

TOPIC: OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENT GAP

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I. SUMMARY

At its February 2010 meeting, the Commission decided to adopt a work plan to better define and accomplish its policy goals. This agenda item presents the second of three items for that work plan—goals for addressing the achievement gap in Colorado and provides a framework for a gap analysis that will be conducted in order to better analyze possible contributing factors that serve to create and sustain the achievement gap. Conversely, the framework will also provide for an analysis of expansive and restrictive statutes, policies and practices that either contribute to sustaining the gap as it currently exists; or, facilitate the reduction in disparities between Colorado's racial majority and minority populations.

II. GAP ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

At its February 2010 meeting, the Commission adopted the following goals and timelines:

- 1) Identify successful programs and practices that, if scaled out, could positively impact the achievement gap – October 2010
- 2) Identify and analyze trends that have contributed to Colorado's achievement gap – October 2010
- 3) Identify institutional barriers to closing the achievement gap – November 2010
- 4) Develop a report summarizing the findings – January 2011

The gap analysis framework for the CCHE's Work Plan and the achievement gap will include the following steps:

- 1) The collection of institutional-level data around a specific set of metrics (both quantitative and qualitative), currently being identified and vetted by DHE staff and stakeholders, including: Academic Council and the DHE DAG (Data Advisory Group);
- 2) An analysis, including input from and dialogue with institutions regarding the data collected and the identification of barriers, opportunities; and, expansive and restrictive practices and policies;
- 3) Inform DHE staff and staff of Colorado's post-secondary institutions what we know works (best practices);
- 4) Inform DHE staff and staff of Colorado's post-secondary institutions regarding what barriers exist and contribute to or otherwise serve to sustain or exacerbate the achievement gap;
- 5) Inform DHE staff and staff of Colorado's post-secondary institutions regarding best practices that could have scalability potential, (that is, institutional practices that may be

replicable at other or all of Colorado's public, post-secondary institution) and have proven to reduce the achievement gap;

- 6) Inform DHE staff and staff of Colorado's post-secondary institutions regarding institutional-level, state-level and federal practices and policies that expand opportunity for students and serve to reduce the achievement gap; or, restrictive policies that constrict opportunity for students and further exacerbate the achievement gap.