



**Aurora Tech Academy**  
**1564 Elmira St., Aurora, CO 80015**  
**Grades: k-5**  
**Director: Alonzo Smith**

The Hope Online Learning Center at Aurora Tech Academy, established in 2007, offers an alternative learning option to at-risk students in North Aurora. Generally, youth in this area lack educational options beyond their local school. Aurora Tech Academy offers another learning approach to students, preparing them for future academic success.

Hope Online at Aurora Tech Academy caters to elementary students, because Learning Center Director Alonzo Smith believes that a solid educational foundation lends itself to optimal educational performance in later years. Furthermore, academic basics help create healthy attitudes towards life-long learning.

“Many students become discouraged with school at a young age, sometimes even as early as kindergarten,” reports Mr. Smith. “They get lost in a large traditional classroom and do not receive the one-on-one attention needed to build their confidence or master the fundamentals.”

According to Mr. Smith, Hope Online provides crucial components that create a healthy, productive learning environment for all students. Aurora Tech Academy weaves fun into everyday coursework, getting students excited about learning. The Hope Online curriculum and time on the computer is a favorite for these young learners, because it is visually interactive and audibly engaging.

Despite challenges in their home lives, including being raised by a single parent or economic hardships, the Hope Online students at Aurora Tech Academy are making tremendous progress. Most students have improved their standardized test scores and now perform at or beyond proficiency.

One student, upon enrolling in Hope Online, did not know English and was not able to recognize letters or colors. After only one semester, she speaks English fluently and knows her colors and letters. She, like many Hope Online students, demonstrates impressive growth in both her educational achievement and self-confidence.

“A key tenet of Hope Online and Aurora Tech Academy is to instill confidence in our students,” affirms Mr. Smith. “When we believe in these students they believe in themselves, their abilities and their future goals.”

Each morning before students begin their lessons, they sing a short song titled “I Know I Can.” With the help of their highly qualified Hope Online teacher and dedicated Learning Center mentors, they will achieve educational success.

## **Learning Center Administration**

### **Alonzo Smith - Director**

Alonzo Smith has professional experience in the technology field, as a computer programmer for Qwest Communications. He uncovered his passion for providing a quality education and joined the team at Aurora Tech Academy as the Learning Center Director. Mr. Smith is working towards a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Information Systems.

## **Hope Online Teacher**

### **Candice Steele – Hope Online Teacher**