

**TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER**

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I. SUMMARY

The University of Colorado System has submitted a proposal for a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) to be offered at the University of Colorado Denver through the Colorado School of Public Health. This professional degree is recognized by the national accrediting body of schools of public health as the doctoral-level, practice-based degree for the field of public health.

The Board of Regents for the University of Colorado System has approved this proposal as a new degree program in the Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH).

II. BACKGROUND

The following information is summarized from the University of Colorado Denver proposal for the doctoral degree in Public Health.

The Colorado School of Public Health will open in July 2008 and will be the only school of public health in the region. Its graduate programs will serve students in Colorado and neighboring states, enabling them to train for the public health profession without leaving the area. The school will promote retention of a highly trained public health workforce in Colorado and facilitate long-term stability in Colorado's public health infrastructure. The addition of this practice-based, doctoral-level degree will give students who plan to work in Colorado's communities the education and experience they need to serve in this capacity.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT:

The DrPH degree is congruent with the University of Colorado Denver's role and mission of excellence in health education, research and service for the benefit of communities in Colorado.

EVIDENCE OF NEED FOR THE PROGRAM:

The national shortage of public health professionals has been well documented. Because there are no DrPH degree programs in Colorado or the region, Colorado residents seeking that degree must leave the state for their education. Those who

leave may not return after completing the degree, thereby contributing to the shortage of trained professionals in our state.

EVIDENCE OF STUDENT DEMAND

The CSPH conducted a survey of Colorado's public health workforce and found 34% interested in personally pursuing a DrPH. Additionally, of those surveyed, 81% indicated that it is important for the new school to offer a DrPH degree.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Department staff has reviewed this proposed program and found that it meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. 23-1-121.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only; no formal action by the Commission is required.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. 23-1-121