

TOPIC: ENDORSE COLORADO'S PARTICIPATION IN COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA

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I. SUMMARY

Complete College America Alliance of States (Alliance) is an organization focused on improving college completion rates for states and the country by inviting states to commit to jointly set goals on, plan for and report on completion. Stan Jones, former head of higher education in Indiana, is leading this independent, non-partisan, and non-profit effort.

Specifically, states participating in the Alliance must commit to three actions:

- *Set completions goals:* Establish annual state and campus-specific goals
- *Develop action plans and move key policy levers:* Create strategies to redesign remediation, reduce time to degree, and provide financial incentives to students and colleges for completion.
- *Collect and report common measures of progress:* Use consistent data and progression measures to create a culture that values completion, including annual public reporting of benchmark and progress data.

To join the alliance, states must submit a letter from their governor.

Considerations:

Signing on to the Alliance would prove useful for the following reasons:

- The group is committed to outcomes that are widely sought in Colorado, are already being worked on;
- The group is funded by some of the major national education foundations and it is a good affiliation for the state;
- It will provide access to some technical resources that might prove useful for the planning process; and,
- It is consistent with the recommendations of the strategic plan

At the first meeting of the Higher Education Strategic Planning Steering Committee in January 2009, the group weighed these issues and recommended that Colorado sign on to the Alliance. Governor Ritter did not opt to sign on to the alliance at that time as it would have presupposed certain outcomes from the strategic plan.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Endorse the recommendation to join CCA and ask Governor Ritter to submit a letter to that effect, naming CCHE as the designated point of contact for Colorado's participation.