

STATE OF COLORADO



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Colorado Commission on Higher Education

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COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONER

Richard Kaufman to Replace Michael Plachy

Denver – Following Governor Ritter’s announcement today of the appointment of Richard (Dick) Kaufman to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE), executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education Rico Munn joined CCHE chairman Jim Polsfut in welcoming Kaufman to the Commission.

“Dick will bring an impressive base of knowledge to the table, and we look forward to his contributions,” said Munn. “His many years of practicing law in the state of Colorado, in a diverse cross-section of industries, will serve him well as he helps the Commission carry out its mission.”

Kaufman, an attorney with McKenna, Long & Aldridge, was tapped by Ritter to replace Michael Plachy, who resigned from the CCHE on Tuesday.

Prior to joining McKenna, Long & Aldridge, Kaufman served as a trial attorney with the U.S. Attorneys' Office in Denver, as a Deputy Attorney General for the State of Colorado, and as a legislative assistant for U.S. Representative Hank Brown.

Polsfut pointed to Kaufman’s various roles in state and federal government as an asset to the composition of the Commission.

“I am eager to tap into Mr. Kaufman’s background as it pertains to policy development given that the Commission, the Department and higher education in general face many critical issues with regard to enrollment, retention and funding,” Polsfut said.

“I am just as anxious to work with Rico and the commissioners, as education is one of my primary policy interests,” said Kaufman. “I look forward to helping the Commission prioritize the higher education agenda in Colorado.”

In welcoming Kaufman, Munn also took a moment to thank Plachy for his service to higher education.

“Mike’s contributions to the CCHE and the students of Colorado were significant,” Munn said. “We will certainly miss his insight and his institutional knowledge about higher ed in Colorado, and wish him well in his future endeavors.”

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