

TOPIC: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT: WESTWOOD COLLEGE

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I. SUMMARY

The intention of this agenda item is to provide the members of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education with an opportunity to learn more about the \$4.5 million settlement agreement reached between Colorado Attorney General John Suthers and Westwood College. Staff from Westwood College plan to address the Commission and answer questions related to the Office of the Attorney General's recent investigation of and settlement agreement with the college.

II. BACKGROUND

On March 14, 2012, Attorney General John Suthers announced that a settlement agreement between the Office of the Attorney General and Westwood College had been reached. Actions from the Office of the Attorney General were the result of an investigation by the Consumer Fraud Unit in that department. The general terms of the settlement are as follows:

Westwood will pay the state \$2 million in penalties, restitution, and attorneys' fees and costs. Westwood will also credit another \$2.5 million in restitution directly to students who financed their tuition with the school's institutional financing, which is called APEX. Westwood will reimburse APEX finance charges to students for Westwood's failure to follow Colorado's consumer lending laws.

Copies of the complaint filed by the Office of the Attorney General and the settlement agreement reached between the Office of the Attorney General and Westwood College are available as attachments to this item.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

This item is for discussion only; staff makes no recommendation.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

§ C.R.S. 23-2-104