

STATE OF COLORADO



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Colorado Commission on Higher Education

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College Opportunity Fund Evaluation Released

At its May 5th meeting, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) received the report of an evaluation of the College Opportunity Fund (COF) conducted by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and voted to submit the report to the General Assembly.

“WICHE has done an excellent job in assessing the COF program and making helpful suggestions about how the state can improve the program,” said David Skaggs, Executive Director of the Department of Higher Education. “Its recommendations are in line with the direction we want to take in the strategic planning work the department and Commission will commence in a few weeks in collaboration with the institutions’ leadership, the business community and other stakeholders.”

CCHE Chairman Jim Polsfut commented, “The report underscores the Governor’s determination to address the Colorado paradox and greatly increase postsecondary achievement levels in the state. It also complements the extensive work already underway under last year’s CAP4K legislation to make the education system a coherent whole from preschool to Ph.D.”

The report was prepared by WICHE President Dr. David Longanecker and Director of Policy Research Dr. Brian Prescott. In presenting the report, Dr. Longanecker observed, “Good intentions incorporated in public policy sometimes have the intended consequences and sometimes don’t. Colorado’s initiative to reform higher education finance has had mixed success: it succeeded in exempting tuition from the strictures of TABOR but failed to increase access to higher education or to lead institutions of higher education to change the way they do business. However, the state has a variety of ways in which it can advance the intended agenda, even in difficult times, and it needs to make sure that clearly established goals drive action.”

The COF study can be accessed at the following website:

http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Reports/Legislative/COF/COFEvalReport_200905.pdf

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