**Higher Education Strategic Planning Steering Committee**
**Accessibility Subcommittee**

**Working Framework**
**March, 2010**

The Accessibility subcommittee is charged with developing recommendations to address the accessibility of the state's system of higher education. It is tasked with developing a clear standard for accessibility and goals to meet and maintain that standard. In addition, it will recommend goals to close achievement gaps and clearer pathways to success for students of all interests and backgrounds.

**How should Colorado define accessibility?**

**From a student perspective, Colorado provides an integrated higher education system which delivers viable post-secondary educational opportunities for all Coloradoans regardless of income level, geographic location, historic underrepresentation, and non-traditional background.**

**Accessibility must address the following components:**

- **Awareness of the promise and possibility of higher education**
- **Academic preparation**
- **Financial affordability**
- **Remediation capacity**
- **Geographic considerations**

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Remaining elements of the charge to be developed.

What should be the accessibility standard for:

- Research institutions
- State colleges
- Community colleges
- Technical schools

How can the system and individual institutions be held accountable for maintaining accessibility?

Colorado has the nation's largest gap between the college attainment of its largest ethnic group and other ethnicities and the nation's second largest gap between low and high income groups. What should be Colorado's 5 and 10 year goals to address this gap?

**Accessibility components under review**

- February 23: Historically underrepresented populations –
  - Frank Sanchez (CU Denver), Paul Thayer (CSU)
  - Underrepresented populations lack support structures, including mentoring and advising; they also face inconsistent transfer requirements and lack of collaboration across institutions.
  - Academic issues include lack of preparedness, remediation requirements, Higher Education Admission Requirements and associated visible and transparent costs.
- March 9: Career and Technical Education – What can we learn from the higher success of CTE students on CSAP scores?
  - Geri Anderson (Provost, Community College System)
  - Ideas: more and better support structures, alternative financial aid for certificates, part-time and adult learners. Review awareness campaign for non-traditional students; career cluster model which allows students mobility within industries, and "earn and learn" pathways starting in 9th grade. Training needed for teachers on different learning models.
- March 23: Accessibility – how do we define it?
- Other topics to be scheduled:
  - Underrepresented populations/non-traditional students - Mentoring/ advising/support structures. Raising awareness of HE benefits (including social media). Recruitment and retention strategies. Undocumented students.
  - Academic preparation: Admission and transfer requirements; HEAR.
  - Remediation capacity: Needs and costs.
  - Financial affordability: Financial aid and implications; FASFA application process, alternatives, common process across institutions?
  - Geographic considerations – gaps?
  - Collaboration - best practices for system partnerships.
  - Accountability – current standards and enforcement mechanisms, performance contracts, key performance indicators.

- DRAFT -

DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT

From Mission and Governance Subcommittee

The mission of higher education in Colorado is to:

- *Provide access* to an internationally competitive post-secondary experience to any qualified student through a tiered system;
- *Maximize quality*, efficiencies and affordability;
- *Meet needs* of the workforce and economy of the state;
- *Develop responsible citizens* for a successful civic enterprise.