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Welcome to *Full Circle*, your place for Aims Alumni Connection news!  
We will keep you in the loop on all-things-Aims.

May 21st, 2021

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## College and Community Events

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### 2021 Graduation

The Alumni Connection is thrilled to welcome the Spring 2021 graduates to the alumni family! Their amazing achievements were celebrated in a virtual ceremony on May 7th. The event included remarks from Aims President, Dr. Leah Bornstein, an inspiring message from student speaker Zinsou Mathieu



Houegbenou, presentation of awards, and a slideshow with photos and personal messages as each graduate's name was read. Family, friends, faculty & staff shared live comments and cheered on the grads.

Click here to watch:

English

Spanish



## STAMPEDE SOCIAL & RODEO FINALS

**DOUBLE YOUR FUN** this summer with two events during the Greeley Stampede!

Bring your whole family to the Aims Greeley campus for the Stampede Social on Saturday June 26, 2021. Enjoy stick horse races, corn hole, giant Jenga & other games, line dance lessons, boxed lunch and a visit from Arty.

Then, dust off your boots for the PRCA Rodeo finals on Wednesday, June 30, 2021. We have secured an exclusive Aims alumni section for this exciting night.

We invite you to **DOUBLE YOUR FUN** and socialize with your families and other Aims alumni!

Tickets may be purchased in advance for one or both events. Registration deadline is June 14th. Get your tickets today!

Questions? Call 970-378-3648 or email [Kelly.Zeillmann@aims.edu](mailto:Kelly.Zeillmann@aims.edu)

**Get tickets**

**STAMPEDE SOCIAL:****When:** Saturday, June 26, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**Where:** Cornerstone Building Parking Lot & fields, Aims Greeley Campus [5401 W 20th Street](#)**What:** Boxed lunches, line dancing lessons, games, prizes, music and fun!**Who:** Aims alumni & their families**Cost:** \$15/person*\*To protect the health & safety of all participants, we ask guests to wear a mask.\****RODEO FINALS:****When:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 7 p.m.**Where:** Greeley Stampede grounds**Cost:** \$6 for Aims Alumni section**\$5 for parking pass (optional)***\*Rodeo tickets will be available at the Stampede social for those attending or can be picked up on June 28 and 29 between 3pm-6pm at the Cornerstone Building on the Aims Greeley Campus. Please call the Foundation office at 970-339-6556 if you need to make arrangements to pick up tickets at a different time on those dates.***Aims Foundation****167 Cornerstone****[5401 W 20th St](#)****[Greeley, CO 80634](#)**

## Keeping the Dream Alive

A huge thank you to all who helped this year's graduates Keep their Dream Alive by giving to the Student Emergency Fund. Many of these students were struggling financially due to effects of the pandemic and saw their dream of graduating slipping away. Your generosity raised \$9,760 that was matched 1:1 by the Aims Foundation

Board, doubling your impact. 35 students received emergency funding, allowing them to make it to the finish line. Thank you for investing in your fellow Aardvarks' futures and dreams!



## Arty and Aunt Helen's Coffee House have teamed up to create "The Arty" smoothie!

Named after our favorite aardvark, this vitamin-rich smoothie is the perfect summer drink. Mention you are an Aims alumni and get 10% off! Stop by Aunt Helen's Coffee House in downtown Greeley, and try "The Arty" today!

Check it out here:

[Watch Video](#)

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## Greeley Blues Jam

Aims is a proud sponsor of the 2021 Greeley Blues Jam. Come out for great live music, food & drink, craft beer sampling and more. New to this year's event is the Kansas BBQ contest, with 35 professional teams from across the country competing for a \$10,000 grand prize.

**When:** June 5th

**Where:** Island Grove Regional park

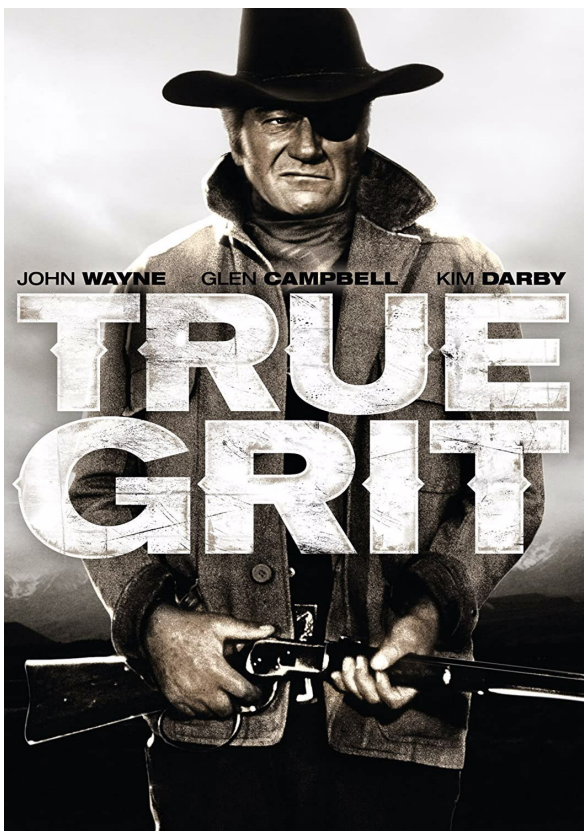
**When:** Music starts at noon

Click below for more info and to get tickets:



**Get Tickets!**

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## Drive In Movie

We are kicking off our summer drive-in movie series on June 11th!

**Movie:** True Grit

**When:** June 11 (Starts at dusk)

**Where:** Cornerstone Parking lot, Aims Greeley campus, [5401 W 20th St](#)

**Cost:** Free

Refreshments provided!

**More info**

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## Alumni Benefits

Are you looking to try something new in your fitness routine this summer? Check out the Aims Continuing Education Health & Fitness classes. Explore yoga, belly dancing, pickleball and more!

Click below to find out more!



**Learn More!**

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## Alumni Spotlight

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## **Carolyn (CJ) Renaud**

***“Education is about connecting passion, talent and knowledge.”***

After serving more than 20 years as a police officer, Carolyn (CJ) Renaud was encouraged to make a change. “My mentor told me I needed to leave law enforcement and go into education,” she said. Aims Community College was the perfect stepping stone to achieving that goal.

Before she could pursue her Masters in Education, CJ needed a few prerequisite classes. Aims offered those classes at night, which allowed CJ to continue to work for the Aurora police department while going to school.

Driving from Greeley to Aurora and back every day and going to class at night was grueling. But, CJ promised herself she would never skip class no matter how tired she was from her drive home. She kept that promise and did so well in her biology class that she was exempted from the final.

Meeting students in all walks of life who were pursuing their education while navigating various challenges in life is one the things that made an impact on CJ

during her time at Aims. She also realized that “it doesn’t matter if you are attending a 4-year or a 2-year institution, your education matters!”

After getting straight A’s in all her biology and chemistry classes at Aims, CJ went on to earn her MA in Education from the University of Phoenix. Her first position in education was with Greeley-Evans District 6 in a newly created position as the Business & Community Partnership Administrator. That role enabled CJ to live out her passion for building partnerships to create opportunities for students and enrich communities. “Education is about connecting passion, talent and knowledge,” she said.

In her current role as Senior Community Relations Liaison for Western Governors University, CJ builds relationships with community leaders, business owners and organizations to open pathways of opportunity for all individuals aspiring to increase their knowledge and skills.

CJ is a champion for affordable, accessible education throughout Northern Colorado, and it all started at Aims. “Aims is the best kept secret in Northern Colorado. It is a community college constantly putting the community first.”



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Aims Community College Foundation

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