



**COLORADO**

Department of  
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200  
Denver, CO 80202

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Academic Council</b> <b>September 9, 2025</b> <b>1:00 – 3:00 pm</b>
<b>Location</b>	Remote ONLY
<b>Call-In Information</b>	<a href="#">Join Zoom Meeting</a> Meeting ID: 848 1432 8513 Passcode: 371010
<b>Meeting Participants</b>	Provosts and Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) of the public institutions of higher education
<b>Meeting Objectives</b>	Members advise the Department on policy development and implementation, as well as other matters affecting higher education.

## **AGENDA – NOTES**

### 1. Greetings and Introductions

In attendance: Lynette Bates (CCCS-TSC); Sonia Brandon (UNC); Helen Caprioglio (CSUP); Margaret Doell (ASU); Cher Hendricks (CMU); Roze Henschell (CSU-SYS); Andy Herring (CSM); Laura Jensen (CSU); Jennifer Karas (DU); Mark Kavanaugh (CU Boulder); Paul Langston (CCCS-CCA); Mike Lightner (CU-SYS); Matt Makley (MSU Denver); Mario Martinez (FLC); Kimberly Miloch (CSU); Beth Myers (CU Denver); Bobby Pace (CCCS-CCA); Tina Parscal (CCCS); Angie Peach (CCCS-FRCC); Kathryn Regjo (CMC); Audra Spicer (CSUG); Susan Taylor (UCCS); Linda Van Doren (EGTC); Lynn Vidler (UCCS); Jess Young (WCU); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Liliana Diaz Soloduhkin (CDHE); Brad Griffith (CDHE); Sophia Laderman (CDHE); Michael Vente (CDHE)

### 2. Approval of June Meeting Notes

[see handout: 2025-06-10 NOTES-AC.pdf]

Notes approved

### 3. Announcements and Discussion Items

#### a. Updates from CCHE Advisor Michael Lightner

Dr. Lightner provided an overview of the CCHE meeting that occurred on September 4 – he informed Council members that the Funding Formula Working Group has been

paused due to the special legislative session, with plans to reconvene in October and finalize a vote in November. He also noted that Commissioners expressed a growing interest in revisiting their statutory roles and responsibilities, leading to the appointment of Commissioner Tucker to the General Education (GE) Council—a notable shift toward more direct involvement in departmental activities.

Dr. Lightner also discussed the ongoing state audit of transfer policies, which has prompted the Student Success and Workforce Alignment (SS&WA) Committee to reconvene its transfer subcommittee. He informed Council members of various updates, including from Executive Director Dr. Angie Paccione, which included federal budget uncertainties affecting Pell, TRIO, and GEAR UP programs, and potential funding increases for HBCUs and MSIs. The meeting also featured presentations on the Auraria Higher Education Campus and the release of statewide Minimum Value Threshold (MVT) data. Commissioners debated the implications of labeling degrees as “minimum value,” especially for socially critical but lower-paying professions. Michael Vente, Chief Performance Officer and Senior Director of Research and Data Governance for CDHE, clarified that institutions had received program-level MVT data but not the full underlying model, and that further guidance from the Commission would determine future data sharing.

Brad added context about the transfer audit timeline, noting that the Legislative Audit Committee would release the findings on October 20, accompanied by a press release. He explained that while institutions were given opportunities to respond to audit findings, formal responses would primarily come from the Commission and Department.

- b. Proposed federal institutional accountability measures and impacts to Colorado IHEs programs of study (transition to Registrar Council meeting at 2:00 pm for combined meeting with registrars and financial aid directors)

- [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 813 4870 0539

Passcode: 448912

The joint meeting of the Academic and Registrar Councils, convened to address the implications of **House Resolution 1 (HR1)** and related federal accountability measures. Brad Griffith and Liliana Diaz led the discussion, emphasizing the urgency of understanding HR1’s potential impact on institutional program eligibility for federal financial aid. A key concern was the proposed earnings-based eligibility metric, which would evaluate whether graduates’ median earnings exceed those of working adults with only a high school diploma. Programs failing this test could lose access to federal loans, raising alarms for fields like early childhood education, social work, and teaching.

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202

Phone 303-862-3001 • Email [CDHE@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:CDHE@dhe.state.co.us)

[www.highered.colorado.gov](http://www.highered.colorado.gov)



Participants expressed uncertainty and concern about the lack of clear federal guidance, making it difficult to assess program-level risk or begin internal planning. Several institutions noted that while leadership teams were aware of the issue, they lacked sufficient data to model potential impacts. Several members cautioned against prematurely identifying vulnerable programs, which could cause unnecessary panic or political fallout. Others clarified distinctions between HR1, Gainful Employment/ Financial Value Transparency (GE/FVT), and other federal reporting requirements, stressing that GE/FVT's debt-to-earnings ratio is the most immediate threat to Title IV eligibility.

Sophia Laderman from CDHE explained that while CDHE publishes wage outcome data, it differs from federal metrics, and the department is working with national organizations like State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) and American Council on Education (ACE) to advocate for Colorado's interests during rulemaking. She and Brad encouraged institutions to share concerns early to help shape a unified state response. Suggestions included streamlining data reporting requirements, aligning state and federal metrics, and preparing messaging strategies for students and communities. Participants also raised equity concerns, particularly for rural institutions and mission-critical fields that may be disproportionately affected.

The meeting concluded with a call for continued collaboration and information sharing across academic, financial aid, and registrar offices. CDHE committed to condensing meeting notes and distributing resources shared during the session.

#### 4. New, modified, and closed programs

##### a. New

- Adams State University
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Financial Risk Management
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Geographic Information Science
- Colorado Mesa University
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Diagnostic Sonography
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Digital Filmmaking: Writing/Directing Principles I
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Digital Filmmaking: Writing/Directing Principles II
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Digital Filmmaking: Writing/Directing Principles III
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Digital Photography
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education Director with CDA Infant Toddler

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202

Phone 303-862-3001 • Email [CDHE@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:CDHE@dhe.state.co.us)

[www.highered.colorado.gov](http://www.highered.colorado.gov)



- Undergraduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education Director with CDA Preschool
- Undergraduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education Director with CDA Preschool and EQIT
- Undergraduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education Teacher with CDA Infant Toddler
- Undergraduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education Teacher with CDA Preschool or EQIT
- Undergraduate Certificate in Film Photography
- Undergraduate Certificate in Fire Academy Level 1-NFPA Firefighter 1/HazMat Certification
- Undergraduate Certificate in Transportation Services: Hybrid Vehicle Technician
- Associate of Applied Science in Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic
- Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Technology: Fixed Wing with Prior FAA Pilot License
- Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education with Prior CDA/EQIT Certifications
- Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene
- Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science Technology with NFPA Certifications
- Associate of Applied Science in Manufacturing Technology: Welding Technology
- Associate of Applied Science in Transportation Services: Diesel Technology
- Associate of Arts in Graphic Design
- Colorado Mountain College
  - Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences
- Colorado School of Mines
  - Master of Science in Environment, Resource & Energy Policy
- Colorado State University
  - Graduate Certificate in Health Justice and Infectious Diseases
  - Graduate Certificate in Public Management
- Colorado State University – Global Campus
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Construction Management
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Construction Management Leadership Fundamentals
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Human Resource Management

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202

Phone 303-862-3001 • Email [CDHE@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:CDHE@dhe.state.co.us)

[www.highered.colorado.gov](http://www.highered.colorado.gov)



- Undergraduate Certificate in Human Resource Management Leadership Fundamentals
  - Master of Business Administration in Operations and Supply Chain Management
  - Colorado State University Pueblo
    - Graduate Certificate in Transportation Engineering
  - Fort Lewis College
    - Undergraduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship
    - Undergraduate Certificate in Human Resource Management
    - Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Business Analysis
  - Metropolitan State University of Denver
    - Master of Science in Business Intelligence
  - Pikes Peak State College
    - Bachelor of Applied Science in Elementary Education
  - University of Colorado Boulder
    - Bachelor of Science in Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences
    - Bachelor of Science in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
    - Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry
    - Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
    - Bachelor of Science in Earth Science
    - Bachelor of Science in Geography
    - Bachelor of Science in Integrative Physiology
    - Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
    - Bachelor of Science in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology
    - Bachelor of Science in Statistics and Data Science
    - Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience
    - Bachelor of Science in Physics
    - Master of Science in Sustainable Business
    - Master of Science in Sustainable Engineering
  - University of Colorado Colorado Springs
    - Master of Arts in Cultural Heritage and Environmental Resource Management
  - University of Colorado Denver
    - Bachelor of Social Work
    - Master of Arts in Landscape Architecture
    - Executive Master of Business Administration in Aviation
- b. Modified
- Adams State University

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202

Phone 303-862-3001 • Email [CDHE@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:CDHE@dhe.state.co.us)

[www.highered.colorado.gov](http://www.highered.colorado.gov)



- Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Mathematics changed to Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics
  - Colorado Mesa University
    - Undergraduate Certificate in Cyber Security changed to Undergraduate Certificate in Cybersecurity
    - Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design: Visual Design changed to Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design
  - Metropolitan State University of Denver
    - Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics changed to Master of Science in Nutrition
  - University of Colorado Boulder
    - Master of Science in Geology changed to Master of Science in Earth Science
    - PhD in Geology changed to PhD in Earth Science
- c. Closed Programs
- Adams State University
    - Associate of Science in Geographic Information Science
    - Bachelor of Arts in Earth Sciences: Physical Geography
    - Bachelor of Science in Earth Sciences: Physical Geography
    - Master of Arts in Special Education: Generalist
  - Colorado Mesa University
    - Undergraduate Certificate in Magnetic Resonance Imaging
    - Bachelor of Applied Science in Radiologic Sciences
    - Bachelor of Arts in English: Literature
  - Colorado State University
    - Bachelor of Science in Applied Computing Technology
    - Master of Occupational Therapy
    - Master of Science in Occupational therapy
    - Ph.D. in Public Communication and Technology

**ACTION ITEMS**

Issue	Action / Next Step	Assigned To & Date Assigned

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202

Phone 303-862-3001 • Email [CDHE@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:CDHE@dhe.state.co.us)

[www.highered.colorado.gov](http://www.highered.colorado.gov)




1600 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202  
Phone 303-862-3001 • Email [CDHE@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:CDHE@dhe.state.co.us)  
[www.highered.colorado.gov](http://www.highered.colorado.gov)

