



STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Colorado Commission on Higher Education

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Governor

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August 27, 2012

Dear CEOs and Higher Education Governing Board Members,

Thank you all for providing feedback to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) regarding the proposed goals and metrics for the statewide Master Plan. As you know, the CCHE held its annual retreat August 2 – 3, 2012. During the retreat, my colleagues and I spent considerable time discussing all of the comments that were received. And, as a result of the comments received, we made changes to the statewide goals, the use of metrics, and the proposed process for moving forward.

Though no CEO or governing board expressed disagreement with the four statewide goals found in the plan, we did receive helpful feedback regarding the ways in which the goals could more accurately and succinctly address the state's priorities. Moreover, a number of campuses commented that the metrics originally prepared by the Commission were difficult to interpret, unconnected to certain roles and missions, and unsuitable for particular circumstances. Finally, several campuses recommended removing the metrics altogether, suggesting that they should not be in the Master Plan, but rather in performance contracts, an idea that received support from other campus executives as well.

After considering this feedback, my fellow commissioners and I made changes to the Master Plan. Specifically, we removed the metrics, replacing them with statewide targets and related indicators of progress that could be associated with each goal. In the coming months, we will negotiate the use of metrics for each goal that are most suitable and appropriate to each institution, including the possible addition of metrics not previously presented, such as retention and graduation rates, for inclusion in the performance contracts.

In addition, at its retreat, the Commission reviewed a full draft of the state's Master Plan. A copy of this draft is enclosed. While the goals and their associated targets and indicators form the foundation of the plan, and should therefore be very familiar to you, the enclosed draft provides context for the goals as well as addresses the ways in which the CCHE plans to satisfy the multiple statutory requirements for Master Planning aside from performance contracts.

Senate Bill 11-052 requires the CCHE to complete its Master Plan by September 1, 2012. The same law also requires that institutions and governing boards be given 30 days to comment on the plan. Though we have discussed the Master Plan goals and proposed metrics for nearly a year, my colleagues and I on the Commission believe that it is far more important that our campus colleagues have sufficient time to review the draft Master Plan than to meet the September 1, 2012 deadline. Consequently, we request your comments on the enclosed Master Plan 30 days from now, or on **Wednesday, September 26, 2012**. Lt. Governor Garcia and I will notify the chairmen of the House and Senate education committees and the Governor regarding the delay.

Let me once again thank you for your time and commitment to this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Hereford Percy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

C. Hereford Percy
Chairman

Encl.