

**TOPIC: RESOLUTION ENDORSING PROPOSAL TO LUMINA
FOUNDATION FOR MAKING OPPORTUNITY AFFORDABLE
GRANT – DAVID**

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I. SUMMARY & BACKGROUND

Based on the Department's proposal, Colorado was selected last year as one of eleven states to receive a 'planning year' grant of \$150,000 from the Lumina Foundation under its *Making Opportunity Affordable* (MOA) program. The grant has been used this year to support the Department's work in preparation for the pending strategic planning initiative and in testing approaches to induce nontraditional students within reach of degree completion to finish their degrees. The Department will be submitting a proposal to Lumina September 11 seeking one of the expected five 'implementation' grants of \$2 million over four years to continue our work on the MOA agenda for higher education: increase and reward degree completion, generate and reinvest savings, and educate in affordable ways. Because the objectives of the MOA program and the expected direction of the Commission's pending strategic planning initiative have much in common, selection to receive an implementation grant would be extremely helpful to the state and the Department, both financially and as a credential reflecting the quality and legitimacy of our work. The purpose of this agenda item is to request Commission approval of a resolution endorsing the department's proposal.

II. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission approve the resolution attached as Exhibit A.

Exhibit A

Resolution of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education
Concerning Colorado's Proposal to the Lumina Foundation for
Implementation Grant under the *Making Opportunity Affordable* Program

Whereas, Colorado was selected last year as one of eleven states to receive a 'planning year' grant of \$150,000 from the Lumina Foundation under its *Making Opportunity Affordable* (MOA) program; and

Whereas, the grant to the Department of Higher Education has been used this year to support the department's work in preparation for the pending strategic planning initiative and in testing approaches to induce nontraditional students within reach of degree completion to finish their degrees; and

Whereas, the Department soon will be submitting a proposal to Lumina seeking one of the expected five 'implementation' grants to continue work on the MOA agenda for higher education: increase and reward degree completion, generate and reinvest savings, and educate in affordable ways; and

Whereas, the objectives of the MOA program and the expected direction of the Commission's pending strategic planning initiative have much in common; and

Whereas, selection to receive an implementation grant would be extremely helpful to the state and the Department in conducting the new strategic planning initiative and then in working to implement the resulting strategic plan; and,

Whereas, the Commission is itself fully committed to proceed with the Colorado higher education strategic planning initiative, and understands the similar commitment on the part of Governor Ritter;

Now, therefore, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education endorses the Department's proposal to the Lumina Foundation and pledges its support for the work contemplated in the proposal.

Done this 10th day of September, 2009.