



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Hybrid
July 28, 2023**

BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Sarah Hughes called the business meeting to order at 11:17 am.

I. Opening Business

A. Attendance

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

Advisors attending: Sen. Marchman, Sen. Zenzinger, Mark Cavanaugh, Michael Lightner, Dr. Melinda Piket-May, Mark Superka,

B. Approval of the Minutes for the June 1, 2023 Commission Meeting

Commissioner Harber moved to approve the June 1st minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Tucker. The motion was approved.

C. Chair, Vice Chair, Commission Standing Committee, and Advisor Reports

Chair Report – *Chair Hughes' remarks were inaudible.*

Vice-Chair Report – Excused, no report

Commission Standing Committee Reports

Student Success & Workforce Alignment – *Commissioner Abramson's remarks were inaudible.*

Finance, Performance & Accountability (FPA) - Commissioner Tucker reported the committee met on July 14th. It was the first time they met in about a month and half. It was an opportunity to get all the new members together. The group talked a little about capital construction and renewal IT process and looked at the preliminary list, and it was good. The process for appeals for institutions has been started, so this will be reviewed at the next FPA meeting. The group also had a short discussion on core minimum costs as well as various timelines for the funding formula, capital IT revisions, and financial aid. They plan to mature this as they go through each FPA meeting and start to work the timelines so they can have learning and stakeholder engagement in everything to move to a logical end in a couple of years.



HB22-1349 Technical Workgroup Update – No report

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Temu-Otting - Commissioner Temu-Otting reported COSI just had their annual retreat and are going through a program redesign. Some of the federal funding for the matching student scholarship is going to be sunsetting in 2026, so they are working diligently to redesign the MSS and CPP programs they have within COSI. Those are all going to launch in 2026. Just after that, the old funding sunsets, and Commissioner Temu-Otting has committed to making sure that we all get to know COSI and all of its programs.

Advisor Reports – No reports

- D. Executive Director Report** - (Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Tricia Johnson, reported for Dr. Paccione.) We have a few exciting updates. First, we have nearly 900 educators, principals, and special service providers in Colorado public schools who will have \$5,000 of their educational loan debt forgiven through the temporary educator loan forgiveness program. So far we have invested as a state \$1.4 million in payments to erase education loan debt to keep our educators in the classrooms, so we are excited about getting those out. To support early childhood educators in Colorado we have awarded \$5.4 million in scholarships to over 4,000 educators. We have provided nearly \$1.1 million in loan forgiveness and have disbursed \$2.8 million in stipends to support over 2,600 future early childhood educators.

The second chance scholarship program which supports previously committed youth has awarded three students a total of \$15,000 so far, which is great. It is exciting for COSI, as this is the first program that is directly awarding students.

Community College of Aurora has received both the Healthy Minds and Hunger Free designations, and that puts us at 26 and 27 total institutions respectively, and we have three more applications under review right now. So, we are making good progress there.

We (the Department) are very close to having a complete senior staff team, as you have met several of us today. We have the hiring of our Chief Educational Equity Officer which will happen in the coming weeks and months.

The State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education authorized the issuance of a Series 2023 bond for \$17,120,000 to provide funds necessary to finance a STEM academic facility at the Community College of Aurora Center Tech campus.

Dr. Johnson also shared some preliminary findings of a higher education perception survey done by the Department. Where 74 percent rated the quality of higher education providers as very good or excellent. Of those the vast majority, 81 percent, indicated they were considering enrolling in a four-year college or university. Of those who did not plan to attend higher education, 84 percent indicated that it was because tuition was too expensive. When asked about programs or opportunities that would increase the likelihood of pursuing higher education, participation and concurrent enrollment at a local college or university had the most positive impact with 86 percent, followed very closely by financial aid application assistance at 85 percent. Generally, respondents agreed that college isn't for everyone at 87 percent but that having a college education is important to their family at 79 percent. This survey had about 230 participants made up of parents, students, and prospective students.



Commissioner Haber asked if the results of this survey would be sent to the Commission. Dr. Johnson responded that the department would share after they had an opportunity to digest and look through the analysis. Commissioner Harber asked that the actual survey results be sent to the commission, as opposed to a write up of the results. Commissioner Harber's request was noted by Dr. Johnson.

- E. Legislative Update** – No report
- F. Public Comment** – No public comment

II. Consent Items

- A.** Reauthorization of Educator Preparation Programs at Colorado Christian University—*Sam Fogleman, Interim Director of Educator Preparation Pathways*
- B.** Reauthorization of Educator Preparation Programs at University of Colorado Denver—*Sam Fogleman, Interim Director of Educator Preparation Pathways*
- C.** Approval of Special Education Generalist and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Educator Dual Endorsement at University of Colorado Boulder—*Sam Fogleman, Interim Director of Educator Preparation Pathways*
- D.** Approval of Revisions to CCHE Policy Section, Part V: Creation, Modification, or Discontinuation of Academic and Vocational Programs at Public Institutions of Higher Education (to remove provisions regarding approval of educator preparation programs)—*Dr. Chris Rasmussen, Senior Director of Academic Pathways and Innovation*
- E.** Repeal CCHE Policy Section I, Part P: Educator Preparation—*Dr. Chris Rasmussen, Senior Director of Academic Pathways and Innovation*
- F.** Degree Authorization – Provisional Authorization for Rosalind Franklin University Medicine and Sciences – *Heather DeLange, Director of the Office of Private Postsecondary Education*
- G.** Degree Authorization – Authorization as a Religious Training Institution for Manna University – *Heather DeLange, Director of the Office of Private Postsecondary Education*
- H.** Degree Authorization – Renewal of Authorization as a Place of Business for Aspen University – *Heather DeLange, Director of the Office of Private Postsecondary Education*
- I.** Degree Authorization – Renewal of Provisional Authorization for Galen College of Nursing – *Heather DeLange, Director of the Office of Private Postsecondary Education*
- J.** Approval of Two-Year Cash-Funded List for Colorado State University – Fort Collins – *Kennedy Evans, Lead Finance Analyst*

Commissioner Abramson moved to approve the consent items. Seconded by Commissioner Temu-Otting. The motion was approved.

III. Action Items

- A.** No Actions Items

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 am.

