Colorado Commission on Higher Education

Resolution to Encourage Integration of Work-Based Learning Experiences into All Degree Programs

Approved June 6, 2024

WHEREAS, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (the “Commission”) has promoted and continues to encourage the blurring of lines between postsecondary education and the workforce, including through the House Bill 21-1330 Student Success & Workforce Revitalization Task Force, which was co-chaired by Commissioners Sarah Hughes and Berrick Abramson; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s strategic plan, *Building Skills for an Evolving Economy*, highlights the need for colleges and universities to advance the economic value of postsecondary education, including through employment that is commensurate with the degree or other credential earned; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the efforts of the Department of Higher Education to promote innovations in credentialing that integrate work-based learning and industry credentials into postsecondary programs, including through implementation of stackable credential pathways through Senate Bill 22-192 and engagement with the federally-funded *Credential As You Go* initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Department’s executive agency “Wildly Important Goals” (WIGs) includes a commitment to cost containment and affordability for learners, FAFSA/CAFSA completion, erasing equity gaps in postsecondary education, and promoting workforce development; and

WHEREAS, the Department’s workforce development WIG measures include a commitment to implement the aforementioned stackable credential pathways, to develop a “career-connected campus” designation, to increase the percentage of postsecondary programs that include a work-based learning component, and action by the Commission to encourage further integration of work-based learning into all degree programs; and

WHEREAS, the Department has monitored the inclusion of work-based learning in postsecondary programs since 2020 and has seen the total percentage increase to 73% as of December 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Department has committed to coordinate with the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to develop a policy or resolution by June 30, 2024, encouraging institutions of higher education to incorporate work-based learning experiences into all degree programs,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Colorado Commission on Higher Education recognizes the ongoing efforts by colleges and universities to promote the economic value of postsecondary programs and encourages institutions to incorporate work-based learning experiences into all degree programs.