Hey Community Engagers,

The Community Engagement Program Manager, Montelle Tamez, is now on board! You'll be seeing Montelle in future meetings and hearing from her through phone calls and e-mails, as well as viewing her handiwork on the PACT Web site. Within the next few weeks, Montelle may contact several of you to introduce herself and discuss ways to work together. She is housed at the Colorado AHEC Program Office on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Education 2 North building, 5th floor, and her e-mail address is montelle.tamez@ucdenver.edu. Please give her a warm welcome.

From 2040 Partners for Health:

**SAVE THE DATE!** 2040 Partners for Health will host its Health Summit Saturday, **February 5, 2011**, at Johnson and Wales University. This summit is for community members, researchers, health care providers, and others interested in improving health and reducing health disparities in our five neighborhood areas (NW Aurora, East Montclair, Stapleton, Park Hill, NE Park Hill). Specific Topics include 1) “What does Health Care Reform mean at the neighborhood level?” (Speaker- Lorez Meinhold, State of Colorado Director of Health Reform Implementation) and 2) “Childhood Obesity: New research data on obesity levels in our neighborhoods.” Lots more to come! For information, call 303-468-3246.

Getting to Know You ... Michele Wheeler, Community Liaison

Ms. Wheeler is a long time resident of Denver. She grew up in Northeast Park Hill, graduated from East High School, married and had two sons before moving to Washington, D.C. to attend Howard University as a major in English. In 1981, she moved back to Denver and began working at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in several academic departments, and in 1998, received a HUD Scholarship to attend the University of Colorado at Denver, where she received a Master’s Degree in Urban and Regional Planning, with an emphasis in Community Development, in May, 2000. She began work in the Cole, Northeast Park Hill, Montbello, and Stapleton neighborhoods as a Community Justice Advocate for the Denver District Attorney’s Office shortly after graduation from C.U. While employed through the D.A.’s Office, she recruited a broad, cross section of citizens for the office to serve on a restorative justice council involving juvenile offenders, their families, and victims of juvenile crime. She formulated partnerships between faith-based organizations for a gun violence prevention program. Ms. Wheeler has facilitated several community and town hall meetings, including a first of its kind, Family Leadership Training Institute program, based in Connecticut, which empowers parents to be leaders in their communities and advocates for their children. She also heads the Northeast Park Hill coalition, which has been the community’s premier neighborhood association since 2000. Due to her activism in the community, she received the Community Organizer of the Year Award from the Optimist Club International. Ms. Wheeler also was asked to join the 2040 Board of Directors in 2006. After stepping down from the Board, she became the CCTSI’s (Colorado Clinical Translational Sciences Institute) Community Liaison and directed the CIT African American Urban Track Immersion program.

Have a great weekend!
Jack Westfall