

TOPIC: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT – MONTHLY UPDATE

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DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

I. SUMMARY

This standing information item is to provide an update to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education on the past month's activities related to the Degree Authorization Act.

II. BACKGROUND

The Commission has statutory responsibility for administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as the Degree Authorization Act. All private colleges and universities, out-of-state public colleges and universities, seminaries and religious training institutions are required to: register with the Colorado Department of Higher Education; meet the criteria in CCHE Policy Section I, Part J: Degree Authorization Act; and receive authorization by the Commission prior to offering in Colorado any program of instruction, academic credits, or degrees; opening a place of business; soliciting students or enrollees; or offering educational support services.

This standing information is an update on institutions that operate within Colorado borders as well as those institutions that are applying for authorization. In the past month, Department staff:

1. Received an application from Mount St. Mary's College requesting authorization as a private, degree-granting institution in Colorado. Mount St. Mary's College is a private, not-for profit institution with a main campus in Los Angeles, California and is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The application was sent out to the reviewers and they are about half done with the review.
2. Received notification from Strayer University (authorized by CCHE in April 2013) regarding several signed articulation agreements with Colorado Community Colleges. The following community colleges have signed articulation agreements in place with Strayer University:
 - Arapahoe Community College
 - Colorado Northwestern Community College
 - Community College of Aurora
 - Community College of Denver
 - Front Range Community College

- Lamar Community College
 - Morgan Community College
 - Colorado Community College Online
 - Northeastern Junior College
 - Otero Junior College
 - Pikes Peak Community College
 - Pueblo Community College
 - Southwest Colorado Community College
 - Red Rocks Community College
 - Trinidad State Junior College
3. Received notification from Colorado Technical University regarding a decision to discontinue operations at its Westminster facility at the expiration of the lease on October 31, 2015. The institution's accreditor, The Higher Learning Commission, has been notified of the decision to close, as well as CTU's teach out plan. In those instances where students cannot finish their programs of study by the closure date, CTU will work with the student to find other options, such as transferring to another CTU ground campus or finishing the program through distance education by taking courses on CTU's virtual campus.

CTU has declared its dedication to adhering to the policies of the HLC, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, and all programmatic accreditors or boards that accredit or license CTU Westminster.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

This item is for information purposes only; staff makes no recommendation.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

§ 23.2.103.3, C.R.S.
§23-2-103.4 (2) (D)