TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN

COUNSELOR EDUCATION AND SUPERVISION AT ADAMS

STATE UNIVERSITY

PREPARED BY: IAN MACGILLIVRAY, ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR

FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND HEATHER DELANGE,

ACADEMIC POLICY OFFICER

I. <u>SUMMARY</u>

This consent item recommends approval for Adams State University (ASU) to offer a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Counselor Education and Supervision.

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from ASU's proposal:

The Counselor Education Department at ASU has a long history of serving underserved populations in Colorado, by offering its current MA in Counseling at satellite campuses in Grand Junction, Pueblo and Durango. These sites date to 1980. The MA in Counseling has also been offered to students in Cañon City and La Junta on an as needed basis. In 2005 the Department of Counselor Education began its current online MA in Counseling program that serves students not only from those areas in Colorado in which higher education is not accessible, but has drawn students nationwide.

This proposed doctoral program, which will be taught mostly online, will require two summer "intensives" in which students come to the Alamosa campus for intensive clinical training. The proposed doctoral program will meet the needs of students who cannot attend a traditional campus, because of financial situation or geographic location.

The current MA in Counseling at ASU is nationally accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and other Related Educational Programs (CACREP). This accreditation is the standard for counseling programs and all states use this standard for setting requirements for licensing Counselors. The Counselor Education Department will seek CACREP accreditation for its proposed doctoral degree.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree supports ASU's statutory role and mission, which states in part:

There is hereby established a college at Alamosa, to be known as Adams state university, which shall be a general baccalaureate institution with moderately selective admission standards. Adams state university shall offer undergraduate liberal arts and sciences, teacher preparation, and business degree programs, a limited number of graduate level programs, and two-year transfer programs with a community college role and mission... Adams state university shall also serve as a regional education provider... C.R.S. 23-51-101

EVIDENCE OF NEED

There is a growing need for Counselor Educators in the field, because CACREP now requires their accredited programs to only hire faculty who are Counselor Educators and not those with "closely related" degrees. Also, The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 26.1% increase in employment opportunities for counselors from 2010-2020 (http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_102.htm), which is significantly higher than the overall increase in employment (14.3%) for the same timeframe.

DUPLICATION

There are currently no other Ph.D. programs in Counselor Education offered online by Colorado public institutions of higher education. The only other similar degree offered at a Colorado public institution is University of Northern Colorado's Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision, which is offered on UNC's campus only.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129(6)(b), department staff finds that ASU's proposed Doctor of Philosophy in Counselor Education and Supervision degree is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Adams State University's proposal to offer a Doctor of Philosophy in Counselor Education and Supervision.

V. <u>SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION</u>

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs Division and are available upon request.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-5-129

- (6) While operating pursuant to a performance contract negotiated pursuant to this section, the governing board of a state institution of higher education:
- (b) Need not consult with nor obtain approval from the Colorado commission on higher education to create modify, or eliminate academic and vocational programs offered by the institution, so long as such creations, modifications, and eliminations are consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. Institutions shall submit information to the department demonstrating that the creation or modification of an academic or career and technical education program is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. The Colorado commission on higher education shall have the authority to override the creation or modification of an academic or vocational program if the change made by the governing board is inconsistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.