



COLORADO COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE SYSTEM

September 21, 2012

Mr. Hereford Percy, Chairman  
Colorado Commission on Higher Education  
Department of Higher Education  
1560 Broadway, Suite 1600  
Denver, CO 80202

Via Email

Dear Chairman Percy:

Thank you for the letter dated August 27, 2012 requesting final comment on CCHE's draft master plan document. We truly appreciate the Commission seriously taking into consideration our feedback on the June draft metrics document. Reports back from CCCS staff who attended the meeting indicate that the Commission and Department staff diligently and constructively worked through and considered our governing board's feedback.

In terms of the August 27<sup>th</sup> draft, we applaud the Commission's decision to include indicators rather than specific metrics in the master plan document. Even more important are the statements of the Commission and Department staff to allow multiple indicators (and eventually in the performance contracts, multiple metrics) to be used to measure the same goals for different governing boards. We believe this is a sensible approach that recognizes the diversity of roles and missions among higher education institutions. In addition, this approach allows the governing boards to better align what is already measured in relation to similar goals within the master plan, while at the same time moving the State closer toward achieving the overarching goals that we all share.

Also, the context of the introduction and historical background pieces in the master plan add important elements that tie back to the real needs and gaps identified in the Degree Dividend, while at the same time pointing the way forward. In particular, the emphasis on the benefits of continued and increased investment in higher education will be a crucial element in achieving the resources necessary to meet the targets and goals outlined in the master plan.

It is clear that as we move into the performance contract phase of the process, this phase will determine the long-term success of the master planning process. The contracts themselves are now where the Commission and Department envision that substantive details and metrics' definitions will be outlined. In this light, we would like to reiterate our previous feedback on the importance of focusing on few simple and easy to communicate metrics that measure



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outcomes and reflect the core mission of our governing board. Given the willingness shown by the Commission and the Department to consider feedback in the master plan development process and the indicator options outlined in the master plan, we are confident that the same type of flexibility and cooperation in the performance contracts development will lead to a successful outcome.

As we have communicated previously, our Board and our Presidents are fully committed in the context of our access mission to being accountable for successful educational student outcomes. We once again want to thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback as well as the future opportunity to advance a healthy and productive dialogue regarding the performance contract phase of the planning process.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Trefny in blue ink.

Dr. John Trefny  
Chair, State Board for  
Community Colleges and  
Occupational Education

Handwritten signature of Jim Johnson in blue ink.

Mr. Jim Johnson  
Chair, Performance Measures  
Sub-Committee

Handwritten signature of Bernadette Marquez in blue ink.

Ms. Bernadette Marquez  
Vice-Chair, Performance  
Measures Sub-Committee

cc: Colorado Commission on Higher Education Members  
Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia  
Dr. Matt Gianneschi, Deputy Executive Director  
State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education Members  
Dr. Nancy McCallin, President, Colorado Community College System