## TOPIC: APPROVAL OF COf Eligibility AND STUDENT FTE for Extended STUDIES PROGRAMS for FY25

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1. **SUMMARY**

This consent item is to approve College Opportunity Fund (COF) eligibility for the Extended Studies programs listed below for Fiscal Year 2025.

## BACKGROUND

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has statutory authority to approve COF eligibility for selected off-campus (Extended Studies) undergraduate programs per §23-1-109(5), Colorado Revised Statutes. CCHE Policy Section IV: Statewide Extended Studies, subsection 5.02, states that “up to one-half of one percent of the total estimated state eligible [COF] credit hours will be allocated to off-campus programs.” Following this policy, Department staff collected proposals from institutions to recommend to the Commission for approval for FY25 COF eligibility. The Department recommends Commission approval only for complete undergraduate academic programs that result in a degree or another credential. Other considerations include how the program will help meet the state’s workforce development needs; the extent to which the program is directed at underserved populations; and justification of any duplication of a similar program offered by another institution in the same geographic area.

1. **STAFF ANALYSIS**

This year, only one proposal met the published criteria and is recommended for support. Staff recommends approving the requested FTE for COF eligibility for the following institution’s off-campus programs:

 **Colorado State University Pueblo (280 COF FTE)**

* Business Management, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
* Construction Management, Bachelor of Science
* Health Science Administration, Bachelor of Applied Science
* Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing
* Diversity Studies Certificate
* Construction Project Manager Certificate
* Estimating and Planning Construction Costs Certificate
* Surveying and Modeling Certificate
* Construction Safety, Law & Management Certificate
* Construction Procurement Certificate

As noted earlier, per CCHE Policy Section IV: Statewide Extended Studies, “up to one-half of one percent of the total estimated state eligible [COF] credit hours will be allocated to off-campus programs.” The Department’s Division of Finance reports that the amount of COF allocated to off-campus programs for FY2021 for state institutions is 111,194 FTE. The institution’s off-campus requested 280 FTE for COF eligibility for FY2025 listed above is within the allowable amount. Moreover, Department staff and institutional representatives verify that these programs are designed to help meet the State of Colorado’s workforce development needs; extend opportunities to underserved populations; and are justifiable in light of any duplication of similar programs offered by another institution in the same geographic area.

1. **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends that the Commission approve COF eligibility and requested FTE for the Extended Studies programs listed above for FY2025.**

1. **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

**C.R.S. §23-1-109. Duties and powers of the commission with regard to off-campus instruction**(1) The general assembly declares its intent that the state-supported institutions of higher education may engage in instruction off the geographic boundaries of their campuses.

(2) The commission shall define, after consultation with the governing boards of institutions, the geographic and programmatic service areas for each state-supported institution of higher education. No such institution shall provide instruction off-campus in programs or in geographic areas or at sites not approved by the commission, unless otherwise provided by law.

(3) The general assembly declares its intent that all instruction at two-year institutions, including the first two years of instruction at Adams state university and Colorado Mesa university, shall be funded throughout the institutions' commission-approved service area on the same basis as on-campus instruction.

(4) The department shall administer any centralized, statewide extension and continuing education program of instruction that may be offered by any state-supported baccalaureate and graduate institution. All instruction offered outside the geographic boundaries of the campus, including instruction delivered by television or other technological means, shall be a part of this program unless exempted by policy and action of the commission.

(5) The commission shall set policies, after consultation with the governing boards of institutions, which define which courses and programs taught outside the geographic boundaries of the campus may be eligible for general fund support. The commission may include funding for those courses and programs in its systemwide funding recommendations to the general assembly.