



## From the Executive Director



Happy 2020!

We ended 2019 with quite a celebration! Our friends at Canvas Credit Union came together to pay off lunch debt at eighteen of our Title 1 schools and hand delivered a \$60,000 check at Lansing Elementary School. APS and the APS Foundation are extremely grateful to the Canvas Credit Union family.

2020 is off to a busy start. We opened our [2020 scholarship application](#) for all APS seniors, scheduled over 10 Financial Aid nights at APS high schools, announced our [8th Annual Gala date](#), and launched our partnership with [Colfax Marathon](#). I am thrilled that we have started this new year with such great momentum.

This month we celebrate Career and Technical Education Month! Career and technical education (CTE) supports basic academic and life skills, and encourages high academic standards, leadership, career preparation, and lifelong learning. **In honor of CTE Month, APS will be hosting the 5th Annual CareerTrek for our 8th graders!** You can learn more about [CareerTrek here](#) or contact [apsfoundation@aurora12.org](mailto:apsfoundation@aurora12.org) to become an exhibitor at the event on February 11th and 12th.

Lastly, its almost tax time! **Did you know you can donate part or all of your state income tax return to the Aurora Public Schools Foundation?** As a qualified Colorado 501©3, using our registration number 20023004598 in the "Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund" line on your state tax return or tax software, you can support the students of Aurora! Scroll down to read more about this new program.

All the best,

Jill Ruiter

## Recent News

Canvas Credit Union delivers a Christmas Miracle

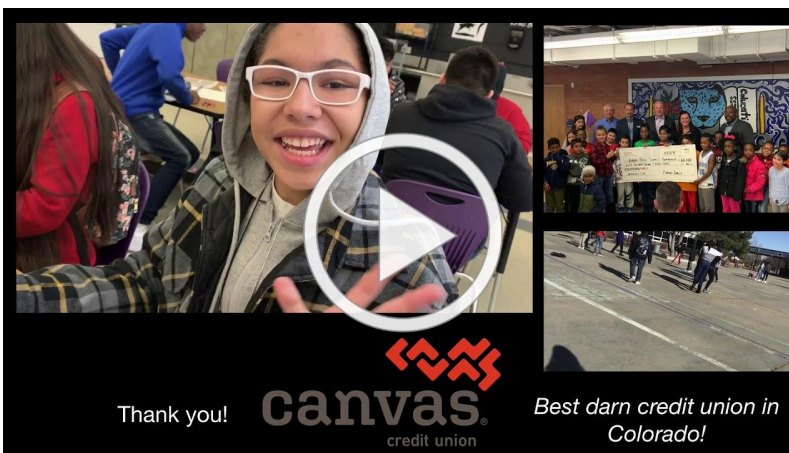


On Wednesday (December 18, 2019), exactly a week before Christmas, Canvas Credit Union CEO, Todd Marksberry, presented a \$60,000 check to Aurora Public Schools Superintendent, Rico Munn.

**The money will help pay off the lunch debt at 18 Title I schools in Aurora.**

"The debt can get into the six figures. When you can cut into that, it frees up resources to hire teachers to provide more curriculum to do things that kids need to be supported," Munn said. [Read the full Denver7 story here.](#)

Below is a video South Middle School made for Canvas Credit Union. South Middle School had accrued over \$7,300 in student lunch debt, making it the most impacted schools with the highest amount of debt covered.



\*Thank you video provided by South Middle School

**ReFUND**  
[CO] [What matters to you.]

As of this tax year the new Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit, or ReFUND CO, program allows taxpayers to choose to directly support an eligible Colorado-registered charity with a simple designation on their state income tax return.

**To participate**, you can look for the "Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit" line of your tax return or tax software and enter Aurora Public Schools Foundation and our registration

number, [20023004598](#).

Last year alone, the state of Colorado issued almost \$1 billion in refunds to 1.9 million tax payers. Even if individuals only donated half, or one-third of their refunds, that could equal over \$333 million in philanthropic support for nonprofits in Colorado.

[Visit our website here for full instructions.](#)

## Spotlights

### Alumni Spotlight



**Anthony Sturges**

You might know Anthony Sturges as the Chief Operating Officer at Aurora Public Schools, but what you may not know is Anthony is a Hinkley High School Class of 1981 Alumni and started at Aurora Public Schools as a student teacher in 1987 at Aurora Central High School. APS experienced a budget crisis in the late 1980's that limited the district's ability to hire new teachers. Consequently, Anthony began his teacher career at East High in Denver where he taught US History, Advanced Placement History and American Government....

[Continue to full story below.](#)

### Student Spotlight



**Itchel Ivonne Cardenas Rubio**

Itchel Ivonne Cardenas Rubio is a Hinkley High Schools alumni and a current senior at the University Of Denver (DU) where she is studying International Business, Spanish, and Chinese. Itchel started visiting her College and Career Center (CCC) when she was a sophomore in high school, at the time she wanted to be a surgeon. Although she was a first generation college applicant, she felt very strongly about attending college....

[Continue to full story below.](#)

[Finish the story here.](#)

## Upcoming Events



**RUN AND GIVE BACK**  
JOIN THE

**AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION COLFAX  
MARATHON TEAM**

WHERE EVERY DOLLAR YOU RAISE CAN  
OPEN ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR A  
STUDENT IN AURORA



RACES  
RELAY TEAM - FULL MARATHON - HALF MARATHON  
10 MILER - 5K

**WALKERS AND RUNNERS WELCOME!**

Aurora Public Schools FOUNDATION COLFAX MARATHON

JOIN OUR TEAM AT:  
[EDUCATEAURORA.ORG/COLFAX-MARATHON-2020/](http://EDUCATEAURORA.ORG/COLFAX-MARATHON-2020/)

**Run or walk for APS Foundation at the Colfax Marathon!**  
May 16 & 17

**Incentives!**

1. The first 5 relay teams to sign up will get their registration reimbursed.
2. The first 5 individuals to sign up (any race length) will get their registration reimbursed.
3. ALL runners who raise **AT LEAST \$250** will earn an APS Foundation runners shirt.
4. The runner who raises the most money and the runner who has the most supporters will receive **\$500** to grant to the APS school of their choice!

**Join our team here!**

\*\*If you are an APS Employee looking to participate, please contact us at [apsfoundation@aurorak12.org](mailto:apsfoundation@aurorak12.org) for more incentives.

**Jan 25 & 27**



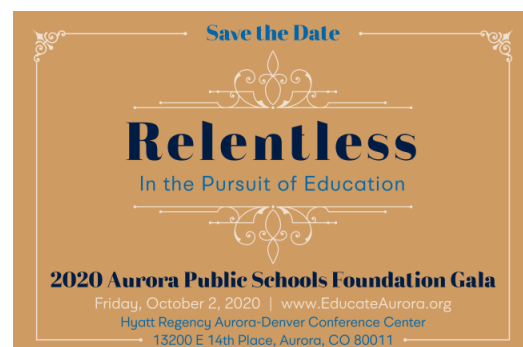
**Inline Hockey**  
Started Jan 27th  
8 week program for \$90

**Skate Class**  
Started Jan 25th  
8 week program for \$90

\$10 from each registration will go back to your school and to Aurora Public Schools Foundation!

[Click here for full details.](#)

**8th Annual Gala!**



October 2nd, 2020  
Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver  
Convention Center

**RSVP HERE**

[Save the date to your calendar!](#)

We exist to make possibility a reality for every Aurora Public Schools students. We advance private, non-profit, public and philanthropic partnership to develop and leverage resources to drive innovation and excellence for our 38,000 students who represent 130 countries, 5,000 teachers and staff, and 64 schools.

- We create a college and career bound culture and resource hub through the operation and support of 5 College and Career Centers in APS high schools.
- We facilitate direct philanthropy to support classroom, schools, and programs within APS.
- We advance partnership and leverage resources to drive innovation and excellence for the students of APS.