**TOPIC:** DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT: RECOMMENDATION OF AUTHORIZATION AS A PLACE OF BUSINESS FOR STRAYER UNIVERSITY

**PREPARED BY:** HEATHER DELANGE, OFFICE OF PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

1. **SUMMARY**

This consent item recommends authorization for Strayer University as a Place of Business (with no instruction) under the Degree Authorization Act.

1. **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 sets out 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, all authorized institutions under the DAA must renew authorization periodically. The renewal period varies by the type of authorization the institution holds from the CCHE. A private college or university that has authorization as a Place of Business by the CCHE shall annually renew its authorization.

The Place of Business (with no instruction) authorization is defined as an accredited institution having a place of business within Colorado but cannot offer instruction in the state. These institutions are subject to the deceptive trade practice provisions in §23-2-104, C.R.S.

1. **STAFF ANALYSIS**

Strayer University is a for-profit, Washington, D.C. based institution with institutional accreditation through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education as well as programmatic accreditation for its business programs. The University has an array of additional locations and instructional sites primarily in the Eastern and Southern United States and offers a wide-range of programs at the Associate, Bachelor and Master degree level in subjects such as business administration, accounting, information technology, and criminal justice. Pre-pandemic, about 93% of students were taking all of their classes online with trends pointing toward reduced demand for in-person classes.

Strayer University is proposing to open an administrative office in Denver that serves students in Colorado and surrounding areas. Strayer’s studies have shown that students often perform better when they have access to in person student services (academic, financial aid, tutoring, etc.). The administrative office would allow students in Colorado to come together to study and share ideas as the administrative office will have a common area that can be utilized by students.

Strayer University intends to offer a variety of student support services at this Denver, CO location including admissions support, academic advising support, online and in-person tutoring services (as needed), financial aid advising, and general coaching services. Strayer’s location will be co-located with its sister institution, Capella University.

Strayer University understands that the authorization as a Place of Business does not allow for any instruction and is currently determining the possible need for additional authorization post-pandemic.

Strayer University’s documentation and description of the proposed activity at the Colorado location appear to meet the requirements of the Place of Business (with no instruction) authorization.

1. **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Staff recommends the Commission approve the authorization for Strayer University as a Place of Business (with no instruction).**

1. **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S §23-2-103.3(5) A private college or university that has authorization from the commission pursuant to this section and maintains its accreditation shall apply to the department for reauthorization in accordance with the schedule for reaccreditation by its accrediting body or every three years, whichever is longer. A seminary or religious training institution shall apply for reauthorization every three years. A private college or university or seminary or religious training institution that seeks reauthorization shall submit an application in accordance with the procedures and policies adopted by the commission and shall pay the reauthorization fee established by the commission pursuant to [section 23-2-104.5](http://web.lexisnexis.com/research/buttonTFLink?_m=0440209b70196c0a450023ec95de11c7&_xfercite=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5bC.R.S.%2023-2-103.3%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_butType=4&_butStat=0&_butNum=3&_butInline=1&_butinfo=COCODE%2023-2-104.5&_fmtstr=FULL&docnum=1&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLzVzB-zSkAb&_md5=fccf21cdb05ad81de4864a4d217ac5a1).