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

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

1. **SUMMARY**

This agenda item recommends the renewal of Authorization for Field Placements (with no instruction) for Liberty University under the Degree Authorization Act.

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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**

Liberty University is a private, not-for-profit, institutionally accredited postsecondary institution located in Lynchburg, Virginia. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has accredited the University since 1980.

Liberty University is working in partnership with McAir Aviation in Broomfield, Colorado at

Rocky Mountain Airport for its students completing the Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics.

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

opportunity to complete the experiential learning portion of the degree program within the state.

The only activity occurring at the Colorado site for the Liberty University B.S. in Aeronautics

program is Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved flight training which consists of

flight instruction, ground instruction and simulator training. The instruction is solely online but for the required aviation training.

Liberty University meets the criteria for the Authorization of Field Placements (with no instruction) at its Colorado location and therefore meets the renewal requirements for this authorization level.

1. **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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