

TOPIC: CCHE MASTER PLAN

PREPARED BY: DR. KIM POAST

I. SUMMARY

The CCHE is required, by statute, to develop a new master plan for higher education and submit it to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 15, 2010. The CCHE has adopted the Higher Education Strategic Plan as its Draft Master Plan, and thereby solicit governing board feedback. This action item is intended to have the CCHE take formal action on adopting a master plan for Colorado higher education.

II. BACKGROUND

By statute (CRS-23-1-108) the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) is required to develop a master plan for the system of postsecondary institutions every four years. The last master plan was completed by the CCHE in 1999, and updated in 2001. In order to meet the legislative requirements, Governor Bill Ritter Jr., by executive order, appointed a twelve member bi-partisan steering committee in December, 2009. The HESP was chaired by citizen volunteers Jim Lyons and Dick Monfort, and comprised of representation from business and industry, higher education institutions, nonprofit organizations and members of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE).

The Governor charged the steering committee with defining state higher educational needs and examining institutional missions; reviewing the governance and structure of the system of higher education; addressing higher education funding; and increasing and improving student access and success. In addition, the Higher Education Steering Committee was charged with addressing two key completion oriented agendas:

Colorado: To double the number of degrees and certificates by 2020

United States: To increase the percentage of degree holders aged 25-34 to 60% by 2020

The Steering Committee developed four subcommittees to address specific areas:

1. The Mission & Governance subcommittee was charged with identifying the proper role, mission and governance structure of the state's higher education system;
2. The Pipeline subcommittee was charged with addressing the role of the system in decreasing remediation, expanding transition programs, removing barriers for nontraditional learners, and increase completion;
3. The Accessibility subcommittee was charged with addressing the role of the state and institutions in continuing to provide access to students, particularly those most vulnerable groups which include ethnic minorities, low income, and those with geographic barriers; and
4. The Sustainability subcommittee was charged with making recommendations related to Colorado higher education funding as it relates to state goals.

The Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee concluded its work on November 4, 2010. The final report ("The Degree Dividend") was adopted by the CCHE as the draft Master Plan at its October 7, 2010 meeting. The draft master plan was distributed to governing boards for feedback and comment from October 8-22. The Degree Dividend took into consideration, per statute, feedback and recommendations

from higher education governing boards, and where appropriate, incorporated such into its final work product. The attached letter to the General Assembly outlines the master plan process, and a work plan framework to be utilized for the purposes of implementation. The final master plan is to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 15, 2010.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

That the CCHE adopt a Master Plan for the system that incorporates the following three components:

1. Adopting of a comprehensive strategic plan (The Degree Dividend)
2. Narrowing strategic strategies to develop specific institution level plans; and,
3. Ongoing evaluation to maintain accountability and to address changing conditions.

In addition, that the CCHE authorize the attached letter and hardcopy of the Degree Dividend be sent to the General Assembly on or before December 15, 2010.

~