

**TOPIC: APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN STATE-FUNDED STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

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**I. SUMMARY**

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) is directed by statute to establish eligibility guidelines and determine institutions eligible for participation in the Colorado student aid program. Based on its application and supporting material, the Naropa University meets CCHE's guidelines for initial participation. Staff recommend that the Commission approve the Naropa University into the state financial aid program, making them eligible for a pilot grant (\$15,000) for fiscal year 2011-2012.

**II. BACKGROUND**

According to CCHE policy, an "eligible institution" is one that is operating in Colorado and can document that it has a governance structure in place and the institutional capability necessary to administer a student aid program, as well as sufficient in-state enrollment in eligible programs. An "eligible program" is a program of education or training that:

- 1) Admits, as regular students, only persons having a certificate of graduation from a secondary school (high school graduates), the recognized equivalent of that certificate (GED), or persons beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State of Colorado who have been shown to have the ability to benefit from the education or training offered.
- 2) Leads to a bachelor's, associate, professional, or higher degree; or a) is at least a two-year program which is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's degree; or b) is at least a one-year program leading to a certificate or degree that prepares a student for gainful employment in a recognized occupation; or c) is, for a proprietary institution or a postsecondary vocational institution, a program of at least six months duration (16 semester hours or trimester hours, or 24 quarter hours, or 600 clock hours) leading to a certificate or degree that prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.

At a minimum, an institutional applicant must have successfully administered federal campus-based programs for at least two years, have the proper accreditation standards, and have submitted an application to the Commission. If the Commission approves the application, the institution will receive initial need-based grant funding.

**III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

Naropa University is a non-profit, private institution in Boulder, Colorado. After a review of the application material, DHE staff conclude that the Naropa University meets the qualifying criteria

for participation.

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Type of Programs</b>	<b>Accreditation</b>	<b>Supporting Documentation</b>
Naropa University	Bachelor of Arts degrees, Master's Degrees; Certificate and Licensing	Accreditation from The Higher Learning Commission, a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.	(1) Participated in federal campus-based financial aid program for two years. (2) Holds Department of Education approved accreditation. (3) Provided financial statement for federal programs within the required audit report of its federal programs.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Commission approve the Naropa University as an eligible institution for participation in Colorado's state-funded financial aid programs beginning fiscal year 2011-2012.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

**23-3.3-102 C.R.S.**

**23-3.3-103 C.R.S.**