

**TOPIC:** RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEGREES WITH DESIGNATION AT COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, AIMS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

**PREPARED BY:** DR. IAN MACGILLIVRAY, DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### **I. SUMMARY**

This consent item recommends approval for Colorado Community College System, Aims Community College and Colorado Mountain College to offer Associate of Arts (A.A.) in Elementary Education and A.A. in Early Childhood Education degrees with designation.

### **II. BACKGROUND**

Senate Bill 10-088, enacted April 21, 2010, amended the statutory roles and missions, as well as the duties of the boards of trustees of the Colorado Community College System schools, Aims Community College, and Colorado Mountain College to offer associate of science and associate of arts degrees with academic designation.

These degrees with designation (commonly referred to as DwD's) are the subject of statewide transfer articulation agreements that the Commission also approves and are linked [here](#). These agreements, designed by faculty under the guidance of the General Education (GE) Council and Department staff, prescribe 60 credits of coursework leading to an associate degree with designation in a content area (e.g., business or psychology) that is guaranteed to transfer and apply to a baccalaureate degree at a four-year institution in the same content area. It also guarantees no more than an additional 60 credits of coursework at the four-year institution so that the student is able to complete the entire baccalaureate degree in 120 credits without losing any time or money on coursework that gets lost in transfer. Associate degrees with academic designation (such as in business or psychology) are more meaningful to students than a general associate's degree because they reflect the student's career and other interests and help them choose a pathway that is guaranteed.

### **III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

Statewide transfer agreements for Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education have existed for almost ten years but were only recently revised to meet the statutory definition of a degree with designation. Department staff worked extensively with 2- and 4-year faculty and the General Education (GE) Council in developing the Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education, which lead to associate degrees with designation.

The proposed A.A. degrees with academic designation in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education fit the statutory roles and missions of Colorado Community College System, Aims Community College and Colorado Mountain College.

#### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Associate of Arts in Elementary Education and Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education degrees with designation at Colorado Community College System, Aims Community College and Colorado Mountain College, contingent upon approval by each institutions' or system's governing boards.**

#### **V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S. §23-60-201. State system of community and technical colleges established - local district colleges - role and mission

There is hereby established a state system of community and technical colleges which shall be under the management and jurisdiction of the state board for community colleges and occupational education. The mission of the community colleges shall be to serve Colorado residents who reside in their service areas by offering a broad range of general, personal, career, and technical education programs. Except as provided in [section 23-60-211](#), each college shall be a two-year college. Each community college may offer two-year degree programs with or without academic designation, and, upon approval of the board pursuant to [section 23-60-211](#), may offer technical, career, and workforce development bachelor of applied science degree programs. No college shall impose admission requirements upon any student. The objects of the community and technical colleges shall be to provide educational programs to fill the occupational needs of youth and adults in career and technical fields, two-year transfer educational programs to qualify students for admission to the junior year at other colleges and universities, basic skills, workforce development, and a broad range of personal and career education for adults, and technical, career, and workforce development bachelor of applied science degree programs established pursuant to [section 23-60-211](#), that address the needs of the community within each community college service area.

C.R.S. §23-60-211, states, in part:

A two-year degree program with academic designation shall only be for a degree program that has a valid student transfer agreement pursuant to section 23-1-108(7)... The community college shall then submit the degree program designation to the board for its review and approval. The community college may offer the degree program only after it has been approved by the board and by the Colorado commission on higher education. The community college shall exclusively use the degree program designation name in official publications, course catalogs, diplomas, and official transcripts.

C.R.S. §23-71-123. Duties of board of trustees – degrees

(3) A junior college may offer a two-year degree program with or without academic designation. Before a junior college offers a two-year degree program with academic designation, as authorized by this subsection (3), the junior college shall determine the program designation for the degree. The junior college shall then submit the degree program designation to the board of trustees for its review and approval. The junior college may offer the degree program only after it has been approved by the board of trustees and by the Colorado commission on higher education. The junior college shall exclusively use the degree program designation name in official publications, course catalogs, diplomas, and official transcripts.