

**TOPIC: HEARING ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY – GLOBAL CAMPUS**

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I. OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

At its November 13, 2008 meeting, the Commission took action regarding authorization for proposed Bachelors and Masters degree programs offered by the new Colorado State University–Global Campus (CSU-G) through on-line instruction. The reviews and assurances required of CSU-G by that Commission action remain pending and are due March 1, 2009. CSU-G has subsequently determined to seek legislation to establish this new institution in the Colorado State University system with explicit statutory authorization.

The establishment of a new public institution of higher education to offer bachelors and masters degree programs through on-line instruction, within a prescribed role and mission, presents major public policy questions for the General Assembly, the Governor, the Commission, and public and private institutions of higher education in Colorado. These include: budgetary implications; the concept and efficacy of exclusively on-line instruction; accreditation and quality assurance; questions pertaining to differentiated role and mission; competitive implications for other institution's student recruitment; and the impact of any duplication of programs.

While proposed legislation is being drafted and its final provisions remain to be determined, we expect the then current draft of the legislation will be available prior to the Commission's meeting January 9th.

Legislation was the course of action recommended to CSU-G by the department as the preferred *procedural* approach to dealing with the questions raised by the authorization of CSU-G by the Colorado State University's Board of Governors. However, the department has also advised CSU-G that it is for the present non-committal regarding the *merits* of the legislation.

The hearing before the Commission is an initial step in examining the merits and providing an opportunity for interested persons and organizations to express their views on the proposed legislation. Other institutions have been advised of the hearing and the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The Commission may decide later that it should take a formal position on the proposal, but no formal action is recommended at this time.