

**TOPIC: CCHE WORK PLAN DISCUSSION**

**PREPARED BY: DR. KIM POAST**

**I. SUMMARY**

At the January, 2011 CCHE meeting, Commissioners engaged in a discussion of priorities to address in the next year. This agenda item is intended to further that discussion.

**II. BACKGROUND AND STAFF ANALYSIS**

Similar to last year, Commissioners can expect their work over calendar year 2011 to comprise 1) ongoing, statutorily required actions; 2) actions necessitated by legislation or other events throughout the year; and 3) next steps to the strategic planning process, namely master planning. In addition, the Commission may wish to adopt a Work Plan with specific issue areas the Commission would seek to address or make progress on, as it did last year.

Staff has reviewed the Commission's recent discussions and also the Higher Education Strategic Plan (HESP), and has identified the following eight priority areas that encompass many of the HESP recommendations and CCHE stated interests:

1. **Performance contracts** – Performance contracts with all institutions expire June 30, 2011. The CCHE will have to renegotiate those contracts or develop a new accountability mechanism with the institutions. Either way, the process should integrate the goals from the work product of the HESP and the Financial Accountability Plans (FAPs), something that will likely take more than the five months left on the current contracts..
2. **Finance policy** - The CCHE has repeatedly called for a more coherent finance policy that takes a more comprehensive approach to financial aid, general fund, and tuition policy. In particular, the CCHE has indicated a desire to examine the College Opportunity Fund, and its role in finance policy.
3. **Attainment Disparities** -- The CCHE continues its interest in addressing attainment disparities throughout the state. In particular, Commission members are interested in geographic, income, ethnicity, tiers, and affordability disparities; the use of testing (Accuplacer) and early credits (concurrent enrollment, AP, IB, etc), and its relationship/role in attainment disparities; and remediation
4. **Review of Role & Mission of Institutions and Auraria** – The Higher Education Strategic Plan clearly recommends the need for a review of each institution's role and mission within the larger context of (yet to be identified) state goals. The HESP similarly called for a review of the Auraria Higher Education Center, and whether it remains the

most cost effective structure to meet the region's higher education needs. The CCHE has not yet determined whether and to what extent it would conduct either of these reviews.

5. **Higher Education Advocacy** - The CCHE has stated its interest in being a stronger advocate for higher education in the state. Advocacy opportunities include media, general outreach, speaking opportunities, developing partner relationships and engaging the public for support. Depending on the level of activity, staff support beyond what the Department currently has available will be required.
6. **Legislative Education, Advocacy & Action** - Related to Number 5 above, the CCHE has identified a continuing interest in being involved in legislative issues, advocacy and action.
7. **P-20 alignment/ Governor's Education Leadership Council** - The Governor's Education Leadership Council is a new initiative by Governor Hickenlooper. The CCHE should be directly involved in determining the goals and direction that this Council will go. Going forward, the CCHE's work should be aligned with the Council's work.
8. **Increasing engagement of partners including:** The HESP discussed and the CCHE has indicated its interest in strengthening its relationships with Governing Boards and higher education institutions; economic development and workforce, including the Colorado Workforce Development Council; and other State Agencies and partners.

### **III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

This is a discussion item, no action is needed.

### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

This is a discussion item, although in development of the work plan, CRS 23-1-108 is included.

**“Duties and powers of the commission with regard to system wide planning (1) The commission shall develop and submit to the governor and the general assembly a master plan for Colorado postsecondary education.”**