

TOPIC: POTENTIAL TUITION RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS WITH UTAH, KANSAS AND NEBRASKA

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I. SUMMARY

This information item is intended to provide an overview of potential tuition reciprocity agreements between Colorado and individual systems or institutions of higher education in Utah, Kansas and Nebraska. The draft agreements being considered by the other states are modeled after the current agreement with New Mexico.

II. BACKGROUND

Since academic year 1981-1982, Colorado and New Mexico have had a reciprocity agreement to provide enhanced educational opportunities for students of both states. The agreement extends opportunities to a specific number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students from New Mexico to attend participating institutions in Colorado at the Colorado institutions' resident tuition rates. Likewise, the same number of FTE Colorado students may attend specified New Mexico institutions at the resident rate of those New Mexico institutions. Colorado statute limits the participation of Colorado institutions based on the application of the "closest college concept." As the program is reciprocal, no state funds are exchanged between the two states.

The statute that authorizes the Colorado-New Mexico reciprocity agreement (23-1-112 C.R.S.) does not specifically limited reciprocal arrangements to New Mexico. If circumstances warranted and the states involved in such an agreement were in support, reciprocal arrangements like the one currently in place for New Mexico could be authorized for other states.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

At the Commission's request, and at the request of the other colleges and systems in the state, the Department is discussing reciprocal agreements with the Utah State University System, Western Nebraska Community College, and the following institutions in Kansas: Colby Community College, Dodge City Community College, Garden City Community College, and Seward County Community College. Table 1 below shows the individual institutions to which draft agreements were sent. These draft documents included the Colorado institutions that might participate in new agreements, the number of FTE that would be allowed, and the status of the draft agreement.

Table 1: Institutions Considering Draft Tuition Reciprocity Agreements with the Commission

Institution/System	Draft Agreement Details	Status
Utah State University campuses in Roosevelt and Vernal; and the College of Eastern Utah campuses in Price, Moab, and Blanding (all are part of the Utah State University System)	Participating CO Institutions = Colorado Mesa University; Fort Lewis College; Colorado Mountain College; Colorado Northwestern Community College campuses/centers at Rangely, Craig, Meeker, Hayden, and Oak Creek; and Pueblo Community College-Durango Campus FTE = 50.0	President of Utah State University System is interested but it needs to be approved by the Utah Legislature. Utah would not be able to obtain approval until the legislature meets, beginning in January, and implementation could not occur until the academic year that begins in the Fall of 2013.
Western Nebraska Community College - Sidney Campus	Participating CO Institutions = Northeastern Junior College and Morgan Community College FTE = 8.0	Letter and draft agreement sent August 8, 2012
Colby Community College, Colby, Kansas	Participating CO Institutions = Lamar Community College, Otero Community College and Morgan Community College – Burlington Center. FTE = 8.0	Letter and draft agreement sent August 15, 2012
Dodge City Community College, Dodge City, Kansas	Participating CO Institutions = Lamar Community College, Otero Community College and Morgan Community College – Burlington Center FTE = 8.0	Letter and draft agreement sent August 15, 2012
Garden City Community College, Garden City, Kansas	Participating CO Institutions = Lamar Community College, Otero Community College and Morgan Community College – Burlington Center FTE = 8.0	President forwarded draft agreement to the institution's cabinet members for their discussion and consideration on August 24.

Seward County Community College, Liberal, Kansas	Participating CO Institutions = Lamar Community College, Otero Community College and Morgan Community College – Burlington Center FTE = 8.0	Letter and draft agreement sent August 15, 2012
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Department staff will follow up on letters and draft agreements sent and will continue to update the Commission on any significant developments.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

No action required. This is an information item only.

V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

23-1-112 C.R.S.: "...the commission shall identify those circumstances where the waiving of the nonresident differential in tuition rates, on a reciprocal basis with other states, would enhance educational opportunities for Colorado residents... Agreements negotiated between Colorado and other states shall provide for an equal number of resident and nonresident students to be exchanged between the states... The commission shall establish regulations for the administration of this section, based on the application of the closest college concept, and for the reporting to the general assembly of the numbers of students to whom the waivers are given."