

**Educational Success Task Force  
Wednesday, August 15, 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. The members of the task force and the audience introduced themselves. Josh Abram, Legislative Council Staff, discussed the upcoming meetings of the task force, which are scheduled for September 5 and 19.

Senator King asked the presenters from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to come forward and present.

**1:10 p.m. Conversation: Graduation Guidelines**

Jo O'Brien, Assistant Commissioner of Standards and Assessment, CDE, provided information on high school graduation guidelines and endorsed diplomas in Colorado. The information presented by Ms. O'Brien is available in the file titled *Endorsed Diploma and Graduation Guidelines* on the task force's webpage.

Ms. O'Brien discussed the current achievement of students in Colorado, noting that the most recent results from the state TCAP assessment showed that 33 percent of students are proficient or above in reading, and 32 percent are proficient or above in math. She noted that Colorado has an approximate high school graduation rate of 72 percent and about a 54 percent college enrollment rate. She stated that the guiding principles of the new high school graduation guidelines are to create a meaningful high school diploma, and to graduate students who are ready to be successful citizens and valuable first-year employees.

She stated that all of the schools in Colorado currently have different graduation requirements for their students. She discussed the endorsed diploma which, by June 2015, will allow students who graduate high school with an endorsed diploma to be automatically admitted into moderately selective Colorado colleges. The endorsed diploma shows that a student has achieved mastery in three specific subject areas and is without the need for remediation. Ms. O'Brien discussed the different ways that students will be able to demonstrate mastery and provided the handout *Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) High School Diploma Endorsement Criteria*.

## **2:10 p.m. Conversation: Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board**

Tamara White-Johnson, Director of Admission and Access, Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE), discussed concurrent enrollment and the alignment of admissions policies with the definition of postsecondary and workforce readiness.

Misti Ruthven, Secondary Initiatives, CDE, discussed the ASCENT program and the challenges facing students and school districts due to the program's timeline. She stated that students find out in June of their senior year whether or not they will be able to participate in the ASCENT program, however, most students wishing to attend college are required to make decisions in May. She provided the handout *ASCENT Eligibility Fact Sheet*.

Scott Stump, member of the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board and Dean of Career and Technical Education (CTE), Colorado Community College System (CCCS), discussed the provisions of Senate Bill 09-285, which put in place direct access for students seeking to participate in the concurrent enrollment program for CTE courses. He noted the large increase in program participation as a result of the legislation's enactment. He referred to DHE's *Annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment*.

## **3:10 p.m. Conversation: Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)**

Ms. Ruthven discussed the use of Individual and Career Academic Plans (ICAPs) in Colorado, stating that during the 2011-12 academic year, all seniors in high schools in Colorado were encouraged to develop and graduate with an ICAP. She discussed CDE's work with the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) in developing an ICAP evaluation study to measure how schools are progressing with ICAP initiatives. She provide two handouts: *ICAP Indicators Worksheet* and *College in Colorado ICAP Characteristics*.

Gully Stanford, Director of Partnerships, College In Colorado, discussed DHE's mission of reaching out to students beginning during their middle school years to ensure that they know about the postsecondary and remedial opportunities that are available to them. Mr. Stanford said that this mission is accomplished through College In Colorado. He discussed the use of the College In Colorado website for students' ICAP development and planning.

Senator King discussed the process for the next meeting, which will be an opportunity for the task force to develop ideas for possible legislation. He suggested that the task force hold a final meeting in November, after the election takes place.

## **4:00 Adjourn**

## Educational Success Task Force

Date: August 15, 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		x
Charlotte Brantley		x
Judi Diaz Bonacquisti	x	
Perla Delgado		x
Tamara Durbin		x
Carrie Heaney		x
Daniel Jablonsky	x	
Kim Knous Dolan	x	
Samantha Long		x
Rod Lucero	x	
Ryan McCoy		x
Scott Mendelsberg		x

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Michelle Pearson		x
Montina Romero	x	
Deanna Sands	participated electronically	
Susan Scheibel	represented by Linda Crain	
Bruce Siegel		x
Kevin Simpson		x
Judy Skupa	participated electronically	
John Sutton	x	
Jane Szucs	participated electronically	x
Tracy Thompson	x (also Samantha Haviland)	
Jeff Wilhite		x