

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Days of Celebration continues Friday with employee BBQ

Days of Celebration, Denver Health's annual employee appreciation week, is in full swing and continues through Friday. This year's "Proud" theme celebrates our pride in serving the community, delivering high-quality care, educating the next generation and working at Denver Health.



The next photo features paramedics Sarah Kirby and Imani Thomas, with Chief Paramedic Gary Bryskiewicz smiling in the background. And the last Ice Cream Social photo is of occupational therapist student McKenna Laferriere and speech language pathologist Emi Kimura-Sandoval.

Join us Friday when we will celebrate our new Denver Health Values Awards winners from 10-11 a.m. at the Rita Bass auditorium or via Webex. And stop by the outside of Pavilion G from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. for an employee BBQ, a DJ, tabling events and swag.



Employees who were born at Denver Health share journeys

As part of our Days of Celebration, we are giving a special shoutout to those who have been a part of Denver Health since their beginning. We asked employees who were born at Denver Health, formerly Denver General, to share their journeys (and photos) and say why they are proud to recommend Denver Health.



DENVER HEALTH SPOTLIGHT Lowry team helps deliver a baby

Babies tend to arrive on their own timelines, and thankfully a few members of the Lowry Family Health Center medical team decided to work late Tuesday night as a baby's parents ran out of time and knocked on our doorstep needing help with a mom in labor.

Daniel White, MD, Jessica Buli, MD, Megan Greising, PA, Hannah Wright, FNP, and security guard James Rodriguez heard the knocking on the locked doors and sprung into action. Within minutes, they were welcoming a healthy baby. Mom, dad and baby Jasmine were transported to our hospital and were happy to allow us a quick photo. The Lowry team was all smiles shortly after, snapping this photo and celebrating another magical moment at Denver Health.



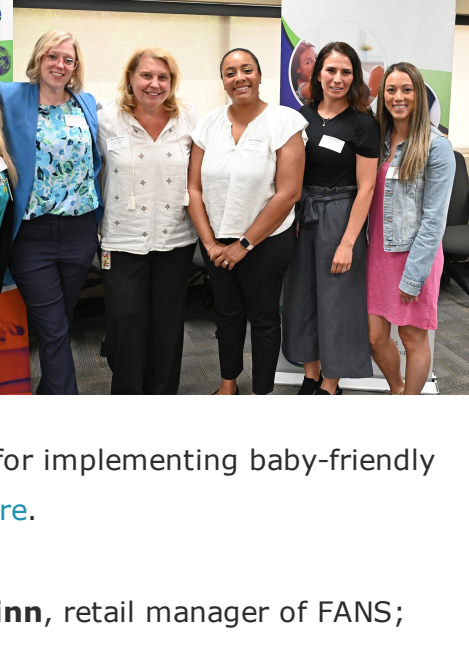
Patient care navigator helps with same-day biopsies

As part of an ongoing series featuring the incredible staff and various departments at Denver Health, this week we're spotlighting the Breast Imaging/Mammography Department, which offers same-day biopsies as part of its world-class breast cancer care. Patient care navigator Alma Mendez has worked at Denver Health for more than nine years. She recently joined the Breast Imaging team after her sister was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago.



RECOGNIZING YOU Denver Health honored for work to improve nutrition, breastfeeding

Denver Health was recognized last week as one of only four hospitals in Colorado to receive the top-rated Platinum Status through the Healthy Hospital Compact. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) honored Denver Health at a June 14 ceremony for meeting rigorous nutritional standards and offering healthy food and beverage options. A huge thanks to Laurie Wohlscheid, general manager of Food and Nutrition Services (FANS), and her team for maintaining the highest standards. Denver Health also received the Celebrate 6 Award of Breastfeeding Excellence for implementing baby-friendly hospital breastfeeding initiatives.



Representing Denver Health at the ceremony were, from left, Cristi Quinn, retail manager of FANS; Wohlscheid; Ann Schumman, senior nursing manager in Mom/Baby; Kenisha Walker, clinical nurse educator in Mom/Baby; Miranda Ernst, charge nurse in Mom/Baby; and Kristin Ellis, Workplace Wellness strategist.

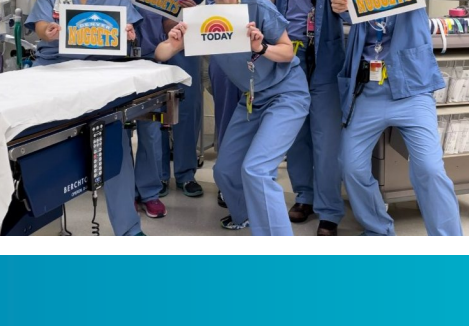
Neuroradiology chief part of team to get grant for Alzheimer's research

Ashesh Thaker, MD, chief of Neuroradiology at Denver Health, was one of several investigators awarded a CU ASPIRE program grant, which funds up to \$200,000 to support collaborative research across campuses. Join us in congratulating Dr. Thaker's team, led by Brianne Bettcher, Ph.D., that will use novel neuroimaging techniques to understand biological mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease.



Nuggets-fueled Denver Health staff featured on "Today"

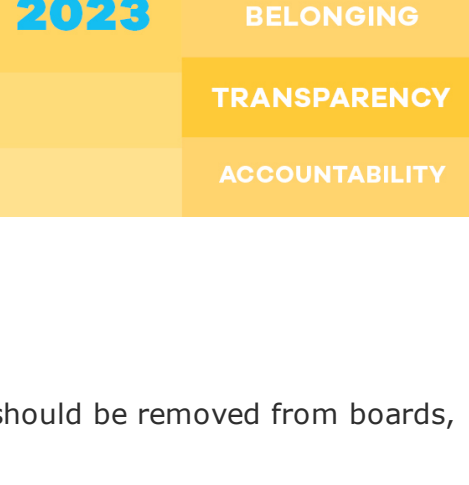
Denver Health certified registered nurse anesthetist Jennifer Harenberg didn't expect her video (screenshot shown) with fellow hospital staff would be featured on the "Today" show last weekend when she submitted it for the live "Virtual Plaza" segment! Congrats to her team for being our ambassadors and celebrities for the day in support of our hometown NBA champion Denver Nuggets.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Internal brand toolkit has new mission, vision, values, strategic goals

With Denver Health refreshing its mission, vision and values, along with strategic goals for this year, we are now offering a toolkit to update your department's Gemba boards, PowerPoints, posters and other materials that you share with colleagues and leaders.



Please use this Pulse link to access the new mission, vision, values and 2023 strategic goals in PPT, PDF, JPG and poster form, which you are then able to integrate with your department's own goal-setting and work.

Out-of-date materials mentioning "True North," dated values and goals should be removed from boards, walls and shared files. Please replace with these new materials.

For help with updating any department's print materials that are not addressed in this toolkit, we have included a link to a form in which you can request additional materials. If you would like posters for your department, email Burke.Speaker@dhha.org to have them interoffice mailed to you.

Virtual discussion to educate on microaggressions, biases

As part of Pride Month, Denver Health's Organizational Development and LGBTQ+ Health Services will lead a virtual discussion on microaggressions and biases toward LGBTQ+ communities from noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, via this Webex link. The discussion will bring awareness on strategies for responding to microaggressions and ideas for personal and departmental action to confront bias.

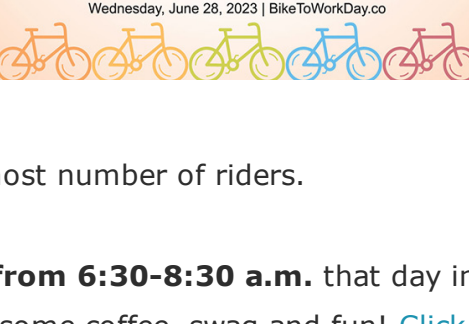


Presenters will be Cydney Brown (they/them), LGBTQ+ Health Services education trainer, and Colleen Toomey (she/her), senior Organizational Development specialist.

GET INVOLVED

Bike to Work Day

Put some joy into your commute on Bike to Work Day, Wednesday, June 28! Join Way to Go and thousands of Denver-area residents by registering to swap a ride in your car for a ride on two wheels, and help improve air quality. Pledge to ride by clicking here and be entered into a drawing to win prizes, including a Tern e-bike!

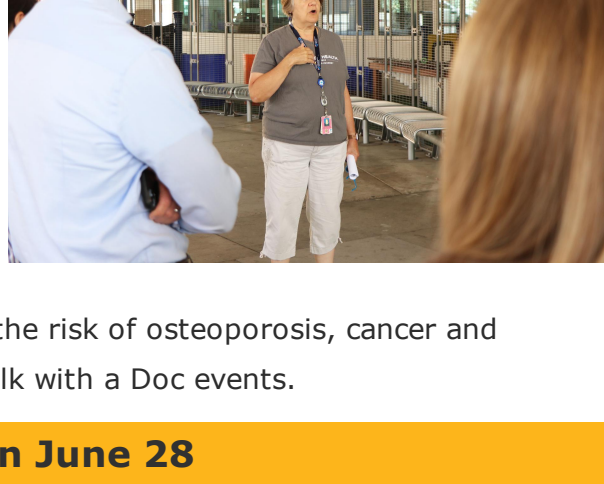


When you register, make sure you select "Join the Business Challenge" and select Denver Health from the "Company Name" dropdown. We're competing against other Denver-area employers for most number of riders.

Denver Health will be hosting a Bike to Work Day coffee station from 6:30-8:30 a.m. that day in front of the Outpatient Medical Center (Pavilion L). Roll by the OMC for some coffee, swag and fun! Click here for a complete map of Bike to Work Day stations around Denver.

Take steps to improve your health

Walk with a Doc events, which are free and open to everyone, are a great way to spend time with physicians and ask medical questions in a relaxed setting. Denver Health physician Grace Alfonsi, MD, (pictured) hosts walks regularly and even took a group for a walk through Sunken Gardens Park on Wednesday as part of Days of Celebration. Dr. Alfonsi is set to host another walk at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 24, at City Park near Thatcher Memorial Fountain. Just 30 minutes of walking a day can reduce the risk of heart disease, improve blood pressure and blood sugar, and reduce the risk of osteoporosis, cancer and diabetes. Click here to see a schedule with more upcoming Walk with a Doc events.



Schwartz Rounds return June 28

Schwartz Rounds are a forum for all Denver Health caregivers, colleagues and staff to address the emotional and social challenges faced in taking care of patients and families. The Schwartz Rounds mission is to promote compassionate health care and strengthen the relationship between patients and caregivers. Join the Schwartz Rounds Planning Committee from 8-9 a.m. Wednesday, June 28, in the Osler classroom in the basement of Pavilion C or virtually using this Webex link. Learn more here on the Pulse.

STAY INFORMED

COVID-19 vaccine no longer required for employees

Denver Health will no longer require proof of COVID-19 vaccine for employees. The decision follows the repeal by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) of the health care worker mandate. New hire employees will no longer need a vaccine or a medical/religious exemption. Should rates of COVID-19 increase in the future, Denver Health reserves the right to change the policy for patient and employee safety.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Denver Health physicians brave elements to finish 15.5-mile race

Several Denver Health team members traveled to Leadville for the Leadville Heavy Half Marathon on June 17. Joshua Williams, MD, Rob Broadhurst, MD, Timothy Jenkins, MD (pictured), Whitney Miller, NP (pictured), and Abraham Nussbaum, MD, all completed the 15.5-mile race through rain, sleet and snow. Congratulations to these Denver Health staff members for not just talking about healthy behaviors but leading by example in the community. Staff looking to join the team for 2024 races should contact Joshua.Williams@dhha.org.



National awareness and recognitions

Certified Nursing Assistants Week was June 15-21, and we'd like to recognize and thank all of the CNAs at Denver Health for the important role you play to help patients and their families, as well as our health care teams.

Is there a department that you'd like us to recognize during a special week or month? Let us know in an Employee Outreach Request form and we'll spotlight them in the 411.

Denver Health in the media

2 People Shot, Denver Officer Struck by Fire Truck Amid Nuggets' NBA Championship Parade June 16, NTD

A Denver Police officer suffered a serious leg injury after he was struck by a firetruck near the end of a parade to celebrate the Denver Nuggets' first NBA championship victory. "As of right now, we can't say necessarily what the outcome will be, but I can guarantee you that our orthopedic services will do everything possible to preserve the limb," Stephen Wolf, MD, director of emergency medicine, told reporters while answering questions if they're able to save his leg.

Denver Health building transitional apartments for patients who have nowhere to go June 20, 9News

"We can't make people healthy without housing," said Sarah Stella, MD, an internal medicine physician who also leads housing and health initiatives at Denver Health.

Healthcare and housing: Why homeless people need both for success June 18, Newsbreak

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless discussed a webinar on the intersection of healthcare and housing. Sarah Stella, MD, participated in the discussion and said Denver Health looks at people experiencing homelessness coming to the emergency room as an opportunity for engagement. "We're feeling it inside the hospital walls," Stella said. You can watch the webinar on YouTube.

Why Patients Transition Off Methadone June 9, This Week in Addiction Medicine from ASAM

Jarratt Pytell, MD, an internal medicine and addiction medicine physician at Denver Health, was featured in a podcast for his research on methadone discontinuation.

The next 5 years of health system growth from 66 executives June 21, Becker's Hospital Review

Becker's asked C-suite executives from hospitals and health systems across the U.S. to share their organization's areas of growth for the next few years. CEO Donna Lynne shares what services she'd like to expand at Denver Health.

After Dobbs, It's Unjust to Make Women Wait for Sterilization June 18, The Messenger

Spencer McClelland, MD, physician lead for Women's Care Clinic, co-authored an opinion piece in The Messenger about barriers to sterilization.

Colorado just recorded its lowest number of COVID hospitalizations since the start of the pandemic June 16, CPR News

"With the current variants, COVID-19 is mostly an outpatient disease for most adults," said Anuj Mehta, MD, a pulmonary care physician and member of the Colorado Vaccine Equity Taskforce.

How to avoid heat-related injury this summer June 21, Fox31

Missy Anderson, RN, pediatric trauma program manager appeared on Denver Health's weekly Fox31 segment to promote National Safety Month, discussing heat-related injuries and how to avoid them this summer.

June is National Migraine and Headache Awareness Month June 14, Fox31

Sarah Christensen, MD, of Denver Health's Eastside clinic appeared on Fox31 to discuss migraines and possible treatments for those who experience them.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event/Article Title. Includes dates like June 23, 23, 23, 24 and events like Scrubs fair, RESTORE Group Support, Walktime BBQ, Day in mammograms, Walk with a Doc, Lunch & Learn, Schwartz Rounds, Bike to Work Day, and Cornerstone annual education training deadline.

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