

**TOPIC: COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE – NEW BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS**

**PREPARED BY: MARGOT PLOTZ**

**I. SUMMARY**

This agenda item is to inform the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) that the two new baccalaureate degree programs to be offered by Colorado Mountain College (CMC) have been approved by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

**II. BACKGROUND**

During the 2010 legislative session, the General Assembly passed and the Governor signed into law SB10-101. This new law allows CMC to offer up to five baccalaureate degrees that directly address the needs of the communities within the college's service area. This legislation established the following criteria upon which decisions concerning new degree programs would be based:

- (a) Whether Colorado mountain college can demonstrate workforce and student demand for the baccalaureate degree program by providing data;*
- (b) Whether Colorado mountain college can demonstrate regional and professional accreditation requirements, when applicable, and compliance with those requirements as deemed appropriate at both the institutional and program levels;*
- (c) Whether Colorado mountain college can demonstrate that its provision of baccalaureate degree program is the most cost-effective method of providing the baccalaureate degree program in its service area; and*
- (d) Whether Colorado mountain college can provide a cost-benefit analysis showing that the additional baccalaureate degree program will not create a negative impact for the college or require additional state appropriated moneys to operate.*

At the March 4, 2011 Commission meeting, CCHE voted to approve two new degree programs to be offered by CMC - a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies. The CCHE action on March 4, 2011 was only a preliminary authorization based on CMC receiving official approval for said degrees from the HLC. This preliminary authorization allowed CMC to move forward with the planning necessary to prepare the systems and activities for CMC to offer these new degrees. Since the March 4, 2011 CCHE meeting, CMC has received approval from the HLC on April 18, 2011 to offer the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies.

**III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

Please see the attached approval letter from HLC to CMC.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**No action is required. This is an information item only.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S. §23-71-102

*(1) "Junior College" means an educational institution that provides not more than two years of training in the arts, sciences, and humanities beyond the twelfth grade of the public high school curriculum or vocational education and that conducts occupational technical and community service programs, with no term limitations, and general education, including college transfer programs, with unrestricted admission; except that Colorado mountain college, in addition to its mission as a junior college, may also offer no more than five baccalaureate degree programs as its board of trustees determines appropriate to address the needs of the communities within its service area and that are approved by the Colorado commission on higher education.*