## TOPIC: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT – rECOMMENDation for the renewal of authorization for religious training institutions

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1. **SUMMARY**

This consent item recommends authorization renewal for an institution currently authorized as Religious Training Institutions/Seminaries under the Degree Authorization Act.

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## BACKGROUND

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) has statutory responsibility for administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as the Degree Authorization Act (DAA). The Act articulates the terms by which the Commission may authorize accredited private colleges and universities, out-of-state public colleges and universities, and seminaries and bible colleges to operate in Colorado.

Pursuant to statute and policy, institutions under the DAA must renew authorization periodically. The renewal period varies by the type of authorization that the institution holds from the CCHE. Seminaries and religious training institutions are required to apply for authorization renewal every three years. To be considered for renewal, an institution must demonstrate that it continues to meet the minimum operating standards specified in statute and CCHE policy, Section I, Part J. Those minimum operating standards are demonstrated by the following documentation:

* An updated list of programs;
* Confirmation of non-profit status;
* Accreditation status, if applicable;
* Confirmation of property tax-exempt status pursuant to Colorado State Law; and,
* Updated contact information.

**III Staff Analysis**

Based upon review of the required documentation, staff recommends renewal for the following religious training institution until 2024:

* SUM Bible College
* Wagner University

The materials submitted the institution include an updated list of programs to ensure only religious programs are offered, a review of the institution’s property tax exemption, a review of the institution’s tax status, and renewal fee. Institutions that continue to meet the provisions of the Religious Training Institution/Seminary authorization are recommended for renewal.

1. **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends approval for the Religious Training Institutions/Seminaries listed in Section III of this consent agenda item.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

§23-2-103.3 C.R.S.

(II) A seminary or religious training institution that continues to meet the minimum operating standards specified in this section is presumed qualified for renewal of authorization, and the department shall recommend that the commission renew the institution's authorization for three additional years.