"I am so grateful for all that you did to help me. Your program is such an asset to our community."

– Rachel P., Hire Local participant
INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS ENGAGE STUDENTS, ADDRESS WORKFORCE SHORTAGES, AND ESTABLISH INCLUSIVE PRACTICES.

The Community-Campus Partnership serves as a valuable organization to help the CU Anschutz Medical Campus partner in meaningful ways with the surrounding diverse Aurora community.

“By connecting people to jobs on the campus, inspiring students to go into health science careers, and empowering local residents to engage with institutions, the CCP is addressing the Social Determinants of Health and promoting equity, diversity and inclusion.”

– Senator Rhonda Fields Senate District 29
North Aurora, directly adjacent to the campus, is one of the most diverse communities in Colorado—and one of the most impacted by economic hardships. Established in 2013, the Community-Campus Partnership (CCP) was born from a desire to be more inclusive—to create a mutually respectful partnership with the surrounding community. Neighbors, local organizations, and campus leaders worked together to create the mission, vision, and values of the CCP.

With support from University of Colorado Anschutz, Children’s Hospital Colorado, UCHealth, The Denver Foundation, and the City of Aurora, the CCP began to expand the definition of health to include economic stability through employment, inclusive education, empowered entrepreneurship, and giving residents a voice at the table. In doing this, the Anschutz campus committed to the “Anchor Mission”—to consciously apply the economic power of the institution, in combination with its intellectual and human resources, to better the long-term welfare of the community in which the institution is anchored. Through investing in the community, residents stay here, grow, and thrive.

Six years later, the work of the CCP is directly addressing the Social Determinants of Health through building community wealth and population health among residents, and promoting diversity, inclusivity and equity on the campus. The CCP’s innovative programs empower the underserved and build connections across the campus and the community.

Over 160 different languages are spoken in Aurora

23% of residents in North Aurora live below the poverty line

The median age in Aurora is 29 years old

65% of residents in Aurora are unable to access primary care services

ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS COMMITS TO CULTURE CHANGE

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“HIRE LOCAL” IS CHANGING THE FACE OF THE WORKFORCE – THREE MAJOR EMPLOYERS WORK TOGETHER TO INTENTIONALLY CHANGE HIRING PRACTICES.

Hire Local – CCP’s “signature program”, was requested by neighbors in Aurora to help them find jobs on campus. Residents enthusiastically participate in Hire Local services, which start with in-person support at the community-based “Job Hub.” No marketing dollars are spent – word of mouth brings the clients.

Individuals are assessed for skills, experience and job readiness and are coached according to need. Many clients come from backgrounds of hardship, and working together, staff identify where to build support.

- Most of the Hire Local participants live on or below the federal poverty line.
- Wrap-around support and connections to human services is provided as needed.
- On the employer side, human resource teams work to identify institutional barriers, create collaborative strategies and build support for Hire Local.
- Employers recognize the intangible values from community members – from speaking another language, understanding community needs, to serving as a role model in their community.

It is more than just a good thing to do – Hire Local makes economic sense. Employment research shows that employees who live close to work have less turnover, and share a sense of pride in the community. Given Aurora’s rich diversity and array of cultures, employers discover remarkable candidates right next door.
The Hire Local Job Hub, located in the community at the Aurora Hoffman Library, is succeeding with the residents of Aurora. Over 500 clients have received services since 2017, and more than 150 individuals have gotten hired as a direct result of working with Hire Local. We are changing the face of our workforce together.

43% Black / African
28% Multi-Racial
28% White
20%* Male
76% Female
* Note: percentage of white & multi-racial people who identify as ethnically Hispanic

“I am working hard to accomplish my dream of becoming a healthcare professional. My motivation to accomplish this goal is the desire to help the people in my community.”
— Lah Say Wah
read more of Lah Say’s story at com-cam.org/community-change

“My wish is for me and my daughters to become part of the statistics of success in Aurora, CO.”
— Lourdes Lozano
read more of Lourdes’ story at com-cam.org/community-change

Six years ago, neighborhoods surrounding the CU Anschutz Campus were very concerned that the campus had no connection to them and had become a closed campus. Then the CCP was formed and slowly changes started to happen: friendships started, attitudes changed, and the neighborhoods found a welcoming presence.

Today, so much has been accomplished but most important to the community is that jobs are being made available to our residents. This was the one thing we were striving for and we owe our thanks to the hard-working members representing the CU Anschutz Medical Campus entities who were able to accomplish this for our community.

Nadine Caldwell, North Aurora Neighborhood Organization (NANO), Former Aurora City Councilwoman, Ward 1
“LEARN LOCAL” ENGAGES AURORA AND CU STUDENTS, PROMOTES HEALTH SCIENCES, FOSTERS SERVICE LEARNING, AND CREATES A MORE DIVERSE WORKFORCE FOR THE FUTURE.

Through CCP’s Learn Local Program, CU Anschutz health profession students share their career pathways with underrepresented K-12 students. In turn, local youth visit campus for experiential insights into careers. Aurora students are being inspired to pursue careers in health sciences.

The CCP finds opportunities for CU students to serve and learn in the community – promoting cultural awareness and understanding. Learn Local brings campus and community together in learning experiences that are mutually beneficial for both Aurora and CU students.

Learn Local Programming:
career exploration activities, internships, career panels, and campus visits

CU students and other campus volunteers (faculty and staff)  over 610
Community students  over 1328

“One of our core beliefs is that community partnerships provide vital resources and opportunities for students and families. We are grateful to have the Community-Campus Partnership in Aurora where our students and families benefit from its work every day. As Aurora has grown and changed over the past decade, the Community-Campus Partnership has played an integral role in transforming Aurora’s vibrant and resilient story.

Rico Munn, Superintendent, Aurora Public Schools

“Learn Local is a prime example of how the University can share its expertise and passion about the health sciences and inspire future generations from all backgrounds to become both healthy and health care professionals.”

Neil Krauss, Director of Initiatives and Outreach, Chancellor’s Office
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IS THE FOUNDATION OF ALL CCP’S ACTIVITIES.

The CCP Coalition made up of Aurora residents, community organizations, and campus leaders from CU, UCHCHealth and Children’s meets regularly to learn, share information, enjoy each other, and change cross-cultural dynamics. The Coalition led the development of CCP’s values, mission, and programming, and continues to address campus and community issues.

The Resident Leadership Council (RLC) is made up of 25 individuals living in Aurora who are leaders in their own networks. CCP convenes these leaders and enhances their leadership skills. They engage with Aurora government and education institutions through productive and inclusive forums on topics of community concern. They serve on the CCP Steering Committee to influence and direct initiatives. Their community expertise is key to all that CCP does. Through the Resident Leaders, CCP learns how to support community and change campus processes to be more inclusive.

Resident Leaders commit their time to make change happen. Through their leadership, community members participate in events, meetings, and collaborative efforts, which in turn results in stronger outcomes and programming.

The Aurora Small Business Owners (ASBO) group was recently established to support local business owners by helping them to stabilize, grow, and stay in Aurora. This is the budding “Buy Local” initiative. Local caterers learn to write a business plan, obtain a loan, and market their amazing cultural foods to the Anschutz campus, where meeting organizers are eager to place orders.

“Children’s Hospital Colorado deeply values its partnership with the CCP and the Resident Leadership Council. The RLC has been an integral partner in helping ensure our network is imbedded in the community in a meaningful and responsive manner. The RLC helps us understand what the community values in a health partnership. We would not be as successful without the CCP.

Heidi Baskfield, Vice President, Population Health & Advocacy, Children’s Hospital Colorado
This Partnership is Changing Aurora and the Campus

From the beginning, community and campus members have shown enthusiasm, respect, and eagerness to work together for the good of the community.

Virtual and in-person connections: CCP’s website and newsletter provide a virtual bulletin board that is heavily trafficked, connecting people to research, events, opportunities, and jobs.

Community Networking Dinners / Breakfasts invite people in Aurora and on campus to get to know each other over a tasty meal and organized sharing. Mutually beneficial collaborations follow.

Community-Campus Partnership

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

CCP Administrative Offices located in:
CU Anschutz Health and Wellness Center, 4th floor
Mailstop C263 | 12348 East Montview Blvd., Room 4128 | Aurora, CO 80048
303.724.8584 | com-cam.org

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