

Sarah Kendall Hughes, Chair

Josh Scott, Vice-Chair

Berrick Abramson

Lisandra Gonzales  
Aaron Harber

Teresa Kostenbauer

Steven Meyer  
Ana Temu Otting

Eric Tucker

Jennifer Walmer  
Jim Wilson

**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting**

**Virtual via Zoom**

**December 1, 2022**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Chair Sarah Hughes called the business meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

**I. Opening Business**

1. **Attendance**

Commissioners attending: Chair Hughes, Vice Chair Scott, Executive Director Paccione, Commissioners Abramson, Gonzales, Harber, Kostenbauer, Meyer, Temu Otting, Tucker, Walmer, Wilson

Advisors attending: Steve Schwartz, Federico Chavez, Mark Cavanaugh, Donnis Hurd, Dr. Collen O’Neil, Dr. Melinda Piket-May, Dr. Landon Pirius

1. **Approval of the Minutes for the October 27, 2022Commission Meeting**

Commissioner Harber moved to approve the October 27, 2022,meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Abramson, the motion passed by consent.

1. **Reports**
   * + - **Chair**

Chair Hughes celebrated all the work that is moving toward implementation and action. She acknowledged the 1330 work, HB 1215, the 1350 Opportunity Now grants and the work around stackable credentials. She noted that she attended both the Dual Mission Summit and a leadership program at Colorado Mountain College and shared information on the strategic plan at those gatherings. She reported that she and Vice Chair Scott have had follow up conversations with the Lumina Foundation. She also shared the Colorado Trustee Network held an event on November 30th to provide trustees, higher ed leadership, and strategic partners and allies an opportunity for a conversation on a shared mission. Governor Polis attended and acknowledged the work on the strategic plan and the shared focus on advancing skills and knowledge and developing pathways to advance economic outcomes.

* + - * **Vice-Chair**

Vice Chair Scott gave kudos to Tyler and the team that has been working on the Opportunity Now program. He noted that the balance between planning seed grants and scale grants will offer the opportunity to have a more inclusive diversity of participants.

* + - * **Commissioners**

Commissioner Wilson acknowledged the work of the leadership of the committees.

* + - * **Commission Standing Committees**
        + **Student Success & Workforce Alignment**

Commissioner Abramson thanked the CDHE staff for their support of the 1215 work. The Committee is excited to dig into the work on workforce alignment and student success. He also acknowledged Representative McCluskie and Senator Zenzinger for their support.

* + - * + **Finance, Performance & Accountability**

Commissioner Tucker reported that the FPA Committee met on November 18th. The committee focused on the new policy on post-secondary workforce success measures. It also discussed capitals and supplementals and the potential of considering debt relief as part of capital.

* + - * + **Strategic Plan Revision Update**

Deferred until Action Item IIIA.

* + - **Advisors**

Advisor Schwartz noted that he has polled the CFOs regarding the debt relief as mentioned by Commissioner Tucker. He also shared that the CFOs continue to discuss the Governor’s budget request as there are concerns about meeting core minimum base costs. There is not currently any consensus on what lobbying efforts may be.

1. **Executive Director Report**

Dr. Paccione opened her report by acknowledging this was the first meeting since the November election. She expressed her excitement of Governor Polis starting a second term, and the continued emphasis on workforce development, affordability, and on erasing the equity gaps in postsecondary education – emphasis also featured within the new CCHE strategic plan. She also acknowledged legislators who have served as CCHE advisors and now assuming legislative leadership positions. These include Representative McCluskey as Speaker of the House and Senator Lundeen as Senate Minority Leader. Also, Senator Zenzinger will remain as JBC chair.

She noted that November was a busy month. The Annual Return on Investment Report was released which helps students and families weigh the value of earning a degree or certificate. The report continues to underscore the benefits of postsecondary education in workforce earnings and low unemployment. She reported on several staff attending/participating in state conferences. These include Chris Rasmussen and Ben Boggs at the Colorado Mountain College Dual Mission Summit; and Kim Poast, Chris Rasmussen and Sondra Ranum joining her at a meeting of the Deans and Provosts of the Schools of Education held at the Carriage House of the Governor’s Residence. This latter gathering was co-hosted by the Governor’s staff, the Department, CDEC, CDE and CU Denver and focused on the great need for early childhood educators.

The Department also launched an interactive map created for students seeking internships and work-based learning opportunities with industry partners. Kudos were expressed to Beverly Jones, CDHE’s Director of Industry Partnerships. The map allows students to search for internships by industry, region, and even specific companies.

Dr. Paccione reported that she recently spoke at the Academic Management Institute of the Colorado and Wyoming Women’s Leaders in Higher Education. She noted that Professor Piket-May was in attendance. The Department also launched its new website which offers more functionality, improved navigation, and a streamlined homepage.

Finally, in partnership with our IHEs, the Office of Educational Equity launched the Colorado Hispanic Service Institutions Consortium. Led by Roberto Montoya, we are one of the few states to have such a gathering and will strengthen our capacity to potentially serve Latinx and Hispanic students. Colorado currently has 13 institutions designated as HIS’s, with another 12 emerging with the designation soon. These institutions are committed to not only enrolling these students, but to committing the resources necessary to help ensure they succeed.

Regarding the institutions, Dr. Paccione reported that CSU-Pueblo announced the renewal and expansion of its Colorado Promise program. This program offers free tuition to first time and transfer students who are Colorado residents with a gross family income of $70,000 or less. The amount was increased from $50,000 to help more students to enroll. Also, Adams State University was recently featured in Season 6 of the TV show College Tour.

In closing, she expressed excitement of continuing the momentum of developing opportunities for greater economic and social mobility for the young people of Colorado.

1. **Legislative Update**

Chloe Figg, CDHE Legislative Liaison, introduced herself for those who may not have met her. She noted that the 2023 Legislative Session is scheduled to begin January 9, but the Department is currently focused on the CDC and JTC hearings scheduled for next week. Commissioner Kostenbauer will represent the Commission at these hearings, and we thank her for her willingness to serve in that capacity. The JBC Staff Budget Briefing is scheduled for December 13, which will set the stage for the Department’s presentation in early January. Finally, she reminded the Commission that she had shared via email two technical statute fixes the Department is seeking this session. Even though these are technical in nature, they will benefit our lower-income students. She closed by publicly thanking the outgoing legislative advisors Senator Priola, Senator Storey and Representative Van Bieber for their service to the Commission and their continued advocacy for higher education.

1. **Public Comment –** no public comment

**II. Consent Items**

1. Recommendation for Approval of Nonmonetary Supplemental for Trinidad State College – Kennedy Evans
2. Recommendation for Approval of Two-Year Cash-Funded Capital List Amendment for Colorado Mesa University – Kennedy Evans
3. Recommendation of Approval of Participant(s) in the Fourth-Year Innovation Pilot Program – Jack Wolflink
4. Recommendation for Approval of Revised Policy on Allocation and Use of Funds for Student Educator Stipends and Educator Test Stipends per HB22-1220 – Dr. Chris Rasmussen

Prior to acting on the consent items, Commissioner Hughes requested that Consent Item B be separated so that a member could recuse themselves. Commissioner Harber moved to approve Consent Items A, C and D. Commissioner Walmer seconded, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Harber moved to approve Consent Item B. Seconded by Commissioner Gonzales, the motion was approved. Commissioner Meyer recused himself from this vote.

**III. Action Items**

1. **Approval of the CCHE Strategic Plan – Josh Scott**

Following nearly 9 months of time and effort, the revised CCHE Strategic Plan was presented for final approval. Chair Hughes called on Vice Chair Scott to present the agenda item for Commission action. Vice Chair Scott noted that he had presented updates to the Commission at the previous meetings, and he would therefore defer on yet another detailed review; however, he would take a moment to thank everyone involved – commissioners, advisors, staff, and numerous external stakeholders – for their interest and contributions to this report. This report will help lead locally and nationally on the important topics of career skills and outcomes for Colorado learners. He added that the process to this moment is just the beginning of the journey – the report itself is just a collection of words – it is the action that follows over the next five years that will lead to meaningful results for Coloradans.

Chair Hughes noted the report follows and builds upon the strategic plans of previous Commissions and the good work of the Department. She also wanted to acknowledge the many conversations with institutional presidents and representatives, faculty, and staff. This also included leaders among the Latina and African American communities across the state to help ensure that this plan is meaningful in meeting long-term needs.

Appreciation was expressed for Ms. Inta Morris regarding her work as the Strategic Plan consultant and facilitator. Dr. Paccione agreed and wanted to acknowledge the inordinate time given by Chair Hughes and Vice Chair Scott. Their efforts to lead through teamwork has resulted in a plan that many are now invested in and can look to for the next five years. She also acknowledged the Department staff who had been deeply involved, including Dr. Ben Boggs working “behind the scenes” as Chief of Staff.

Advisor Chavez expressed appreciation for the solicited feedback of student leaders and Commissioner Walmer added her appreciation for the chair and vice chair and their leadership in creating this collaborative team effort. Commissioner Harber expressed his appreciation in that the Governor had recently spoken of the plan in impressive detail – and acknowledged this was due to the efforts of the chair and vice chair to keep him informed.

Chair Hughes wanted to clarify that this effort was undertaken with a focus to do right by Colorado’s students. The Commission is now comprised of individuals appointed by this Governor who asked us to do our best work on behalf of the students. She also wanted to acknowledge the input of the faculty and the work of Advisor May in that regard. She also noted Commissioner Meyer pressed to ensure the institutions were heard clearly.

It was noted that the next step will be the implementation of HB22-1349, which will involve the identification of the guiding metrics associated with the plan, and the development and connection of databases that can better enable the measuring and tracking of vital data among the institutions and related state departments to ensure the plan is put into action. Commissioner Gonzales added her appreciation and asked for clarity on these next steps. Chair Hughes responded that the strategic plan provides the policy framework and that the launch of a robust data system would help begin the implementation of action. A technical workgroup is being assembled that will represent the Commission, Department and institutional experts and leaders to take on that task. Updates on that work will continue to come before the Commission.

Commissioner Meyer moved to approve Action Item A. Seconded by Commissioner Abramson, the motion was approved by unanimous consent.

1. **Approval of new policy on postsecondary and workforce success measures per HB22-1349 – Michael Vente**

Michael Vente presented the new policy related to new postsecondary and workforce measures of success in HB22-1349. The policy summarizes the types of new measures CCHE would like to develop. These measures will align to the goals outlined in the new Strategic Plan. The policy also creates a Technical Working Group to provide guidance on the definitions of new measures. The Technical Working Group will consist of representatives from institutions of higher education, state agency colleagues, business/industry, and national partners. Nominations will be collected by CDHE, and Chair Hughes and Vice Chair Scott will appoint members to this workgroup at the start of 2023. The Technical Working Group will meet over the first and second quarters of 2023. Recommendations and potential changes to CCHE policy will be presented to CCHE in Summer 2023. Mr. Vente thanked commissioners and committees for their feedback on the policy and looked forward to this work in the coming months..

Commissioner Tucker moved to approve Action Item B. Seconded by Commissioner Harber, the motion was approved by consent.

Meeting adjourned 2:01 pm.