan State University of Denver

University of Colorado Denver

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Auraria Higher Education Center 1068 9th Street Park, Denver, CO 80204 www.ahec.edu | 303.556.2400

AHEC Annual Report | 2021–2022 AHEC Annual Report | 2021–2022

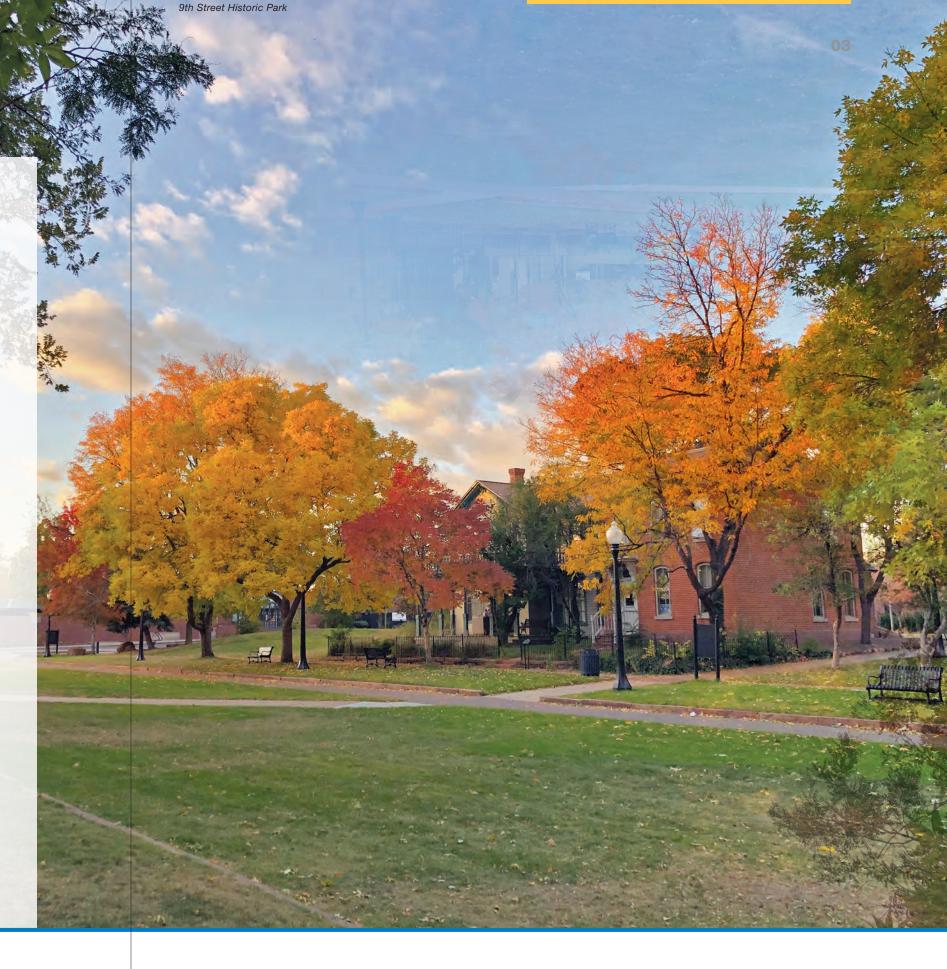


As we gather today, we honor and acknowledge that the Auraria Higher Education Center is on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nations. This area was also the site of trade, hunting, gathering, and healing for many other Native Nations: The Lakota, Ute, Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, Shoshone, and others.

We recognize the Indigenous peoples as the original stewards of the land, water, plants, and animals who called this place home. As these words of acknowledgment are spoken and heard, the ties that these nations have to their traditional homelands are renewed and reaffirmed. Let us also acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal. We respect the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land on which we gather. We pay our respect to them and give thanks to all Tribal Nations and the ancestors of this place.

We also want to recognize the community and families of Auraria who lived, worked, and worshiped at Auraria. One of the two original settlements in the mid-1800s that later formed greater Denver, Auraria nurtured immigrants, businesses, and families. Many of the oldest buildings of Auraria continue to exist and add beauty and significance to this land.

The decision to use this historically rich location in order to create a permanent home for Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and University of Colorado Denver was a difficult one. Let us honor the sacrifice of Aurarians and acknowledge their contribution in order for public higher education to flourish in Denver.



AHEC Annual Report | 2021–2022



Message from the CEO

As I walked around the Tivoli Quad on June 24, 2022. I felt a palpable excitement reverberating from campus, and across the entire city of Denver, as the Colorado Avalanche played for the Stanley Cup. As I cheered among the crowd of students, faculty, staff and other Avs fans, I felt proud to be a part of such an extraordinary community.

I also couldn't help but think, 'It feels good to be back.'

The Stanley Cup watch party series, to me, signified the reinvigoration of Auraria's campus and its community in the post-COVID-19 era. More than 45,000 people joined the Auraria community to cheer on the Avs to victory, and hosting the official watch parties was a capstone of the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

While COVID-19 continued to present challenges this past year, our educational institutions, along with others across the country, developed and implemented means of protecting our students, faculty and staff amidst the exciting, in-person opportunities now available to us all.

As we embark on another year, I invite you to join me as I reflect on challenges we've faced, opportunities we've seized, and our continued commitment to our community of learners, faculty and staff who make Auraria the vibrant place it is today. While AHEC has not been immune to workforce issues, we took the opportunity last year to examine vacancies and the current needs of our organization and institutions, while working to provide meaningful career opportunities and a healthy work environment for our faculty and staff.

In the last fiscal year, we adopted a new strategic plan and made strides in our newly defined pillars that form the foundation of the Auraria Ecosystem: exemplary service, activated partnerships, vibrant environments and sustainable funding.

The creation of this strategic plan allowed for much contemplation and discussion among the AHEC leadership team and provided an opportunity to define what we want the identity of Auraria to be: a community where differences are welcomed, and every individual feels a sense of belonging and inclusion.

The spirit of a shared campus means embracing cooperation and collaboration among partners, stakeholders and the community members we serve while also acknowledging the groups of people who previously lived on the land that is now the Auraria Campus. The Auraria Board of Directors unanimously adopted the Auraria Campus Land Acknowledgment last year, a statement that is now read at all board and AHEC staff meetings as well as at many other events on campus. We also welcomed members of the Displaced Aurarian community and heard their stories of when this campus was once their neighborhood.

We want Auraria to be a place where students, faculty, staff, and Downtown Denver community members gather, cultivate relationships, and get inspired. Last year, we prioritized projects that create an inviting environment. We modernized the Arts Building, including much-needed updates to its WiFi, and renovated its student lounge. We embarked on campus beautification projects and welcomed three new art pieces as part of the 5280 Trail project. And, we furthered our progress in the Speer Reimagined initiative with Urban Land Institute, the City and County of Denver, and Downtown Denver Partnership.

It's my great honor to lead the Auraria campus community, and I look forward to another year of learning, connection and achievement.

With gratitude,

Colleen Walker, CEO | Auraria Higher Education Center

Auraria Higher Education Center

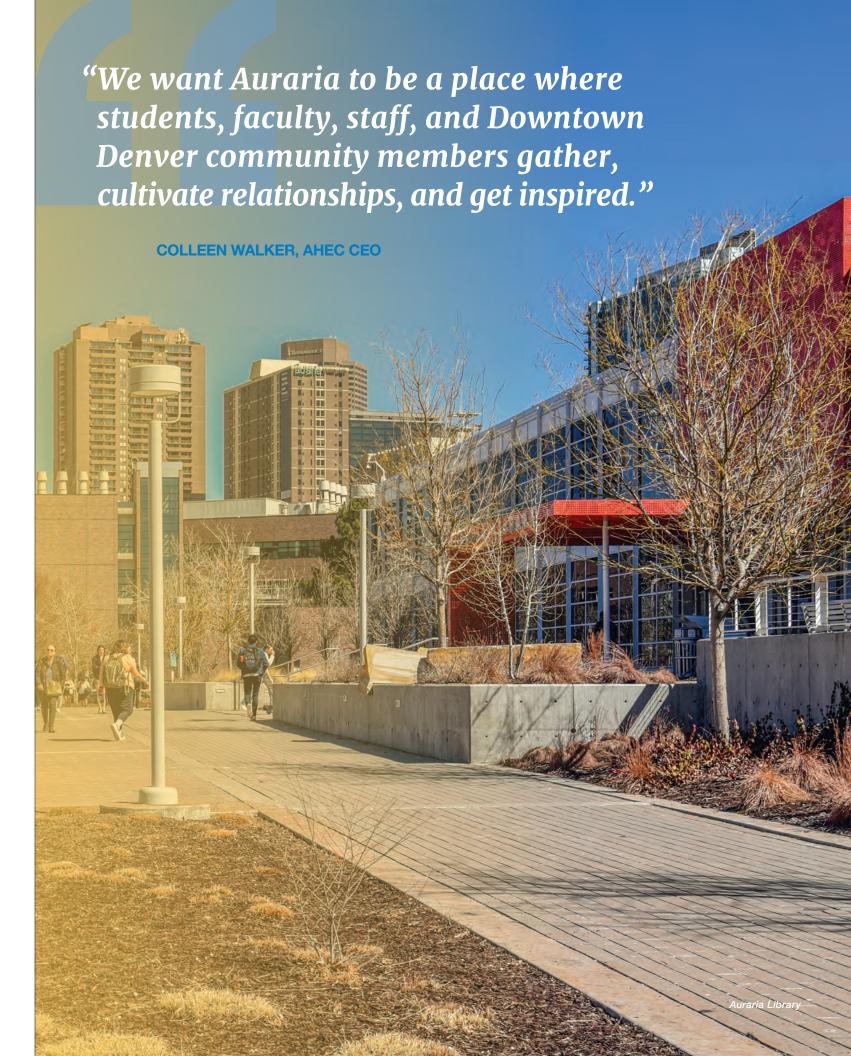
The Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) was built to house and serve 15,000 students, a number we exceeded when we opened our doors in 1976. AHEC has continued to adapt and grow to become a modern campus bustling with activity in the heart of downtown Denver. Today, the Auraria Campus is the largest 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 (CCD), Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver), and University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver).

As a separate state entity, AHEC's role is to provide and manage shared services, facilities, and property to support these prominent institutions in achieving their goals.

AHEC provides the following campus services:

- Auraria Library
- Kenneth King Performing Arts Center
- Tivoli Student Union
- Auraria Early Learning Center
- Auraria Campus Police Department
- Parking and Transportation Services
- Acquisition and Property Management
- Classroom Scheduling and Media Support

- Commercial Lease and Contract Negotiation/Management
- Conference and Event Services
- Internal Support Services:
 - Business Operations
 - Financial Management
 - Human Resources
 - Information Technology and Telecommunications
 - Marketing and Campus Relations



Fall 2021 Student **Population Data**

The Auraria Campus is proud of its diversity. This fiscal year, all three institutions were officially designated as Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) by the U.S. Department of Education.

In 2001, CCD officially received its HSI designation, and Latinx students make up approximately 40% of their student population. They have continued to lead the way for the past 20 years with enrolling and graduating Latinx undergraduate students. In 2019, MSU Denver officially received their HSI designation. Currently, Hispanic/ Latina/o/x students represent 33% of its enrolled student body, which includes all undergraduate and graduate students. In 2021, CU Denver officially received its designation and Hispanic/Latino/a/x students represent 22% of its student population.

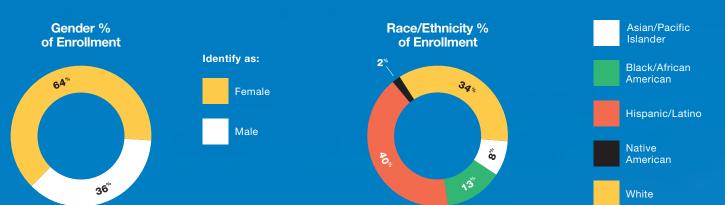
While these designations place an importance on retaining and graduating the institutions' Hispanic/Latina/o/x students and Asian American, Native American and Pacific Islander students, it also provides opportunities to create and implement better and more effective practices aimed at retaining and graduating all students. The designation allows each institution to be eligible to compete for and receive federal funds, including multi-million-dollar grants designed to encourage educational access and degree completion, increase graduation rates, promote access to higher education, and strengthen institutional efforts.

Definitions

A Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) is a term used for a federal program designed to support a college or university in the United States that is eligible and has an enrollment of undergraduate fulltime equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic at the end of the award year immediately preceding the date of application.

An Asian American Native American Pacific **Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI)** is a term used for a federal program that provides discretionary grants to eligible institutions of higher education in the United States that have an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 10 percent Asian American, Native American or Pacific Islander at the time of application.

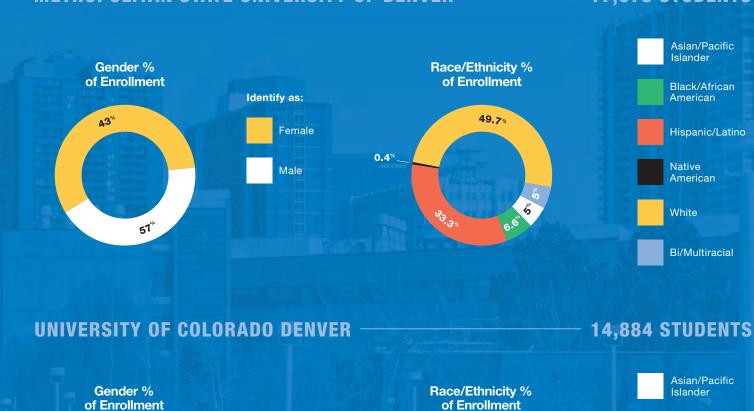
COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER



METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

17.678 STUDENTS

7.093 STUDENTS



Identify as:

*All statistics were tracked and provided by their corresponding Institutions.















How AHEC is Governed

Auraria Board of Directors

The Auraria Board of Directors is comprised of eleven members. Nine are voting members and two are non-voting members.

- Three are appointed by the Governor of Colorado.
- Three are the chief executives of the three institutions (CCD, MSU Denver, CU Denver) who share the Auraria Campus.
- Three are appointed respectively by the Regents of the University of Colorado; the Board of Trustees for Metropolitan State University of Denver; and the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education.



MEMBERS OF THE AURARIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:



Tracy M. Huggins
Denver Urban Renewal Authority
Governor Appointee



Janine Davidson Metropolitan State University of Denver President



Paul Washington
IMA Financial Corporation
Governor Appointee



Marielena (Marie) DeSanctis Community College of Denver President



Kate Barton
Downtown Denver Partnership
Governor Appointee



Michelle Marks
University of Colorado Denver
Chancellor



Rollie Heath
Former Senator, Colorado
State Board of Community
Colleges & Occupational
Education Appointment



Callie Rennison
University of Colorado Denver
University of Colorado Regent



Albus Brooks
MSU Denver Board of Trustees
Trustee



Jaedo Park University of Colorado Denver FACAB Representative

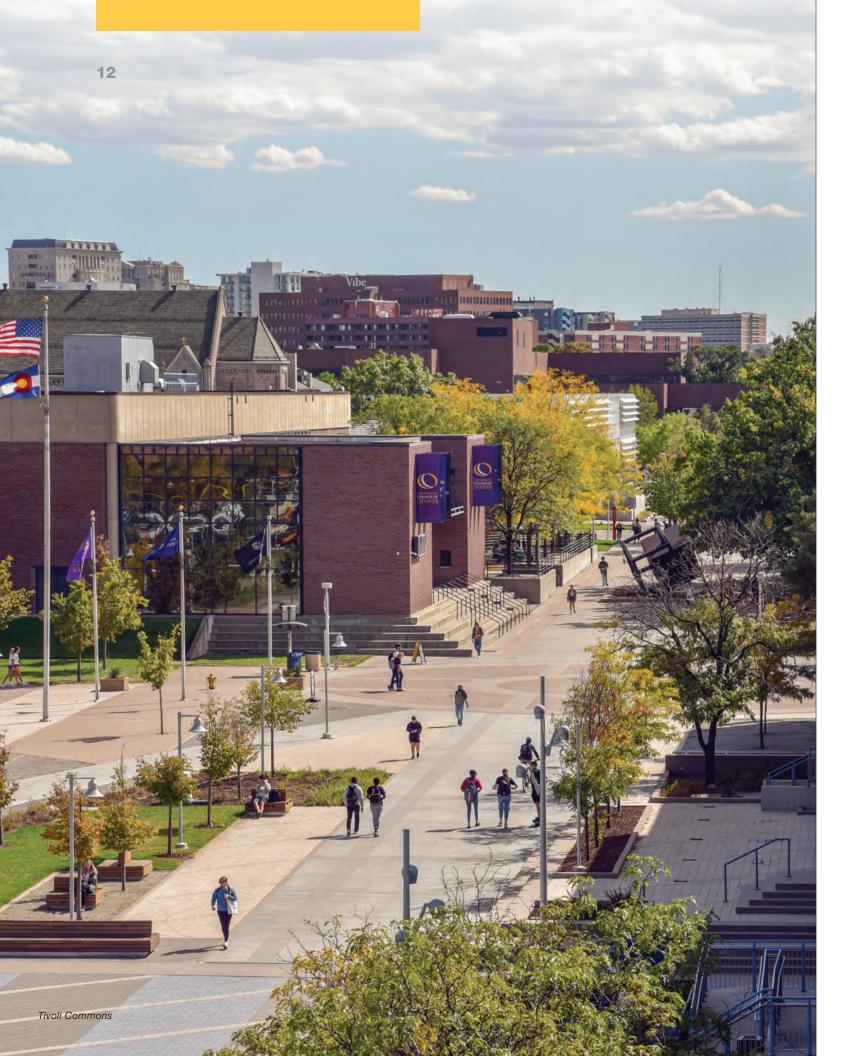


Trevor Walker
University of Colorado Denver
SACAB Representative
August 2021–January 2022



George Sanchez
University of Colorado Denver
SACAB Representative
January–June 2022

AHEC Annual Report | 2021–2022 Executive Summary



Faculty Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board

The Faculty Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board (FACAB) represents the faculty of CCD, MSU Denver, and CU Denver and advises the Board about policies and issues affecting the faculty.

Purpose: The purpose of FACAB is to represent the faculty at CCD, MSU Denver, and CU Denver, and to advise the Board about policies and issues affecting the faculty. FACAB is the primary conduit of communication between the Board, the AHEC CEO and the faculty.

Composition: FACAB consists of two elected, regular, full-time faculty members from each of the three institutions. FACAB members serve for a two-year term. Each institution determines the method by which its FACAB members are elected and are responsible for filling mid-term vacancies.

FACAB Members:

- Timberley Roane, CU Denver, Chair
- Jaedo Park, CU Denver, ABOD Representative
- Micahel B. Jacobs, MSU Denver
- Zsuzsa Balogh, MSU Denver
- Bret Hann, CCD
- Karey James, CCD

Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board

The Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board (SACAB) is comprised of six student representatives elected or appointed by all three institutions on the Auraria Campus.

Purpose: SACAB endeavors to support a quality educational experience by providing a balanced representation of all campus individuals and their constituent academic institutions. SACAB provides an advisory role to the Auraria Board of Directors to represent the opinions and interests of the three institutions.

Composition: SACAB consists of two elected or appointed members from each of the three institutions.

SACAB Members:

- Antwaun D. Johnson, "X", MSU Denver, Chair August 2021–February 2022
- Trevor Walker, CU Denver, ABOD Representative August 2021–January 2022
- Jeremy Vantrump, CCD August 2021–December 2021
- Mariam Osman, CCD
 August 2021–December 2021
- Jason Stroh, CU Denver September 2021–December 2021
- Aiden Chase, CCD, Chair February 2022–June 2022
- August Pryor, MSU Denver August 2021–June 2022
- Taylor Lucas, MSU Denver February 2022–June 2022
- George Sanchez, CU Denver, ABOD Representative January 2021–June 2022
- Cade Bachman, CU Denver January 2021–June 2022

Internal Organization of AHEC

Executive Team

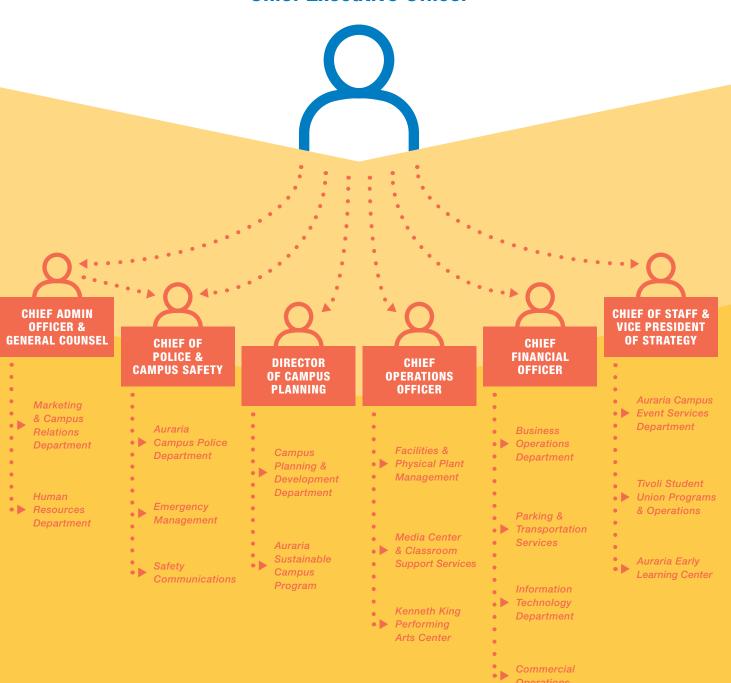
The Executive Team oversees every department under AHEC.

Executive Team Members:

- Colleen Walker, Chief Executive Officer
- Zach Hermsen, Chief Financial Officer
- Rob Byers, Chief of Operations
- Leora Joseph, Chief of Administration, General Counsel
- Fred Kuhlwilm, Counsel
- Judy Montero, Chief of Staff, Vice President of Strategy
- Chief Michael Phibbs, Chief of Auraria Campus Police Department and Campus Safety
- Carl Meese, Director of Campus Planning
- Macy Conant, Special Assistant to the CEO



Chief Executive Officer



Operations

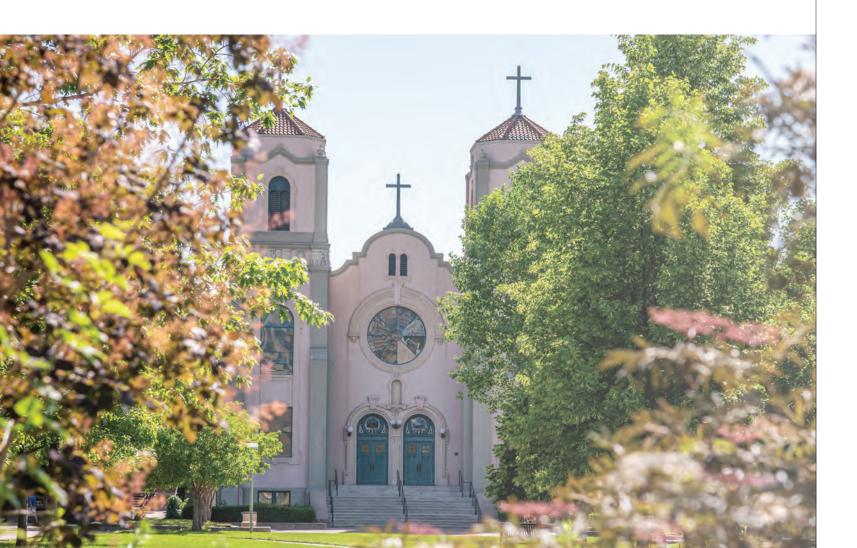


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Budget

AHEC is funded through two main mechanisms, the Colorado state appropriated funds, which flow through the three institutions, and auxiliary revenue. The state appropriated funds make up 40% of AHEC's budget, and auxiliary services comprise 60% of AHEC's budget.

The chart on the following page illustrates AHEC's summary of revenues and expenses. A key component of this summary is the differentiation of operating and nonoperating activities. Operating revenues are received for providing goods and services to the various customers and constituencies of the Auraria Campus. Operating expenses are paid to acquire or produce goods and services provided in return for operating revenues and to carry out the mission of the Auraria Campus. Nonoperating revenues and expenses include interest expense on capital debt, state support for pensions, and investment income.



FY 2021-2022 BUDGET SUMMARY

REVENUES	Current YTD Actual
Appropriation (from Constituent Institutions)	\$22,493,238
Auxiliary Enterprises	\$17,894,899
Non-Appropriated Services	\$3,889,523
Student Fees	\$4,224,353
Other Operating Revenue	\$4,107,850
Deferred Maintenance Funding	\$2,000,000
TOTAL REVENUES*	\$54,609,863

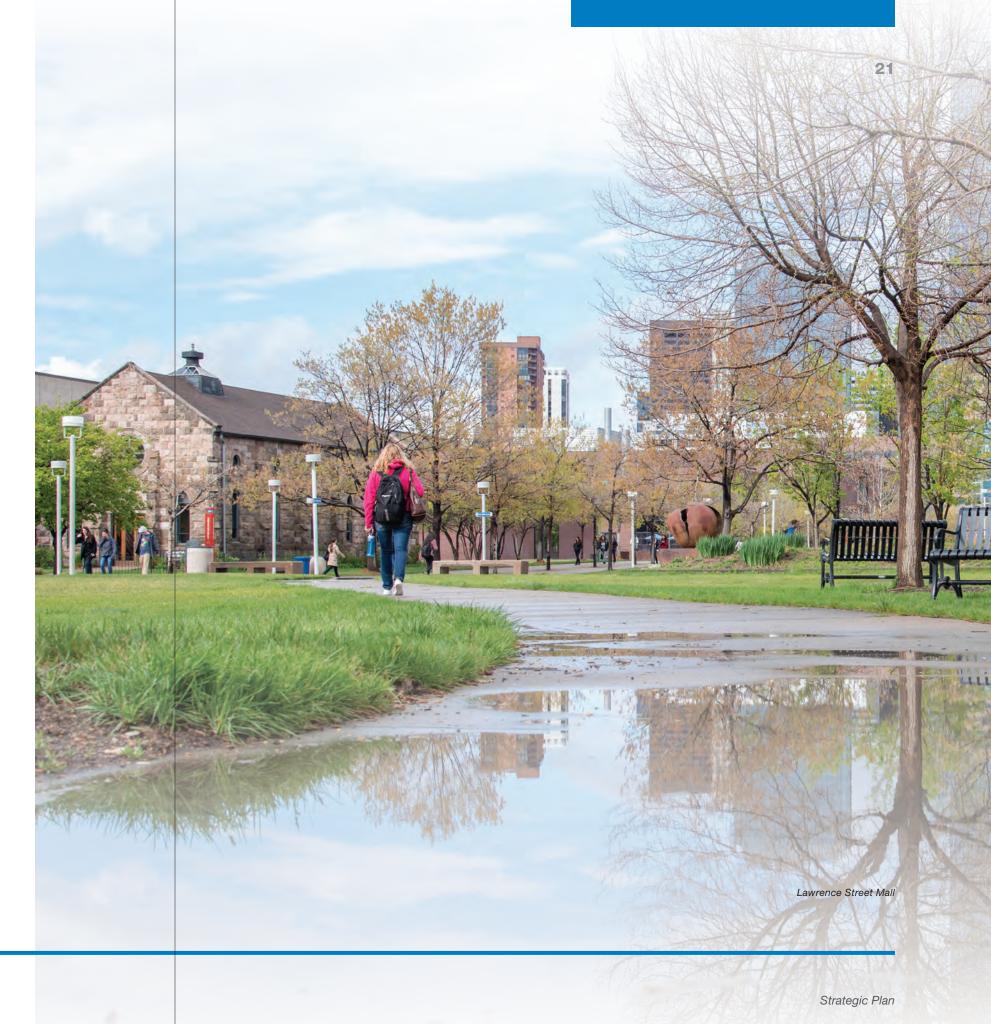
EXPENDITURES	Current YTD Actual
Operations & Maintenance of Plant	\$24,781,890
Auxiliary Enterprises & Bonds	\$16,779,815
Non-Appropriated Services	\$3,429,860
Auxiliary Support of General Fund	\$3,386,153
Deferred Maintenance	\$1,728,435
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$50,106,152

*Total revenues do not reflect state appropriated funds for capital construction, House Bill 22-1329, or RTD CollegePass and EcoPass Programs.

Implementing the Auraria Higher **Education Center Strategic Plan**

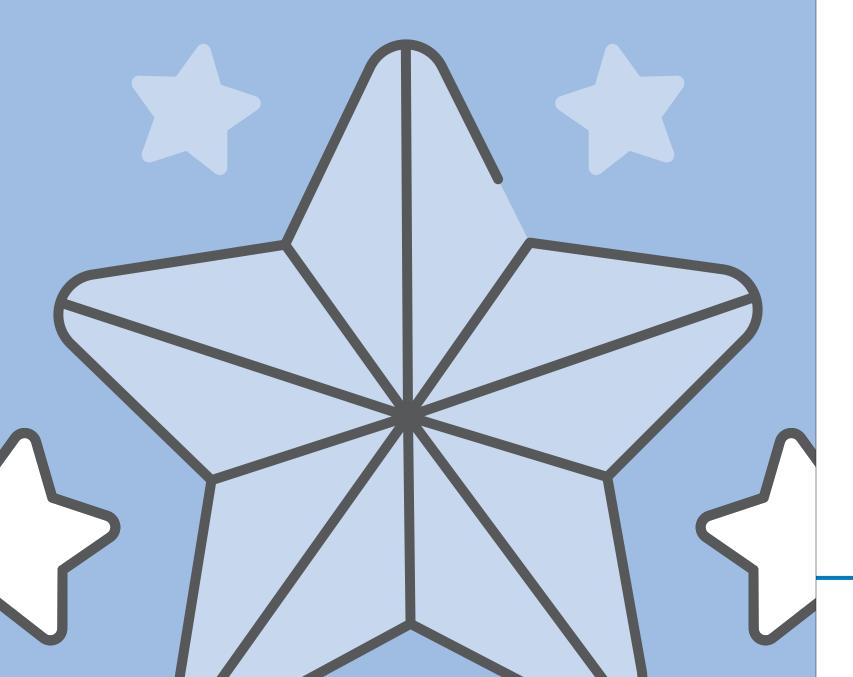
In October 2021, the Auraria Board of Directors approved of the strategic plan that would develop a future vision to advance the collective mission of the campus. The strategic plan is made up of four goals, which establish the foundation to the Auraria Ecosystem: exemplary service, activated partnerships, vibrant environments, and sustainable funding. Each goal was then operationalized by choosing initiatives that will set clear milestones and corresponding outputs and outcomes.

With less than one year into implementation, AHEC has made great strides into making the campus part of the fabric of downtown Denver and a welcome oasis for students seeking public higher education and community members looking for a diverse neighborhood to live, work, play, and learn. Read on to learn more about this important work.



Exemplary Service

As stewards of the Auraria Campus, it is our top priority to provide excellent customer service to our students, faculty, and staff. To be most effective in this endeavor, AHEC is committed to ensuring our campus is a place where differences are welcomed, and every individual feels a sense of belonging and inclusion. Our collective identity will be woven into all facets of our mission and values as we work to live out our strategic vision for the future success of the Auraria Campus.



Reclaim Our Identity

Define Our Mission: As an initial step, we engaged the AHEC staff in a mission, vision, and values workshop, followed by a survey. This collective work will shape our new mission and vision statement that embodies our values and guiding principles. Standing firm in our identity, we will lay the foundation to propel AHEC into its next decade of success.

Structure for Success

Commitment to DEI and relationship building: The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Collaborative Committee held two successful events to kick off 2022: Continuing the Conversation. To celebrate Black History Month, the committee invited all AHEC staff to attend a documentary and discussion. For Women's History Month, the committee hosted a roundtable discussion for employees to speak about the most influential women in their lives. Both were well attended events and the committee will host more roundtable discussions in the future.

In October, the Auraria Campus Police Department leadership and its Community Advisory Board completed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training with a local DEI professional. This training took place over the course of a month, and included follow up discussions about the intersection of race and policing practices.

To build morale and connection between the senior leadership team and the department leaders, Colleen Walker, CEO of AHEC, and Leora Joseph, Chief of Administration and General Counsel, hosted a Thanksgiving dinner a few weeks before fall break. This time to reconnect, share a meal, and prepare for the holiday season was a highlight of the senior leadership team.

Improvement with Purpose

Capitalize on Efficiencies: As an organization that aspires to always be improving, AHEC increased 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.

In addition, amid a shifting labor market, AHEC realigned and reclassified vacant positions to directly support the strategic plan and best meet the needs of the organization and its institutions.



A Thanksgiving meal shared between AHEC leadership and directors proved to be an exciting new tradition.



Activated Partnerships

A founding tenant of AHEC is to facilitate cooperation among our partners. Returning to the spirit of a shared campus benefits a greater proportion of campus community members, and strengthens communication between the partner institutions. This is a collective goal all partners will participate in and ensures we preserve and honor our campus' rich history and the foundational principles of our statutory founding.

Sustain the Voice and Legacy of Auraria

Land Acknowledgment and Tribal Engagement: At the October Auraria Board of Directors meeting, the board unanimously passed the Auraria Campus Land Acknowledgment. This is the first step in acknowledging the generations of people who previously lived on the land that we now call the Auraria Campus. This land acknowledgment is read at all board meetings, all AHEC staff meetings, and many other events on campus. We hope this acknowledgment will help continue the legacy of this land and those who came before.

Over the last year, AHEC leadership has met with tribal representatives from the Northern Arapaho and Cheyenne tribes. These preliminary discussions centered on how to recognize these tribal nations, provide support to their students, and the possibility of creating a peace garden. We will continue to nurture and grow these relationships, as we find the best way to partner with these tribal representatives.

Hosted Events at AHEC Cultural Centers: In partnership with History Colorado and Historic Denver, AHEC sponsored two Museum of Memory events for the Displaced Aurarian community, those who were residents or are related to residents, of the Auraria neighborhood between 1955 and 1973. Each event allows space for the community members to remember and tell stories of the neighborhood, their families, and community.

Golda Meir House Museum

International Women's Day Event: The Golda Meir House Museum and AHEC, along with the Colorado Bar Association, hosted and sponsored a panel called "International Women's Day and Breaking the Bias." The panel was moderated by Ryann Peyton from the Colorado Attorney Mentoring Program and panelists included Colleen Walker, CEO of AHEC, Lorena Cantarovici, founder of Maria Empanada, and Colorado Supreme Court Justice Monica Marquez. All three women spoke about their journeys in leadership, and how they "break through the biases" in their daily work.

Auraria Campus Vigil for Ukraine: In partnership with Ukrainians of Colorado, the Golda Meir House Museum hosted a campus vigil for Ukraine in May. Golda Meir was originally from Ukraine, and the museum wanted to honor her legacy by supporting those in Ukraine today facing the terrors of war. Colleen Walker, Dr. Janine Davidson, and Dr. Michelle Marks were able to attend and provide remarks regarding the war and how to support those in our community who might be affected. We appreciated the time our campus leaders dedicated to honoring those in Ukraine, especially on a cold day.

From left to right: AHEC CEO Colleen Walker, CU Denver Chancellor Michelle Marks, President of the Ukrainians of Colorado Marina Dubrova, MSU Denver President Janine Davidson, and Golda Meir House Museum Executive Director Lena Fishman.



Golda Meir House Museum Continued

Golda Rededication Ceremony: On January 10, 2022, we hosted a rededication ceremony for the Golda Meir House Museum, honoring all of the people who came together to help save this home in the late 1980s. Executive Director, Lena Fishman, hosted Governor Jared Polis, Attorney General Phil Weiser, former Mayor Wellington Webb, Sen. Dennis Gallagher, Rep. Wilma Webb, and Rep. Dafna Michaelson-Jenet, to honor the community members who saved the house from destruction and moved it to the Auraria Campus. AHEC hosted a luncheon with the honorees where they all told their part of the story of saving the house. The house was also blessed with a new mezuzah, created by a CU Denver professor, and by the Auraria Campus rabbi, Rabbi Ort.





Return to the Spirit of a Shared Campus; The Return of In-Person Events

Special Guest First Lady Dr. Jill Biden: In March,

AHEC was honored to support the Community College of Denver as they hosted the First Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden. Dr. Biden came to campus for the second annual White House Initiative Latino Summit. ACPD worked around the clock coordinating with the Secret Service, FBI, SWAT, and Denver Police Department (DPD) to ensure her time on campus was safe and secure.



Experience Auraria Events: This summer, we created an activation campaign called Experience Auraria, as a way of inviting the Denver community to come to campus which included movie nights on historic 9th Street Park, Tai Chi on Friday mornings, and a Dog Days of Summer event for our furry friends.



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The Auraria Campus community and Colorado Avalanche fans came together to watch the Stanley Cup games and to celebrate the big win. Over 45,000 people enjoyed the games and concert over the course of five watch parties.

Return to the Spirit of a Shared Campus; The Return of In-Person Events Continued

Colorado Avalanche Watch Party: In June, AHEC, in partnership with the National Hockey League (NHL) and Kroenke Sports Entertainment, hosted five Stanley Cup watch party events as we celebrated our Colorado Avalanche advancing to the finals. Over 45,000 people attended these free, on-campus events, gathering on the Tivoli Quad to watch the Stanley Cup finals. The events included live music, Denver-favorite GRiZ, and several local DJs. More than 30 local food trucks joined in on the fun, and on-campus partner, Tivoli Brewery, provided the adult beverages for the celebration.

Outreach and Communication

Over the last year, we've continued to partner with the Regional Transportation District (RTD) to create a more pleasant riding experience for our students, faculty and staff. We encourage public transportation use and all AHEC employees now have free EcoPasses. AHEC representatives participated in RTD's focus groups and fare study to represent our campus community's transportation needs.

Auraria is the host of many weddings throughout the year, but this lucky couple got to celebrate their nuptials while also taking a ride to see all the celebrations on campus for the Stanley Cup Watch Parties.



Vibrant Environments

The Auraria Campus should be a place where students, faculty, staff, and downtown Denver community members gather, cultivate relationships, and get inspired. We are focused on creating an environment to draw our community in by modernizing our academic facilities, establishing connections to downtown, and enhancing the vibrancy of our common areas.



Modernize Academic Facilities

In partnership with all three institutions, AHEC resolved the Wifi connectivity challenges in the Arts Building. Students can now access a better Wifi connection throughout the entire building. All four IT departments from each institution collaborated in a spirit of partnership to make this happen, all for the betterment of students, faculty and staff.

Enhance Common Spaces Indoors and Outdoors

Over winter break, the AHEC facilities team renovated the Arts Building's student lounge. This project included new paint, carpet, lighting and furniture for students to enjoy.

In late summer and early fall, the AHEC facilities and planning departments hosted two beautification days for AHEC employees. We asked our staff to help get campus ready for the fall semester, and employees lent a hand to our grounds team and mulched, planted, weeded, and seeded to make campus beautiful and ready for the new school year.



AHEC employees hard at work getting the campus grounds ready for the new academic year.









Left: Force Field by Emily Zeek, located at 11th and Lawrence. Top Right: Waymark by Walter Ware III, located on 9th Street and Champa. Bottom Right: DETH LIGHGHT XXI: 4JAY by Joshua Ware, located at 11th and Walnut.

Activate the Campus

Last year, three pieces of art were installed on campus as part of the 5280 Trail project. The Downtown Denver Partnership 5280 Trail is a bold, visionary project to transform how the public right-of-way is used in Downtown Denver. The 5280 Trail links neighborhoods and connects people by reimagining underutilized streets into the essential downtown experience uniting urban life with Colorado's outdoor culture. The project prioritizes people, health, culture and nature, and the trail runs through the Auraria Campus.

Sustainable Funding

AHEC is exploring alternative funding strategies, focusing on economic development, and maximizing existing assets so that all the other strategic goals can be accomplished.



Leverage Existing Assets

After securing money from the state, AHEC made \$7.1M in infrastructure improvements across campus. Despite delays due to the pandemic and budget cuts, we were finally able to repave and resurface 17 surface lots across campus.

Drive Auxiliary Revenues

Last fall, AHEC formalized event and weekend parking rates to generate funding from the public who park on campus to attend nearby events. Every Friday–Sunday, and every weekday after 5 p.m., people who choose to park on campus now pay a higher rate. These rates do not apply to our campus community, as community members can register their vehicles with our parking office and always receive the lowest daily rate available in any lot on campus, seven days a week.

Identify Alternative Funding Strategies

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Early Learning Center (ELC) was unable to serve as many children as they would in a typical year. ELC Director, Emily Nelson, prioritized applying for supplemental funding from local, state and federal grants to keep their doors open. Thanks to their hard work, the ELC successfully secured more than \$200,000 in grant funding for the 2021–2022 fiscal year.

In 2022, the Auraria Campus Police Department received a grant to fund body-worn cameras for all on-campus police officers. Body-worn cameras were recommended by the ACPD Community Advisory Board and other student groups on campus to help students, faculty, and staff feel safer when encountering or interacting with an officer.



AHEC staff hand out treats to Early Learning Center students dressed in costumes for Halloween.

