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Department of
Higher Education



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***Colorado Department of Higher Education Spends October
Supporting Colorado's To-and-Through Efforts***

DENVER - Oct. 7, 2014 - Throughout the month of October, Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia and the Colorado Department of Higher Education are highlighting opportunities available to high school students to apply to college and programs available on campuses to help students successfully complete their degree. College Application Month and Colorado Completes! are two efforts created to improve degree attainment in Colorado.

“Earning a degree is more important than ever,” said Lt. Gov. Garcia. “In Colorado, 74 percent of Colorado jobs will require some postsecondary credential by 2020. While it’s important for us to help students break down barriers to pursue higher education, it’s becoming increasingly imperative to provide support services to help students complete their degree once they arrive at a college campus.”

As part of the department’s efforts, College In Colorado is hosting its fourth annual College Application Month. The goal of College Application Month is to provide every graduating high school senior with the preparation and opportunity to apply to college, with the help of resources available on CollegeInColorado.org. During the month, as an incentive, students can enter a weekly \$1,000 scholarship and two \$250 IKEA Gift Card drawing.

College Application Month is part of a nationwide college application assistance initiative, which has grown significantly just last fall, when it reached 39 states and the District of Columbia, 2,500 schools and 150,000 students—and generated 220,000 college applications. By 2020, American College Application Campaign (ACAC) is projected to reach 90 percent of high schools nationwide and result in the participation of 1.5 million students who otherwise might not have applied for college.

In addition to College Application Month, Gov. John Hickenlooper officially designated October as Colorado Completes Month. ([Read the proclamation](#)). As part of the Colorado Completes! campaign, Lt. Gov. Garcia, who also serves as the Department’s executive director, will visit eight campuses to highlight best practices in terms of moving the needle on student success. In response to a query, the Department received 30 high quality program submissions, which were evaluated for campus events and visits and whittled to eight.

All the program submissions and details about planned events are featured on a new DHE webpage at <http://highered.colorado.gov/ColoradoCompletes/Default.html>. You can also follow the Colorado Completes! campaign on Twitter using the hashtag #CoCompletes. Follow the conversation about College Application Month at #COCollegeAppMonth.

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