

**TOPIC:** HOUSE BILL 21-1330 TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

**PREPARED BY:** DR. BENNETT BOGGS, CHIEF OF STAFF

**I. SUMMARY**

This item presents the membership of the task force to examine higher education in Colorado. The task force is to be convened and chaired by the Commission as directed in House Bill 21-1330.

**II. BACKGROUND**

In the 2021 General Session, the Colorado General Assembly passed House Bill 21-1330, which was signed by the Governor on June 29, 2021. Among other things, the legislation includes a provision which directs the Commission to convene a task force to:

1. Review the role and mission and service area of each state institution of higher education, each local district college, and each area technical college, including all instruction offered by whatever means outside the geographic boundaries of a campus as described in section 23-1-109 (4) to determine whether the availability of and access to postsecondary credential programs is sufficient throughout the state without undue overlap and to ensure the most efficient use of resources.
2. Review the history, purpose, effect, and continuing benefit of service areas and the commission's policy concerning service areas and, based on the degree to which service areas improve and add value to the delivery of postsecondary education within the state and support the state's postsecondary access and attainment goals, recommend whether the service areas should continue and whether the service areas should be redrawn.
3. Examine ways in which to leverage best practices through data and technology to make informed decisions about interventions that drive student success; create multiple and linked pathways to postsecondary credentials, including the development of incremental credentials that a student may attain while working toward a baccalaureate degree; and ensure equitable access and benefit to students, including minimizing costs and time spent in attaining a credential or degree.
4. Examine strategies for increasing student retention and completion and to address the consequences students experience when they incur debt in attending an institution of higher education or local district college without completing a degree or other credential.
5. Develop effective strategies for leveraging federal higher education reforms, including the possibility of funding for two years of postsecondary enrollment for each student, to raise the completion rate for two-year and four-year degree programs.

6. Review the role of the state institutions of higher education, the local district colleges, the area technical colleges, and the state workforce development council in designing and promoting career pathways and other workforce development initiatives. The goal of the review is to determine how the roles of higher education and the state workforce development council may be thoughtfully integrated to reduce overlap and facilitate greater efficiencies and economies in providing workforce development and skills training for traditional and nontraditional students and to support and meet the needs of the workforce and the professional, industrial, and business sectors in Colorado.
7. Review possible uses of money transferred to the workers, employers, and workforce centers cash fund pursuant to section 24-75-231 (2)(b)(i)(a) for programs, services, or other assistance for populations disproportionately impacted by the covid-public health emergency that address or mitigate the impacts of the public health emergency on educational disparities.

The Commission is to convene the task force by August 1, 2021 and deliver a report on its behalf to the Education Committees of the House and Senate by December 15, 2021. The legislation further specifies the minimum membership of the task force, which is to include among others a representative of each public college and university governing board, a representative of the Colorado Workforce Development Council, and representatives of students and advocacy groups. The task force is to be chaired by a member of the Commission with staff support provided by the Department.

### **III. MEMBERSHIP**

Below is a list of the task force membership:

<b>CCHE (Co-chairs)</b>	Sarah Hughes and Berrick Abramson
<b>Adams State University</b>	Michele Lueck
<b>Aims Community College</b>	Dr. Leah Bornstein
<b>Colorado Mesa University</b>	President John Marshall
<b>Colorado Mountain College</b>	Peg Portscheller
<b>Colorado School of Mines</b>	Peter Han
<b>Colorado State Univ. System</b>	Nate Easley
<b>Fort Lewis College</b>	Dick Kaufman
<b>Metro State University of Denver</b>	Kristin Hultquist
<b>University of Colorado System</b>	Nolbert Chavez
<b>University of Northern Colorado</b>	Dr. Stephen Jordan
<b>Western Colorado University</b>	Brad Baca
<b>Colorado Community College System</b>	Dr. Landon Pirius
<b>Area Technical Colleges</b>	Allen Golden
<b>Workforce Development Council</b>	Joe Barela

<b>Student: Access institution</b>	Daniel Casillas
<b>Student: Online learning</b>	Jay T. Shearrow
<b>Student: 4-year research</b>	Paige Martinez
<b>Private nonprofit institution</b>	Stephanie O'Malley
<b>Public school district/school</b>	Cheryl Taylor
<b>Business community</b>	Debbie Brown
<b>Higher Education advocacy group</b>	Scott Laband
<b>Higher Education advocacy group</b>	Jen Walmer

#### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommend endorsement of the membership of the task force per House Bill 21-1330, and thereupon declare it convened, acknowledging that the legislation stipulated the minimum membership and others may need to be added as required.**