

September 1, 2010

Chairman James Polsfut, Commissioner
C/O Department of Higher Education
1560 Broadway, Suite 1600
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Chairman Polsfut and Members of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education:

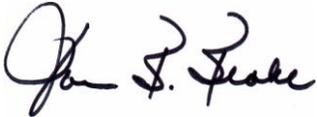
Over the course of the last several months we have watched as the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) has considered numerous funding models for fiscal year 2012. Although the models have gone through many iterations in an effort to address a variety of concerns, the earliest models continue to be the only ones to receive a high level of support from a majority of higher education systems and institutions. In fact, the current model under consideration has the least amount of support that we have witnessed to date.

The Department of Higher Education in response to concerns over the current funding model has asked institutions and systems for suggestions. We believe this to be a positive step. As leaders within higher education, we would like to suggest that the commission consider the following:

- We ask the commission to adopt a model that maintains total state appropriated funding for higher education institutions and entities at the current level of \$555 million. As the policy body for higher education, we believe it is important that CCHE resist supporting or suggesting a lower funding level, which can intimate that institutions can operate with less than the current level of state support.
- As the primary advocate for Colorado's colleges and universities, we ask you and members of the CCHE to adopt a funding methodology that protects all governing boards and their students from unreasonable cost increases. The model we favor is the "three-part" model that was shared with the commission in early July of this year. It takes into consideration enrollment, state support and total revenues, while limiting the fluctuation in funding cuts for institutions. We are confident that this model also meets the key principles laid out by the commission.

The economic strength of this state is dependent upon a strong system of higher education and a well educated workforce. Any further reductions in state support will only jeopardize the state's long-term economic success. As leaders within the public system of higher education in Colorado, we appreciate your consideration.

Best regards,



Joseph B. Blake, Chancellor
Colorado State University System



Bruce D. Benson, President
University of Colorado System



Bill Scoggins, President
Colorado School of Mines



Kay Norton, President
University of Northern Colorado



Dr. David Svaldi, President
Adams State College



Dr. Jay Helman, President
Western State College



Dr. Dene Kay Thomas
President, Fort Lewis College

Cc: Rico Munn
Mark Cavanaugh