**TOPIC:** DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT: INSTITUTE OF TAOIST EDUCATION AND ACUPUNCTURE – REQUEST FOR THE RENEWAL OF FULL AUTHORIZATION

**PREPARED BY:** HEATHER DELANGE, OFFICE OF PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

1. **SUMMARY**

This consent item recommends the renewal of Full Authorization for the Institute of Taoist Education and Acupuncture to operate as an authorized private, degree-granting institution in Colorado pursuant to the Degree Authorization Act (§23-2-101 et seq.).

1. **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.

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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.

Institute of Taoist Education and Acupuncture (ITEA or Institute) is a, not-for-profit, institution of higher education located in Louisville, Colorado. The Institute is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM) and was due for its renewal of accreditation in 2021. A site visit team conducted a virtual visit in May, which a Department staff member attended. At its August 2021 meeting, the ACAOM granted ITEA and its Master of Acupuncture program continuing accreditation under applicable ACAOM standards for a period of seven (7) years, effective August 7, 2021, with a next comprehensive review by August 2028.

1. **STAFF ANALYSIS**

Pursuant to statute and policy, all authorized institutions under the DAA must renew authorization periodically. The renewal period varies by the type of authorization that the institution holds from the CCHE. A private college or university that has full authorization

“shall apply for renewal of authorization in accordance with the schedule for institutional reaccreditation by its accrediting body or every three years, whichever is longer.”

Full Authorization is awarded to institutions which are institutionally accredited by an accrediting body that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and has had a successful on-site review of its Colorado location(s).

With the renewal of accreditation by ACAOM, ITEA applied to the Department in September 2021 for renewal of Full Authorization in accordance with the schedule for reaccreditation by its accrediting body.

1. **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Staff recommends the Commission approve the renewal of Full Authorization for the Institute of Taoist Education and Acupuncture until 2028.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

**C.R.S. §23-2-103.3 Authorization to operate in Colorado – renewal**

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 [section 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)