

**Educational Success Task Force**  
**Tuesday, September 27, 2011**  
**Colorado Department of Higher Education**  
**1560 Broadway, Suite 1600**  
**Prepared by Jennifer Thomsen, Legislative Council Staff**

All of the materials referenced in this summary are available on the Educational Success Task Force website at: <http://www.colorado.gov/lcs/EdSuccessTF>.

**1:00 p.m. - Welcome and Introductions**

Senator King welcomed the members of the Educational Success Task Force (task force) to the meeting. The members of the task force and the audience introduced themselves. Two members participated electronically. A list of the meeting attendees is included at the end of this meeting summary.

At the request of Senator King, task force member Scott Mendelsberg, Executive Director of Colorado GEAR UP, provided information about a \$35 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant money will be used by GEAR UP to serve students in low-income schools beginning in eighth grade. The program provides mentoring, a college preparatory curriculum, and financial literacy training, and assists in the college admissions process and provides support mechanisms through students' first year of college.

**1:15 p.m. - Online/Blended Learning**

Dr. Terry Bishop, Executive Director Colorado Online Learning, and Billi Jo Saunders, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Colorado Online Learning, presented a powerpoint *Blended Learning: Supporting Successful Student Learning Experiences*. Dr. Bishop provided information on the landscape of K-12 online learning in Colorado, which includes single-district programs, multi-district programs, and a state provider of supplemental online content. He described program funding, oversight, and student reach, providing examples of each type of program. Dr. Bishop and Ms. Saunders discussed blended learning and the role of the teacher as a facilitator. Ms. Saunders stated that the rich instruction provided allows educators to bridge gaps and focus on intervention, remediation, and acceleration. Dr. Bishop described how school districts use Colorado Online Learning to provide supplemental online high school programs, serving students in traditional schools, charter schools, and boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES) programs. Dr. Bishop talked about online interventions for struggling students and spoke about the importance of employing an effective learning management system for content development and delivery, record keeping, and data management.

## **2:15 p.m. - Department of Education and Department of Higher Education Panel Discussion**

The task force heard from a panel of experts from the Department of Education (CDE) and the Department of Higher Education (DHE), including:

- Dr. Diana Sirko, Deputy Commissioner of Learning and Results, CDE;
- Ms. Jo O'Brien, Assistant Commissioner of Standards and Assessment, CDE;
- Dr. Matt Gianneschi, Deputy Executive Director, DHE;
- Dr. Beth Bean, Director of Research and Information, DHE; and
- Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Assistant Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, DHE.

Senator King provided a list of suggested questions for the panel and concept papers on four ideas for legislation, including: replacing the 10th grade CSAP with Accuplacer diagnostic testing; extending the use of the growth model to higher education; reverse-transfer degrees; and making changes to the Gateway to College Dropout Recovery Program to address funding issues.

The panel discussion began with a conversation about Senator King's proposal to replace the 10th grade CSAP with Accuplacer diagnostic testing. The panelists discussed the correlation between CSAP and ACT and the requirements for a standards-based assessment system. There was also conversation around the purpose of CSAP, with an acknowledgment that it does not have utility for higher education because it is not a diagnostic or placement test. The panelists and task force members also discussed what business and industry need from the education system. Panelists and task force members discussed the value, especially to students, of different assessment tools, including the CSAP, the ACT, and the Accuplacer.

Next, the panel discussed whether there are barriers to extending use of the individual career and academic plan (ICAP) into higher education. Finally, the task force and panelists discussed endorsed diplomas and talked about how to make students accountable for their education.

## **4:00 p.m. - Discussion of Potential Legislation**

Senator King invited task force members to share their ideas for legislation beyond the four ideas he offered in his concept papers. Task force members suggested discussion and possible legislation on issues including:

- ways to address the needs of adults entering higher education who are having difficulties and end up dropping out;
- earlier transition points, including issues related to third grade literacy;
- issues around middle school;
- examination of state remediation policies; and
- online/blended learning.

The task force discussed the bill request process, with Ms. Julie Pelegrin, Office of

Legislative Legal Services, describing the bill drafting process. Ms. Pelegrin described, and the task force discussed, each of Senator King's bill ideas, as outlined in the concept papers, including:

- replacing the 10th grade CSAP with Accuplacer diagnostic testing;
- extending the use of the growth model to higher education;
- reverse-transfer degrees; and
- making changes to the Gateway to College Dropout Recovery Program to address funding issues.

The task force concluded with a discussion of its work going forward.

## Educational Success Task Force

Date: Sept. 27, 2011

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Sen. Bob Bacon	x	
Rep. Rhonda Fields		x
Rep. Chris Holbert	x	
Sen. Evie Hudak	x	
Sen. Keith King	x	
Rep. Tom Massey	x	
<b>Public Committee Members</b>		
Geri Anderson	x	
Mark Bell		x
Charlotte Brantley		x
Judi Diaz Bonacquisti	x	
Perla Delgado		x
Tamara Durbin	participated electronically	
Carrie Heaney	x	
Daniel Jablonsky	x	
Sharon Kallus	participated electronically	
Kim Knous Dolan	x	
Samantha Long	x	
Rod Lucero	x	
Ryan McCoy	x	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Scott Mendelsberg	x	
Michelle Pearson	x	
Montina Romero	x	
Deanna Sands	x	
Susan Scheibel	x	
Bruce Siegel		x
Kevin Simpson		x
Judy Skupa	x	
John Sutton	x	
Jane Szucs	x	
Tracy Thompson		x
Jeff Wilhite	x	