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

**Virtual**

**February 7, 2025**

# Business Meeting

Chair Walmer called the business meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

1. Opening Business
   1. Attendance

Commissioners attending: Chair Walmer, Commissioners Abramson, Barkin, Harber, Hughes, Kostenbauer, Temu-Otting, Tucker, Walker Harvey, Wilson, Executive Director Paccione

Advisors attending: Ms. Viefhaus-Zak, Dr. Picket-May, Dr. Lightner, Ms. Ongart, Mr. Superka

* 1. Approval of the Minutes for the January 3rd Commission Meeting

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve the January minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Harber. The motion was approved by consent with no opposition.

* 1. Reports
     1. Chair - Chair Walmer started by thanking everyone that attended the work session on the Talent Pipeline Report. She went on the thank the Department for including her in the Smart Act hearing on January 23rd. She had the opportunity to speak about the Commission, give a strategic plan overview, a summary of the MVT development and the formula review process and structure. She shared all documents used in that presentation with the Commission. Chair Walmer also shared that she participated in meeting with a CDE strategic plan focus group on January 29th. Chair Walmer reported that she is continuing conversations with the Colorado Trustee Network (CTN) regarding the formula review process. She will continue to keep the Commissioners and Advisors posted on these conversations and when they are scheduled so that everyone can be included.
     2. Vice Chair Gonzales is excused this month
     3. Commission Standing Committee
        1. Student Success & Workforce Alignment – Commissioner Abramson reported that the SSWA is continuing to focus on a heat map and gap analysis of all of the post-secondary pathways available in Colorado. They have had several institutions join them for conversations on how they approach developing career pathways both degree and non-degree in partnership with local industry, local workforce needs and to meet their local needs. Commissioner Abramson invited all Commissioners and Advisors to join these conversations that will continue into the next meeting.
        2. Finance, Performance & Accountability - Commissioner Tucker provided a brief update on the FPA. They did not meet in January or February. They continued to work on Capital IT, student financial aid and the Funding Formula Review.
        3. Commissioners
        4. Advisors
           1. Advisor Ongart shared that CDEs office of post-secondary Work Force Readiness hosted six trainings across the state focused on individual career and academic plans and all of the important related elements. This year there was an increase in participation and about 65 percent of the districts participated. Advisor Ongart played a short video for the group.
        5. **Executive Director Report** 
           1. Executive Director Paccione – Executive Director Paccione started with an update on our new media campaign “Higher Education Works!” in conjunction with the IHEs. This campaign is an opportunity to elevate higher education and its value and contribution to work force development. She mentioned that since covid the value of higher education has been challenged. She is hoping that this campaign will help to level the playing field and let people know that there is real value in pursuing a credential beyond high school.

Dr. Paccione went on to brief the group about the JBC hearing and the Smart Act hearing that were held at the Capitol.

Finally, Dr. Paccione spoke to the federal updates and executive orders that impact higher education and the work that we all do. She shared that there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes and they are trying to find a balance between not underreacting and not overreacting. She spoke specifically about Eos related to undocumented immigrants, transgender athletes and federal funding cuts.

* 1. **Public Comment** 
     1. None
  2. **Action Items** 
     1. Recommended Proposal to terminate participation in the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) in Optometry – *DeAnna Castaneda, Budget & Policy Analyst*

Corey Evans, CDHE Budget Director, requested to withdraw this item until after legislative action. Chair Walmer agreed and this item was withdrawn.

No action was voted on for this item.

* + 1. Amended Two-Year Cash-Funded Capital List for Metropolitan State University of Denver - *Kennedy Evans, Budget & Policy Analyst*

Kennedy shared a presentation with the group. She gave a brief explanation of the projects that MSU have that will require an adjustment to the two year cash list that is in place. Usually this is voted on at the FPA meeting, however, they did not meet so she is seeking approval from the Commission. Kennedy was able to successfully answer questions from the Commission. There were also a few representatives from MSU that were able to help answer questions. Commissioner Harber motioned to approve this item and it was seconded by Commissioner Abramson. This item was approved by consent.

* 1. **Discussion Items**
     1. Funding Formula Review Update and Survey Results– *Chair Jennifer Walmer, CCHE and Dan Flesher, Slalom*

Chair Walmer started with a brief update on the funding formula review working group. They met on January 17th and are scheduled to meet again on February 14th. All are welcome to join those meetings. Chair Walmer went on to introduce Dan Flesher from Slalom, the company that was contracted to help with the funding formula survey.

Dan shared a presentation with the group. He began an in depth discussion on the results from the survey and shared data with the Commission. The survey results were rather lengthy and can be found posted on the funding formula review website.

* + 1. Career Connected Learning Designation – Dr. Gillian McKnight-Tutein, Chief Educational Equity Officer CDHE

Dr. G shared a presentation with the group and updated them on the Career Connected Designation. Dr G shared information about the designation and how it aligns with the CCHE strategic plan. She also shared with the group which IHEs have received the designation, and when and how other IHEs could apply. Dr. G’s presentation can be found on the CCHE website.

* + 1. Legislative Update – *Rachel Fischer, Legislative Liaison CDHE*

Rachel shared a presentation and updated the group on the current legislative session and bills that impact our work. She started with Bill 25-1038 which is the post-secondary credit transfer bill. She expects this bill hearing to done I February and there are several folks from the department that will testify. She also mentioned technical changes to Bill 24-1340 and the modernization of Title 23. Rachel reported that she also tracking HB25-1012. This bill has implications for IHEs as it provides a tax credit for National Guard Members that want to pursue post-secondary education. She went on to mention Bill 1041, which is for student athlete name image or likeness; Bill 1131 to eliminate the student cap at CSU’s veterinary program; Senate Bill 67 which is the prosecution scholarship program changes; Senate Bill 25-087 which is reasonable accommodations for higher education and finally, Senate Bill 25-120 which is the nuclear work force development education program. Rachel offered to answer any questions from the Commission. Chair Walmer asked about a new bill that was just introduced, Senate Bill 154 which access to educator pathways. Rachel offered an update on this bill at the next meeting.

* + 1. Continued conversations on Colorado minimum value threshold and postsecondary value/ROI - *Michael Vente, Chief Performance Officer and Senior Director of Research and Data Governance CDHE*

Michael and Stan Gladych provided an update on on-going work and conversations related to the Colorado Minimum Value Threshold (MVT) output. Following feedback from various commissioners at past meetings, CDHE provided statewide MVT data including all students (those who enrolled in postsecondary education and completed as well as those who did not). Michael and Stan also continued conversations around suppression of data aligned to CDHE’s data privacy policies as well as guidelines from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE). Michael and Stan also provided examples of MVT outputs for programs at various degree levels and how they compared to statewide outputs.

Michael said that CDHE staff would continue to refine MVT calculations and provide updated data to the commission and institutions of higher education if needed.

* + 1. Updates on Colorado Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) - *Michael Vente, Chief Performance Officer and Senior Director of Research and Data Governance CDHE*

Michael provided a brief overview of various recent reports related to Colorado’s statewide longitudinal data system (SLDS) landscape.

Under the leadership of the Office of Information Technology (OIT), various state agencies have been collaborating on development of a Colorado SLDS aligned to the goals of [HB24-1364](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fleg.colorado.gov%2Fbills%2Fhb24-1364&data=05%7C02%7CMichael.Vente%40dhe.state.co.us%7C32bb1e1e04dd41d661bf08dd4219fc86%7C472b2de6094648849c95a8326b5e99f5%7C0%7C0%7C638739401587460061%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=1s0mfLampQz2Hw%2F0IWuqO%2F7HzAaDIV5K2VdtHWBksFs%3D&reserved=0). OIT recently released [their interim report](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Ffile%2Fd%2F1qYbFQxAxbs_VRC3cMixoJ_yNOui-h_eV%2Fview&data=05%7C02%7CMichael.Vente%40dhe.state.co.us%7C32bb1e1e04dd41d661bf08dd4219fc86%7C472b2de6094648849c95a8326b5e99f5%7C0%7C0%7C638739401587485819%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NL5HLZAi7uSJZwgol1IMwF%2F02vlliTXjcCt1qqOfbnI%3D&reserved=0) on this work. CDHE will continue to work with OIT on the implementation of HB24-1364 to ensure that the work of the Colorado SLDS aligns to our goals to better tell the story of postsecondary student success.

Each January through 2026 per [HB22-1349](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcdhe.colorado.gov%2Feducators%2Fpolicy-and-funding%2Flegislative-affairs%2Fpostsecondary-student-success-data-system-hb22&data=05%7C02%7CMichael.Vente%40dhe.state.co.us%7C32bb1e1e04dd41d661bf08dd4219fc86%7C472b2de6094648849c95a8326b5e99f5%7C0%7C0%7C638739401587498043%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=SmuAjnt7zTH8QLQIjAuUe3cS2dhLnvPgKubL%2FB9ZAdQ%3D&reserved=0), CDHE shall submit a report to the House of Representative’s Education Committee and Senate Education Committee on the work required and any barriers identified, including recommendations for legislative changes necessary, to deliver a statewide longitudinal data system that connects K-12, postsecondary education, and workforce information. The [2025 report](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhighered.colorado.gov%2Fpublications%2FReports%2FLegislative%2F1349%2F2025%2FCharting_Colorado%25E2%2580%2599s_Longitudinal_Data_Future_report.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CMichael.Vente%40dhe.state.co.us%7C32bb1e1e04dd41d661bf08dd4219fc86%7C472b2de6094648849c95a8326b5e99f5%7C0%7C0%7C638739401587532461%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wHV8gPWVL%2Be23ApsTRGBkDSBEysKDSGwcaro7oqh3e8%3D&reserved=0) summarizes conversations about Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDSs) held via the Technical Working Group and the ways in which a robust SLDS in Colorado can support better calculation of student success measures, specifically Colorado’s Minimum Value Threshold (MVT).

The Better Data for Better Decisions Coalition (made up of various Colorado organizations such as the Attainment Network, Colorado Succeeds, the Rocky Mountain Partnership, Young Invicibles, etc.) recently released a report ([**Building the Future: Realizing the Vision of the Colorado Longitudinal Data System**](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcoloradosucceeds.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2025%2F01%2FRealizing-the-Vision-of-the-CLDS.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CMichael.Vente%40dhe.state.co.us%7C32bb1e1e04dd41d661bf08dd4219fc86%7C472b2de6094648849c95a8326b5e99f5%7C0%7C0%7C638739401587543205%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fb4pRDbLh6OQrWFFdRceS3Qj2xEBZ8arhXhdL2NT7UA%3D&reserved=0)) which highlights the importance of building on Colorado’s current foundation, learning from national best practices, and focusing on early wins for the Colorado SLDS. The report then gives specific details for how Colorado can bring forward the legislative intent set in 2024.

Michael said that he would continue to keep the commission updated on any additional SLDS developments.