

## **CDHE HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY FELLOWS**

### **WORK SESSION PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION**

Ms. Lauren Gilliland and Dr. Roberto Montoya

The 2022 Higher Education Policy Fellows Program is a one-semester program offered by the Colorado Department of Higher Education to graduate students in the higher education and public policy fields. The purpose is to broaden perspectives of Colorado higher education policy issues and provide Fellows with beneficial learning opportunities. This program is designed to complement university academic programs without compensation or academic credit.

The goals of the program are to:

- Promote opportunities for students to understand how statewide higher education policy is developed and implemented by a state higher education coordinating organization.
- Develop Colorado's higher education public service talent.
- Increase engagement and deepen the connection between the Colorado Department of Higher Education and higher education and policy programs at institutions across the state.
- Allow for dialogue on new and emerging topics in higher education.

Fellow expectations are to:

- Participate in a selective program.
- Understand the Department's role, application, and development of higher education policy in Colorado.
- Learn from Department experts on the role of the state in policymaking.
- Work in groups of 4-5 to research one social determinant of student success (transportation, caretaking, housing, and belonging/anti-racism).
- Complete a group policy paper / literature review of 10-15 pages on a social determinant of student success.
- Develop a relationship with the CDHE staff.

Lauren Gilliland and Dr. Roberto Montoya led five sessions with 20 Policy Fellows from higher education graduate programs across the state in January-March. Sessions included the role of higher education in Colorado, social determinants of student success, equity in higher education, and Colorado higher education finance. A final session will be held in April.

This is the third year of the Fellows program. This year's topic was the social determinants of student success. Led by Michael Vente, Chief Performance Officer, and Dr. Roberto Montoya, Chief Educational Equity Officer, under the Office of Educational Equity, the Department currently review applications by institutions of higher education for designations of Hunger Free and Healthy Minds.

The 2022 Policy Fellows have undertaken research projects on other social determinants of student success. These have included transportation, caretaking, housing, and belonging/anti-racism. Their research findings will be presented for Commission discussion at the April 1, 2022, work session.