

TOPIC: BRIEFING ON OUTREACH TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND RELATED EFFORTS

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I. SUMMARY & BACKGROUND

Major educational goals set by the governor depend, among other factors, on demonstrating to many under-served and first-generation college-going families that they have the intellectual and financial ability to complete high school and go to college. The Department has several activities designed to accomplish this objective. This agenda item is intended to inform the Commission about two of these activities. A third, the GEAR-UP program, may be the subject for a briefing at another meeting.

College In Colorado: To help fulfill the Colorado Promise, College In Colorado has been working diligently to decrease high school dropout rates and increase college-going rates. In partnership with educators, counselors, schools and school districts across our great state, 80,000 middle and high school students used CollegeInColorado.org for career and college planning during the 2007-2008 school year. Through College In Colorado's motivational presentations, over 25,000 students from more than 125 middle and high schools were challenged to think beyond high school and realize their full potential. Additionally, College In Colorado, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, the Colorado Community College System and the Department of Labor and Employment are collaborating in an effort to launch tools on the CollegeInColorado.org Website to help non-traditional students, adult learners and the current workforce with career and post-secondary planning.

CAGC: Under a the two-year federal grant (\$852,698 each year) from the College Access Challenge Grant program, CollegeInvest and College In Colorado are collaborating to inform students and families about: the benefits of a post-secondary education; planning for post-secondary education and career; college financial issues and debt management; scholarships, financial aid, and completing the FAFSA; need-based grant. They are also working to expand guidance counselors' numbers and capacity to serve underrepresented students and schools with high drop-out rates. CollegeInvest and College In Colorado will use various strategies to meet these goals including: a presentation on financial literacy and debt management; expanding the College In Colorado Website to include an adult educational and career planning component; hiring an outreach professional dedicated to the Western Slope; partnering with the Governor's Office to support loan forgiveness for guidance counselors serving high-poverty schools; and providing an additional \$321,000 each year for need-based scholarships.

This is an information item only.