## TOPIC: Degree Authorization: Reach University – Approval for the Renewal of Field Placement Authorization (with no instruction)

**PREPARED BY: Heather DeLange – Office of Private Postsecondary Education**

1. **SUMMARY**

This agenda item recommends renewal of the Field Placement authorization (with no instruction in Colorado) for Reach University. The authorization allows the University to place students at local sites at which students can complete hands on, experiential learning that is part of the students’ degree program.

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## BACKGROUND

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) has statutory responsibility for administration of Title 23, Article 2 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, commonly referred to as the Degree Authorization Act (DAA). The Act sets out the terms by which the Commission may authorize accredited private colleges and universities, out-of-state public colleges and universities, and seminaries and bible colleges to operate in Colorado.

The DAA outlines the Department’s jurisdiction over private education programs available to the residents of the state of Colorado. The DAA establishes standards to (1) prevent misrepresentation, fraud, and collusion in offering educational programs to the public and (2) protect, preserve, foster, and encourage the educational programs offered by private educational institutions, which meet generally recognized criteria of quality and effectiveness as determined through voluntary accreditation.

Authorization for Field Placements is for out-of-state institutions that intend to place more than ten students at one site to meet a field experience component of a degree program. Policy currently permits up to ten students to complete the field placement without authorization. Placements of more than ten students trigger the requirement for an institution to seek authorization. Institutions authorized for field placement must renew their authorization annually.

1. **STAFF ANALYSIS**

Reach University is a private, not-for-profit, institutionally accredited postsecondary institution located in Oakland, CA. The University is accredited by The Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Senior College and University Commission. The University holds approval from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

The partnership provides Reach University’s online students who reside in Colorado the

opportunity to complete the student teaching portion of the degree program within Colorado. Reach University’s plan is to apply for approval from the Colorado Department of Education for two programs for which it is seeking authorization for field placement: Bachelor in Global Education and Bachelor in Liberal Studies.

The University is partnering with local school districts with the intention of employing the students in Colorado schools upon completion of the program. With the Colorado Department of Education’s approval of the programs, the students are eligible for licensure in Colorado.

Staff has determined that Reach University continues to meet the criteria for the Authorization of Field Placements (with no instruction).

1. **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends the Commission approve the renewal of Authorization for Field Placements (with no instruction) for Reach University.**

1. **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S §23-2-103.3(5)

A private college or university that has authorization from the commission pursuant to this section and maintains its accreditation shall apply to the department for reauthorization in accordance with the schedule for reaccreditation by its accrediting body or every three years, whichever is longer. A seminary or religious training institution shall apply for reauthorization every three years. A private college or university or seminary or religious training institution that seeks reauthorization shall submit an application in accordance with the procedures and policies adopted by the commission and shall pay the reauthorization fee established by the commission pursuant to [§23-2-104.5](http://web.lexisnexis.com/research/buttonTFLink?_m=0440209b70196c0a450023ec95de11c7&_xfercite=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5bC.R.S.%2023-2-103.3%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_butType=4&_butStat=0&_butNum=3&_butInline=1&_butinfo=COCODE%2023-2-104.5&_fmtstr=FULL&docnum=1&_startdoc=1&wchp=dGLzVzB-zSkAb&_md5=fccf21cdb05ad81de4864a4d217ac5a1).