

**Educational Success Task Force  
Wednesday, July 11, 2012  
President's Conference Room  
Colorado Community College System  
9101 East Lowry Blvd., Denver, CO  
Prepared by Kristen Johnson, Legislative Council Staff**

The materials referenced in this summary and an audio recording of the meeting 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) and the audience to the meeting. Senator King talked about the fire that took place in Colorado Springs and thanked Representative Holbert for chairing the previous meeting. The members of the task force and the audience introduced themselves.

**1:10 p.m. - Conversation: Developmental Education Task Force Panel**

Dr. Geri Anderson introduced the Developmental Education Task Force (DETF) members and described the group's charge, which is to review developmental education practices throughout the Colorado Community College System and make recommendations on what steps the system will take to become the premier provider of developmental education in Colorado. She handed the floor to Dr. Casey Sacks, chair of the DETF.

Dr. Sacks introduced Marilyn Smith, Ashley Moorshead, and Linda Hoops; three members of the DETF. The panel discussed what they have learned as members, stating that several states have successful developmental education models that may be adapted to Colorado's needs. The panel members discussed their examination of the developmental education process and the support services students need to be successful. They discussed the importance of integrating different levels of instruction across the community college system, and the need to change student advising. They also discussed professional development for teachers and the need for ongoing conversations between K-12 and higher education stakeholders.

The panel members responded to questions from the task force.

**2:10 p.m. - Conversation: K12 and Higher Education Lobby Panel**

Representative Holbert asked the lobbyist panel to provide the task force with an evaluation of the work the task force has done and of the previous legislative session.

Carol Norberg, representing the Colorado Gifted Education Coalition (coalition), stated that those in gifted education are happy, overall, with the direction the task force has taken. She stated that legislation that allows for better movement of pupils through the system by providing easier transitions and opportunities for concurrent enrollment, is a big focus for the coalition. She added

that the coalition is especially interested in reducing the seat time requirements for students. She provided a letter from the coalition; the letter has been posted to the task force's webpage, at: <http://www.colorado.gov/lcs/EdSuccessTF>.

Toni Larson, representing Independent Higher Education of Colorado, stated that the schools she represents feel that additional focus should be placed on the following areas:

- minority and low-income students including at-risk and first generation students;
- early childhood education;
- student study skills;
- student math and science skills;
- mentoring and advising programs for students;
- intensive summer school programs for students starting in the ninth grade;
- developing pupil soft skills such as critical thinking, communication, problem solving, and teamwork skills; and
- financial aid.

Rich Jones, representing the Bell Policy Center, stated that he is very happy with the work of the task force and the legislation that came forward last session. He stated that the Bell Policy Center would like to see more focus on at-risk students and expanding concurrent enrollment programs with an emphasis on low-income students. He added that need-based financial aid and early childhood learning should also receive greater focus.

Karen Wick, representing the Colorado Education Association (CEA), stated that CEA is pleased with the work of the task force. She discussed the implementation of recently adopted education reforms and the importance of investing and improving upon the systems that are already in place.

Moira Cullen, representing The Capstone Group, discussed the School Finance Act and what appropriate changes can be made to address K-12 funding levels. She stated that teacher preparation and teacher licensure should be a focus. She added that she would like to see Colorado become a state that fosters different types of schools such as charter schools and innovation schools.

Kayla McGannon, representing Stand for Children Colorado, stated that her organization is especially interested in teacher preparation and in getting teachers the tools that they need in order to be successful in the classroom.

Ed Bowditch, representing his clients as a lobbyist for Tomlinson & Associates, stated that the task force is looking at the correct issues. He discussed performance funding and performance contract models. He discussed certificate programs, stating that area vocational schools are concerned about enrollment, completion, and placement of students into jobs.

Vinny Badolato, representing the Colorado League of Charter Schools, stated that he would like to see a greater focus on alternative education campuses by creating smarter and more flexible accountability systems that measure the unique aspects of alternative education campuses.

Anne Barkis, representing the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) stated that CDE has a lot of concerns about getting all of the adopted reforms into place and helping with the implementation process. She added that the Colorado State Board of Education (SBE) will formulate its legislative priorities at its September meeting.

Elizabeth Rosen, representing Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) stated that funding issues and reform implementation are their major concerns. She stated that school districts would like the gift of time to be able to implement the reforms and see how everything works together.

Dr. Anderson asked the panel what type of legislation scares them the most. The panel responded that additional cuts to K-12 funding and too much regulation are the things that scare them the most.

The panel responded to additional questions from the task force.

### **3:00 p.m. - Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned. The next scheduled meeting of the task force will take place on Wednesday, July 25 at the Colorado Community College System offices.

## Educational Success Task Force

Date: July 11, 2012

<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	participated electronically	
Charlotte Brantley		x
Judi Diaz Bonacquisti	x	
Perla Delgado		x
Tamara Durbin		x
Carrie Heaney	x	
Daniel Jablonsky		x
Kim Knous Dolan	participated electronically	
Samantha Long	x	
Rod Lucero	x	
Ryan McCoy		x
Scott Mendelsberg		x
Michelle Pearson		x
Montina Romero		x

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Deanna Sands		x
Susan Scheibel	x	
Bruce Siegel	participated electronically	
Kevin Simpson		x
Judy Skupa	x	
John Sutton	x	
Jane Szucs	participated electronically	
Tracy Thompson		x
Jeff Wilhite	x	