**TOPIC:** **RESOLUTION TO** **encourage Integration of work-based learning EXPERIENCES into all degree programs**

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**I. SUMMARY**

This item presents for action by consent a Commission resolution to encourage all Colorado public institutions of higher education to integrate work-based learning into all degree programs.

**II. BACKGROUND**

On an annual basis, the Department of Higher Education registers its “Wildly Important Goals” with the Office of Governor Jared Polis. These goals, or “WIGs”, are negotiated with the governor’s team and express the Department’s commitment to help advance the governor’s broad goals for the state. The Department’s current WIGs include a commitment to cost containment and improving affordability for learners, FAFSA/CAFSA completion, erasing equity gaps in postsecondary education, and promoting workforce development.

The Department’s workforce development WIG measures include a commitment to implement stackable credential pathways, to develop a “career-connected campus” designation, to increase the percentage of postsecondary programs that include a work-based learning component, and to seek action by the Commission to encourage further integration of work-based learning into all degree programs.

**III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

The Department recently completed its statutory mandate to create 10 stackable credential pathways per Senate Bill 22-192. The Department has monitored the inclusion of work-based learning in postsecondary programs since 2020 and has seen the total percentage increase to 73% as of December 2023. The career-connected campus designation is scheduled to launch sometime this year.

The resolution before the Commission addresses the last of the Department’s workforce development WIG measures, to seek Commission approval of a policy or resolution encouraging institutions of higher education to incorporate work-based learning experiences into all degree programs. This resolution is an extension of the Commission’s broader efforts to promote the blurring of lines between postsecondary education and the workforce, including through leadership of the HB21-1330 Student Success & Workforce Revitalization Task Force, and launching of the Commission’s strategy plan, *Building Skills for an Evolving Economy*, which highlights the need for colleges and universities to advance the economic value of postsecondary education, including through employment that is commensurate with the degree or other credential earned.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The Department recommends that the Commission approve the Resolution to Encourage Integration of Work-Based Learning Experiences into All Degree Programs.

**V.** **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

This item does not represent a policy or other action requiring statutory authority.

**VI.** **ATTACHMENT**

Attachment A: Proposed Resolution to Encourage Integration of Work-Based Learning Experiences into All Degree Programs