AN URBAN CAMPUS BUILT ON COLLABORATION

The Auraria Campus represents a unique higher education community in a dynamic and vibrant urban setting. The 150-acre campus, located in the heart of downtown Denver, is home to three distinct public institutions of higher learning:

- Community College of Denver (CCD)
- Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver)
- University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver)

The Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) is a separate state entity, providing the facilities, land, and shared services in support of these prominent academic institutions.
The Auraria Campus was initially developed in the mid-1970s as an urban renewal project, with an expected population of 15,000. Today, the collective campus community has grown to nearly 50,000 students, faculty, and staff, and is the largest public higher education campus in Colorado.

While the evolution of the campus has been continuous, a Master Plan was created in 2007 that pioneered the beginning of small institutional neighborhoods. In 2012, an updated Master Plan was produced, which embraced an expanded neighborhood concept to celebrate the identity of each institution. Through collaborative planning, the neighborhoods were established along the three boundaries of campus to align with main thoroughfares into downtown Denver, while a shared core at the center of campus was retained.

The neighborhood concept has provided greater potential for the institutions’ individual growth and economic development, and captures the benefits of the core efficiencies and opportunities that emanate from this shared community. The institutions have had the autonomy to develop within their expanded neighborhoods, capturing prospects for public and private ventures that are unique to their programs. Also, the Master Plan has created opportunities to explore funding prospects and new revenue streams, while sustaining the distinctive character of each institution as part of the Auraria Campus and downtown Denver community.

The shared neighborhood core now encompasses collective services and disciplines in state-of-the-art facilities that are common to all: one library, one science building, one performing arts center, and one student union.

The Auraria Campus is thriving thanks to the pioneering spirit of the campus leaders and their commitment to collaboration. The successful outcome is evident in the extensive growth and development of the campus over the past several years. The Auraria Campus is a leading economic engine for the City of Denver and the State of Colorado, an accomplishment that is illustrated within the pages of this report.

Barbara Weiske
Chief Executive Officer
Auraria Higher Education Center
SHAPING THE CAMPUS

The Auraria Campus 2012 Master Plan update was developed with a Strategic Implementation Plan, an Infrastructure Master Plan, a Food Program Plan, and a Signage Plan. All of these plans worked collectively to establish an incremental roadmap to move the campus forward.

The principles of the Auraria Campus Master Plan and Strategic Implementation Plan embodied an urban perspective:

- Build to the boundaries of campus to weave seamlessly into the fabric of the surrounding environment
- In response to finite real estate, build vertically
- Design buildings to be transparent, allowing the learning activities to be seen and experienced
- Define multiple ways to "Connect to Denver," in recognition of the Downtown Denver Area Plan
New structures and acquisitions have been added to the Auraria Campus in response to enrollment growth, while also enhancing the brand and identity for each institution.

Student-centered buildings to house admissions, financial aid, and other services were constructed by each institution to help with student engagement and retention.
NEW CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITIONS

- Tivoli Quad
- AHEC in Institutional
- Student Commons | CU Denver
- Student Success | MSU Denver
- Science Building | AHEC in Institutional
- Regency Athletic Complex | MSU Denver
- Hotel & Hospitality Learning Center | MSU Denver
- Conference | CCD
- Clear Creek | CCD
- 5th Street Garage and Future Retail Center | AHEC in Institutional

Renovations, and projects, new construction, acquisitions, has been directly invested in
More than $630 million
WEST CLASSROOM | MSU DENVER

ST CATHARINES | AHEC LT - INSTITUTIONAL

PLAZA BUILDING | CU DENVER AND MSU DENVER

NORTH CLASSROOM | CU DENVER

MODULAR CLASSROOMS | MSU DENVER AND CCD

FACILITIES SERVICES | AHEC LT - INSTITUTIONAL

CHETTY CREEK | CCD

CENTRAL CLASSROOM | MSU DENVER

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING | MSU DENVER

10TH STREET MALL | AHEC LT - INSTITUTIONAL

5TH STREET HUB | CU DENVER AND MSU DENVER

RENOVATIONS
In progress
Development Projects and Renovations
UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Boulder Creek COD
- Kenneth King Performing Arts Center | AHEC tr-institutional
- Visual Arts Building | AHEC tr-institutional
Total campus built square footage | 4,533,886

Built square feet

- 1976: 1,245,713
- 1996: 2,472,832
- 2006: 3,205,194
- 2016: 4,533,886

AURARIA CAMPUS

150 ACRES
COLLECTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

In addition to significant renovations of existing facilities, the campus has added almost 3.4 million built square feet since the opening of the original campus in 1976, with more than 40 percent of that growth occurring in the past six years.
The Auraria Campus encompasses an environment that is rich in innovative ideas. Three academic institutions in one location magnifies the opportunity to position the campus as a place where ground-breaking ideas originate, including several dynamic ventures that integrate learning with commercial enterprise.
Connect Aurora Community Garden

with Denver Urban Gardens
Auraria Sustainable Campus Program in partnership
The Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) is an agency of the State of Colorado whose role is to provide and manage shared services, facilities, and property to support Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and University of Colorado Denver in achieving their goals.

AHEC by the numbers
AURARIA CAMPUS POLICE DEPARTMENT
In the past three years, the Auraria Campus Police Department has responded to over 24,000 service calls.

In its first year, the Neighborhood Community Officer program made over 25,000 community policing contacts.

In the past four years, PARKING & TRANSPORTATION SERVICES has parked over 6 million cars.

FACILITIES SERVICES
Annually, the Access Control Shop encodes 90,000 ID cards.

On average, the Paint Shop uses 400 gallons of paint annually.

Every year, Facilities Services provides the campus with:
- 137,840 rolls of toilet paper
- 1,380 gallons of hand soap
- 310,000 trash bag liners

Every year, the EARLY LEARNING CENTER:
- Reads 12,480 stories
- Teaches 300 children to write
- Sings 33,000 songs
- Changes 66,560 diapers
- Creates 3,000 masterpieces of artwork

EVENT SERVICES supports an average of 12,000 events and activities annually.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MANAGEMENT completed 933 small construction projects worth $16.4 million in the past four years, and from 2013–15, they completed 7 capital construction projects worth $223 million.
AURARIA SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS PROGRAM
A grant acquired by the Auraria Sustainable Campus Program saves over **8.6 million** gallons of water per year with updated irrigation controllers.

Over the last five years, **3 million** pounds of recycling and compost have been diverted from the landfill due to the Auraria Sustainable Campus Program’s waste diversion initiatives.

Funded by the Auraria Sustainable Campus Program in 2013, the solar array on the Arts Building has generated over **300,000 KWh** of clean energy.

TIVOLI STATION sold **100,000** books and rented **13,415** course materials last year.

The **KING CENTER** hosts an average of **320** public performances annually.

Every fall, AHEC staff assist an average of **6,500** students with directions and general campus Q&A in a program called “**AURARIA WELCOMES**”.

In its first year, **TIVOLI STARBUCKS** processed **220,700** transactions, and was named the **#1 top-volume store** in the Denver metro area.

The campus opened the **TIVOLI QUADRANGLE** in time for the May 2016 graduation, adding almost **79,000 square feet** of student green space to the campus.
AHEC STAFF

AHEC employs approximately 340 permanent staff and 475 student staff to provide the following services:

- Acquisition and Property Management
- Classroom Scheduling and Media Support
- Commercial Lease and Contract Negotiation/Management
- Conference and Event Services
- Early Learning Center
- Emergency Preparedness
- Internal Support Services
  - Business Operations
  - Financial Management
  - Human Resources
  - Information Technology and Telecommunications
  - Integrated Marketing and Communications
- Maintenance and Operations
- Parking and Transportation Services
- Performing Arts Center Management
- Planning and Development
- Police and Security
- Procurement Services
- Sustainable Campus Program
- Tivoli Starbucks
- Tivoli Station (Bookstore)
- Tivoli Student Union and related student bond programs
The Auraria Campus is a vital element of downtown Denver, representing 50,000 patrons, a significant economic injection through development, and a critical future workforce pipeline.

Viable city centers embrace the connection between urban higher education campuses and the city core, and the relationship of the Auraria Campus with Denver is no different. Toward that end, the Auraria Campus continues to successfully foster expanded social, physical, and economic connections between the campus and downtown Denver.
CONNECTING THROUGH STREETSCAPE

With support from the Auraria Foundation and the Downtown Denver Partnership, the pedestrian experience has been enhanced from campus across Speer Boulevard on Larimer Street with the installation of banner pole flags highlighting the institutions and the Auraria Campus, as well as the addition of Denver's own flower planters.
Lanes that connect to Denver's network of bike paths
line and station, bike and car share programs, and bike
transportation access, including a second high rail
The Aurora Campus has added multiple modes of
ACCESS
CONNECITNG THROUGH TRANSIT
CONNECTING THROUGH DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVED ROADWAYS

The Auraria Campus has constructed new buildings and roadways to support campus functions and improve connectivity.
CONNECTING THROUGH COLLABORATION

The Auraria Campus continues to partner with the City of Denver, the Downtown Denver Partnership, and other key players in achieving short-term and long-term improvements to roadway crossings and program integrations.
Pipeline of interns and employees.

The Aurora Campus provides Denver with a consistent and talented development of the future workforce.

Connecting through the education and
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President, Community College of Denver

Chancellor, University of Colorado Denver

M. ROY WILSON (2009–2010)  
Chancellor, University of Colorado Denver

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