

STATE OF COLORADO

Department of Higher Education
COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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Bill Owens
Governor

Timothy E. Foster
Executive Director

January 24, 2003

The Honorable Bill Owens
Governor
State of Colorado
State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203

Members of the Colorado General Assembly
State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Governor Owens and General Assembly Members:

It is our pleasure to present to you the recommendations of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Higher Education for the 21st Century. This panel has met during the past 18 months and has analyzed and discussed the many policy issues facing higher education in the State of Colorado. The following are the major recommendations of the panel:

- The Governor and the General Assembly consider the creation of education savings accounts with the following parameters:
 - Undergraduate stipend of \$4,000 per year or \$133 per credit hour
 - Graduate I (Master's level) stipend of \$8,000 per year or \$267 per credit hour
 - Community college tuition reduction of 25%
 - State financial aid will likely increase to four-year institutions as a result of the net price decrease to two-year institutions
 - Tuition increase of up to 5% for four-year institutions for implementation of the model over and above any other allowed tuition increases
 - Role and Mission grants for specified programs
 - Savings accounts of 140 credit hours and graduate students seeking master's degrees of 60 credit hours
- The CCHE continue the Quality Indicator System (QIS) with benchmarks on retention and graduation. Institutions achieving these benchmarks would be granted tuition flexibility or other flexibility.
- The Colorado Commission on Higher Education and the Colorado Department of Education develop a report regarding funding of remedial courses at the college level.

It is our belief that these changes will help to encourage increased access for students from the lowest income levels; increased participation in higher education for all students; a more market-like approach and greater responsiveness by institutions to student needs, and increased flexibility to allow for world-class institutions in this state.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bruce Benson in black ink.

Bruce Benson
Chair, Blue Ribbon Panel

Handwritten signature of Gayle Berry in black ink.

Representative Gayle Berry
Vice Chair, Blue Ribbon Panel

Handwritten signature of Peggy Lamm in black ink.

Peggy Lamm
Chair, CCHE