

**TOPIC: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT CCHE
MASTER PLAN**

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I. SUMMARY

This item recommends that the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) adopt the Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee's final report as its master plan. The Higher Education Strategic Planning committee, comprised of CCHE members, institutional representatives, and nonprofit and business leaders, is expected to submit its final report to the CCHE on November 4, 2010. 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.

II. BACKGROUND

According to statute (CRS-23-1-108), the 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 inform the master planning process, Governor Bill Ritter Jr., by executive order, appointed a twelve member bi-partisan steering committee in December, 2009. The Steering Committee 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.

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 CCHE is required, by statute, to distribute the draft plan to the governing boards for comment. Governing Boards have fourteen days to submit any comments or suggested revisions to the Commission.

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 the HESP Draft Strategic Plan as the Draft CCHE Master Plan, and solicit feedback from governing boards beginning October 8, 2010. The CCHE should instruct Governing Boards that comments are to be received no later than October 21, 2010.