

TOPIC: REAUTHORIZATION OF THE COLORADO-NEW MEXICO RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT AND APPROVAL OF FY2009-2010 INSTITUTIONAL ALLOCATIONS

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I. SUMMARY

Since academic year 1981-1982, Colorado and New Mexico have had a reciprocity agreement designed and implemented to provide enhanced educational opportunities for students of both states. The program extends opportunities to a specific number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students from New Mexico to attend participating institutions in Colorado at the Colorado institutions' resident tuition rates. Likewise, the same number of FTE Colorado students may attend specified New Mexico institutions at the resident rate of those New Mexico institutions. Participating students are treated as resident students both for tuition and FTE funding purposes. As the program is reciprocal, no state funds are exchanged between the two states. The FTE limit for the past several years has been 300. In 2006-2007, 293 New Mexico students (190.6 FTE) were enrolled in Colorado and 465 Colorado students (289 FTE) were enrolled in New Mexico under the agreement.

The current agreement expires on June 30, 2009. DHE staff will submit a formal request to the Commission in spring 2009 to extend the agreement for the three-year period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

This agenda item presents proposed institutional allocations for participating Colorado schools for the 2009-2010 academic year.

II. BACKGROUND

Colorado and New Mexico initially developed the reciprocity agreement primarily to meet the educational needs of New Mexicans living in the northern area of that state. For many of these New Mexico residents, the nearest post-secondary institution is in Colorado. The most obvious example is the close proximity of Raton, NM to Trinidad, Colorado and its junior college, Trinidad State Junior College, while the nearest New Mexico institution is about 100 miles away.

After initiation of a limited exchange program, it became apparent that many more New Mexico students were coming to Colorado under the agreement than Colorado students going to New Mexico. Early in 1985, the two states reached a new agreement that expanded the number of participating Colorado border institutions and opened up virtually all New Mexico colleges and universities to Colorado reciprocity students. At that time, the program accommodated slightly over 200 FTE students. The agreement has remained in much the same form since that time. Currently four Colorado baccalaureate institutions and four two-year colleges participate: Adams State College, Fort Lewis College, Colorado State University-Pueblo, Western State College,

Lamar Community College, and Pueblo Community College (at its Southwest Center), San Juan Basin Technical College, and Trinidad Junior College. All of New Mexico's public colleges and universities are participants except for the University of New Mexico's Schools of Medicine and Law and the New Mexico Military Institute. The reciprocity agreement includes only undergraduate students.

In recent years, enrollment of Colorado students in New Mexico institutions has increased to almost double the number of New Mexico students enrolled in Colorado institutions. This trend is expected to continue because New Mexico is planning additional programs in the health care field that will attract Colorado students.

Tables one and two represent total credit hours, headcount and FTE enrollments, by state and institution, for fiscal years 2003-2004 through 2006-2007:

Table 1: Fiscal Years 2003-2004 through 2006-07
FTE Enrollment in CO/NM Reciprocity: New Mexico Students in Colorado
Public Colleges and Universities

New Mexico Higher Education Department (NM/CO Reciprocity)
Credit Hours & FTE Counts, 2003-2007

Institution	2007-2008 Allocation*	2006 -2007			2005 - 2006			2004 -2005			2003 -2004		
	FTE	Total Credit Hrs	Head Count	FTE	Total Credit Hrs	Head Count	FTE	Total Credit Hrs	Head Count	FTE	Total Credit Hrs	Head Count	FTE
CNM	1	42	10	1.4	42	8	1.4	39	9	1.3	63	16	2.1
ENMU	11	307	12	10.2	579	19	19.3	391	24	13.0	207	13	6.9
NMHU	23	564	30	18.8	769	41	25.6	999	78	33.3	802	76	26.7
NMIMT	11	462	17	15.4	348	11	11.6	313	20	10.4	309	20	10.3
NMSU	38	1242	50	41.4	1391	51	46.4	1602.5	107	53.4	1255.5	95	41.9
NNMCC	5	284	12	9.5	250	10	8.3	44	4	1.5	64	6	2.1
SJC	88	3299.5	236	110.0	3675	235	122.5	3130	282	104.3	2990	274	99.7
UNM	61	2289	90	76.3	2620	89	87.3	1954	136	65.1	2117	147	70.6
WNMU	6	189	8	6.3	117	5	3.9	252	17	8.4	153	10	5.1
Total	243	8679	465	289	9791	469	326	8725	677	291	7961	657	265

* 2007-2008 allocation is based on 5 year average.

Table 2: Fiscal Years 2003-2004 through 2007-08
FTE Enrollment in CO/NM Reciprocity: Colorado Students in New
Mexico Public Colleges and Universities

Colorado Department of Higher Education (CO/NM Reciprocity)
Credit Hours & FTE Counts, 2003 - 2007

Institution	2007-2008 Allocation*	2007-2008			2006-2007			2005-2006			2004-2005			2003-2004		
	FTE	Total Credit Hrs	Head Count	FTE	Total Credit Hrs	Head Count	FTE	Total Credit Hrs	Head Count	FTE	Total Credit Hrs	Head Count	FTE	Total Credit Hrs	Head Count	FTE
ASC (48)	48	1292	54	43.1	1129.4	48	37.6	984	38	32.8	666	24	22.2	662	24	22.1
CSU-P (8)	8	60	2	2.0	138	6	4.6	102	4	3.4	158	6	5.3	216	10	7.2
FL C (84)	84	2392	92	79.7	2109	82	70.3	2461	90	82.0	2344	83	78.1	2782	97	92.7
LCC (22)	19	143	9	4.8	187	11	6.2	220	14	7.3	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
PCC (3)	3	81	7	2.7	98	6	3.3	65	4	2.2	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
TSJC (110)	110	1504	115	50.1	1947	135	64.9	1688.5	108	56.3	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
WSC (8)	10	42	2	1.4	109	5	3.6	213	7	7.1	229.5	8	7.7	169.5	7	5.7
SJBTC*	18															
TOTALS	300	5514	281	183.8	5717.4	293	190.6	5733.5	265	191.1	3397.5	121	113.3	3829.5	138	127.7

() represents number FTE alloted in 2007-08

*SJBTC does not report student enrollment data

Student count is distinct - credithours is summed up from all terms so it's one to many Student/Credithours.

FTE = Credit Hours / 30

The Commission gives each participating institution in Colorado an FTE allocation from the total available FTEs. Allocations are modified annually to accommodate changing demand among participants. The two institutions that are located on the Colorado-New Mexico border—Trinidad State Junior College and Fort Lewis College—historically have accounted for three quarters of the overall enrollments, and they continue to do so.

Table three below illustrates the institutional allocations approved by the Commission for FY2007-08, the actual FTE usage reported by Colorado colleges participating in the Agreement, and the difference between these two numbers, reported in actual differences.

**Table 3: Fiscal Year 2007-08
Institutional FTE Enrollment Allocations for the CO/NM Reciprocity
Agreement Approved by the Commission.**

Institution	07-08 Allocation	07-08 Actual	Difference
ASC	48	54	+6
CSU-Pueblo	8	2	-6
FLC	84	92	+8
WSC	10	2	-6
LCC	19	9	-10
PCC(SW Center)	3	7	+4
SJBTC	18	***	***
TSJC	110	115	+5

***SJBTC does not provide SURDS data.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Reciprocity Agreement

The New Mexico-Colorado reciprocity agreement continues to be a worthwhile reciprocal agreement that has afforded additional educational opportunities to thousands of students from the two states over the twenty-six years the program has been in place. While the numerical balance between the states fluctuates from year to year, the exchange of students has remained sufficiently in balance to qualify as a truly reciprocal exchange program. In spring 2009, DHE staff will recommend continuation of the agreement under the authority of Department of Higher Education (DHE) Student Affairs Policy VI: Part D, Reciprocal Tuition Agreements.

At this time, DHE staff recommends the following change to reflect new realities in college-going behaviors and funding mechanisms. The recommended change clarifies that institutions will be reimbursed for credit hours, not headcount, thereby recognizing in policy the flexibility necessary to accommodate part-time students. In that regard, the following language added to section five of the reciprocity agreement when it was last renewed in 2006 would be retained when the current agreement expires in June, 2009:

a. Designated institutions may divide FTE allocations to accommodate less than full-time students. For example, one 30-credit hour FTE may be divided into two 15-credit hour FTEs to accommodate two part-time enrolled students.

b. Designated institutions in Colorado shall be reimbursed on a credit hour basis through Fee-For-Service Contracts up to but not exceeding the equivalent of the number of FTE students allocated to the institution by CCHE multiplied by 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours during the academic year.

Further, having consulted with the New Mexico Department of Higher Education, DHE staff recommend an increase in FTE for fiscal year 2009-2010 from the current 300 FTE to 400 FTE. The increase will serve to expand opportunities for students in both states, and in particular will accommodate Trinidad State Junior College as it seeks to significantly increase enrollment in its nursing certification programs in response to the healthcare needs of its region.

The New Mexico and Colorado Departments of Higher Education have agreed to increase allocations based on the difference of allocated rather than actual FTE. Specifically, Fort Lewis College and Trinidad State Junior College will receive the majority of the 100 increase in FTE, while other institutions will receive 2009-2010 allocations which more closely reflect the actual usage of 2007-2008 levels. For example, CSU-Pueblo will also receive an increase, in partial response to the increase in their current overall enrollment.

Table 4
FY 2009-2010 FTE Allocations to Colorado Institutions

Institution	07-08 Allocation	07-08 Actual	Difference	09-10 Allocation
ASC	48	54	+6	75
CSU-Pueblo	8	2	-6	15
FLC	84	92	+8	100
WSC	10	2	-6	10
LCC	19	9	-10	20
PCC (SW Center)	3	7	+4	12
SJBTC	18	***	***	18
TSJC	110	115	+5	150

***SJBTC does not provide SURDS data.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the recommended FY2009-10 FTE allocations presented in Table 4.

V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

23-1-112 C.R.S.: "...the commission shall identify those circumstances where the waving of the nonresident differential in tuition rates, on a reciprocal basis with other states would enhance educational opportunities for Colorado residents. Relative to such identified circumstances, the commission shall negotiate with the other states involved with the objective of establishing reciprocal agreements for the waiving of the nonresidential differential for Colorado residents attending state institutions of higher education in other states in exchange for Colorado state institutions of higher education waiving the nonresident differential for residents of the other states. Agreements negotiated between Colorado and other states shall provide for an equal number of resident and nonresident students to be exchanged between the states. The commission shall establish regulations for the administration of this section, based on the application of the closest college concept..."