

SECTION I

PART H POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR DESIGNATING PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE

1.00 Introduction

Article 1 of House Bill 1243, enacted in the 1988 session of the Colorado General Assembly, directs the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, after consultation with the governing boards, to develop and employ criteria for identifying programs of excellence in the state higher education institutions. Programs of excellence are defined "as any academic program or consortium of academic programs of a state-supported institution of higher education that directly enrolls students and is distinguished by the quality of the educational experience that it offers and by the quality of the faculty and students it can attract." (23-1-118)

2.00 Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education that each year, the Commission will select up to five (5) programs from those nominated by the governing boards as programs of excellence. Programs will be eligible for special funding. Up to 1% of the total annual department of higher education general fund appropriations will be requested from the General Assembly to support these programs of excellence. All programs of excellence will be reviewed annually and a report on the status of programs of excellence will be submitted annually to the General Assembly on or before January 1 of each year.

3.00 Annual Program Designation

3.01 Annual Commission Selection Process

The Commission shall designate up to five (5) new programs for inclusion as programs of excellence each year using the criteria specified herein. The statutory limit of no more than five percent (5%) of the total CCHE-approved academic programs eligible for consideration shall be maintained.

3.02 Support for Programs

The Commission, pending appropriation, will support any program designated for excellence for five years, or until a governing board requests its removal as a program of excellence, whichever is sooner. Under the policy, a consortium program is composed of a group of academic programs that involve more than one institution. This type of program qualifies under the selection criteria of system collaboration and resource sharing. Consortia, designated as programs of excellence, may be eligible for an additional five years of funding if the consortia address one of the other priorities identified in policy (undergraduate education, substantive economic impact, implementation of standards-based education, or other areas designated by the legislature

Last Revised

as selection priorities) in the original proposal.

4.00 Process for Nomination

4.01 Program Selection

4.01.01 Governing Boards may nominate no more than five percent (5%) of their academic programs for consideration as programs of excellence.

4.01.02 Programs of excellence, as defined by statute are academic programs or consortia or programs of state-supported institutions of higher education that directly enroll students, and are distinguished by the quality of the educational experience that is offered and by the quality of the faculty and students they can attract. Pre-collegiate programs that enroll students for postsecondary credit are eligible for consideration. The current number of academic degree programs in the state-supported system of higher education shall determine the statutory five percent (5%) limit.

4.01.03 The Commission shall send a request for proposals to governing boards six months prior to the proposal submission deadline. New nomination proposals must be received by the Commission staff by date designated in the current year RFP. Selections shall be made in November and the list of selected programs shall be forwarded to the Colorado General Assembly with funding recommendations on January 1 of each year.

4.01.04 A sub-committee of the members of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education shall review nominations and recommend to the Commission for approval, up to five (5) programs that best exemplify excellence; programs shall be evaluated using the criterion measures listed below as appropriate to the programs nominated.

4.01.05 Criteria for Nomination and Selection for Programs of Excellence

The criteria for selecting Programs of Excellence are based on a set of values embodied in several academic principles:

- Many postsecondary programs demonstrate quality, but an excellent program is one that continuously surpasses quality expectations;
- Faculty with high academic or occupational achievements facilitate learning;
- Students in an excellent program achieve their educational goals regardless of ability or preparation;
- Continuous improvement is an indicator of excellence;
- Administration reinforces academic program quality through its commitment

to the students it accepts, its financial priorities, and its use of assessment results.

Programs of Excellence shall be nominated and evaluated based on the following dimensions:

- Quality of the Educational Experience
- Quality of Faculty
- Quality of Students

In addition, the Commission shall give priority to those programs that promote:

- Quality undergraduate education
- System collaboration and resource sharing
- Substantive economic development
- Teacher education programs that foster school reform and school partnerships

and shall give special consideration to any program area that the legislature may designate as a priority for Programs of Excellence.

The annual RFP for Programs of Excellence shall define further the criteria that indicate excellence for educational programs seeking the highest levels of excellence.

5.00 Preparation of Funding Recommendation

Each program nominated shall include a five-year budget request for enhancement funding. The Commission shall seek state funding for the programs selected. Programs selected must continue to receive the amount of financial support currently provided in the institutional budget. Excellence funds shall not be used to fund new initiatives not included in the original proposal.

The Commission shall seek up to 1% of the total annual department of higher education general fund appropriation for the excellence program. Any program designated as a Program of Excellence shall be eligible for enhancement funding for a maximum of five years; consortia programs may be eligible for an additional five years.

6.00 Report to the General Assembly

6.01 Governing Board reports to the Commission

In November of each year, governing boards shall submit a report to the Commission on the status of all specially funded programs designated as programs of excellence.

6.01.01 Funding

Each report shall include a section summarizing the use of special funds made

available to the program, and shall include a five-year rolling budget plan. Explanations shall be provided as to how funds were used to attract additional funding from other sources.

6.01.02 Program Improvements

The report shall include a section analyzing results achieved by the program since its designation as a program of excellence as well as an analysis of those program elements included in the nomination process.

6.01.03 Program Plans

The report shall summarize plans for program development or change that is related to the five-year budget plan. It is assumed that not all innovations implemented by a program will be successful and the report shall provide an analysis of innovative activity that will be discontinued, adapted, or changed as a result of experience.

6.01.04 On January 1 of each year the Commission will forward to the Colorado General Assembly a summary report on the status of all programs designated as programs of excellence.

7.00 Policy Repeal

This policy rescinds the previous Quality Incentive Program Policy.

For all history prior to 1999, please see physical CCHE agenda books located in Department office.