**TOPIC: DEGREE AUTHORIZATION: ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY – APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT**

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1. **SUMMARY**

This agenda item recommends a change of authorization status from Provisional to Dual Enrollment Authorization for St. Louis University pursuant to the Degree Authorization Act (C.R.S. §23-2-101 et seq.).

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.

The DAA outlines the Department’s jurisdiction over private education programs available to the residents of the state of Colorado. The DAA establishes standards to (1) prevent misrepresentation, fraud, and collusion in offering educational programs to the public and (2) protect, preserve, foster, and encourage the educational programs offered by private educational institutions, which meet generally recognized criteria of quality and effectiveness as determined through voluntary accreditation.

Authorization for dual enrollment is for institutions that intend to offer dual enrollment courses to students at a Colorado high school. Institutions with authorization to offer dual enrollment instruction shall be subject to the deceptive trade practices provisions found in C.R.S. §23-2-104 and are exempt from administrative procedures regarding an accreditation site visit at the local site. The authorization shall be renewed on an annual basis.

St. Louis University (SLU) is a private, Catholic, Jesuit university, founded in 1818 and is the oldest university west of the Mississippi River. SLU offers Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorates in a variety of disciplines to its ~13,000 students. SLU is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission; a status the University has held since 1916.

St. Louis University is partnering with Regis Jesuit High School to offer dual enrollment courses. The university initially sought authorization to establish a presence in Colorado in partnership with Regis University. However, in the two years since seeking provisional authorization the leadership has transitioned to partnering with Regis Jesuit High School only and does not have a presence on the Regis University campus.

1. **STAFF ANALYSIS**

As required by the Degree Authorization Act, St. Louis University submitted the required documents to obtain authorization to offer dual enrollment instruction at a Colorado high school. Having initially been awarded provisional authorization, the materials submitted were compliant with the Degree Authorization Act.

Upon the review of the materials provided by St. Louis University, staff has determined the University meets the criteria for Authorization for Dual Enrollment.

1. **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Staff recommends the Commission approve authorization for Dual Enrollment for St. Louis University to offer instruction at Regis Jesuit High School.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

**C.R.S. §23-2-103.3 Authorization to operate in Colorado – renewal**

(1) (a) To operate in Colorado, a private college or university shall apply for and receive authorization from the commission. A private college or university shall obtain separate authorization for each campus, branch, or site that is separately accredited. A private, nonprofit college or university shall submit with its application verification of nonprofit status, including a copy of the institution's tax-exempt certificate issued by the Colorado department of revenue.

(b) After receiving an application, the department shall review the application to determine whether the private college or university is institutionally accredited by a regional or national accrediting body recognized by the United States department of education. The department shall not recommend and the commission shall not approve an application from a private college or university that, in the two years preceding submission of the application, has had its accreditation suspended or withdrawn or has been prohibited from operating in another state or that has substantially the same owners, governing board, or principal officers as a private college or university that, in the two years preceding submission of the application, has had its accreditation suspended or withdrawn or has been prohibited from operating in another state.

(2) To operate in Colorado, a private college or university shall be institutionally accredited on the basis of an on-site review by a regional or national accrediting body recognized by the United States department of education; except that a private college or university may operate for an initial period without accreditation if the commission determines, in accordance with standards established by the commission, that the private college or university is likely to become accredited in a reasonable period of time or is making progress toward accreditation in accordance with the accrediting body's policies. The commission may grant a provisional authorization to a private college or university to operate for an initial period without accreditation. The private college or university shall annually renew its provisional authorization and report annually to the commission concerning the institution's progress in obtaining accreditation.