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News Release

Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board Will Hold First Meeting Friday, Nov. 13

The Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board will meet for the first time on Friday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the conference center at the Community College System Lowry campus, 1061 Akron Way, Denver.

The 13-member board is charged with overseeing programs that allow students to simultaneously enroll in high school and college.

The board was created by the Colorado State Legislature through House Bill 09-1219 and Senate Bill 09-285.

The resulting Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act is designed to broaden access to and improve the quality of concurrent enrollment programs, improve coordination between institutions of secondary education and institutions of higher education and ensure financial transparency and accountability. The act also created the "5th year" ASCENT program for students retained by the high school for instruction beyond the senior year.

Board members are appointed to three-year terms by the governor, the commissioner of education and the executive director of the department of higher education. The director of career and technical education within the state system of community and technical colleges also serves as a board member and the state board for community colleges and occupational education also makes one appointment to the board.

The members of the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board are:

Geri Anderson

Geri Anderson currently serves as interim vice president for academic and student affairs and provost for the Colorado Community College System. She provides leadership for all community college academic and student affairs policy review and development, ensures the development and enhancement of high quality career and technical and transfer education programs. Anderson is responsible for the administration of the Colorado Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Plan and the Colorado Technical Education Act for all secondary and postsecondary programs.

Richard R. Bond

Richard R. Bond is currently retired from 50 years of service to the educational community. He has served as an associate professor, dean of faculty and president at large for public research institutions, private colleges and public community colleges. Bond also served in the Colorado State Legislature and as a state representative was involved with the Postsecondary Options Act, which permitted and funded high school students to take college courses.

Renie Del Ponte

Renie Del Ponte is the director of career and technical education for Jefferson County Public Schools, the largest school district in Colorado. She is responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of more than 220 CTE programs across 17 high schools, two designated area vocational schools, four option schools and 20 middle schools in the district.

Chahnuh A. Fritz

Chahnuh A. Fritz is the counseling coordinator at Eaglecrest High School in the Cherry Creek Schools. She has also worked as a post grad counselor and counseling coordinator at Eaglecrest High School. Prior to her work in Cherry Creek Schools, Fritz was an admission counselor for four years at Mesa State College, where she coordinated the denver regional office.

Chelsy Harris

Chelsy Harris is the director of high school programs at Pikes Peak Community College. Harris works with more than 50 area high school administrators, counselors, teachers and students on concurrent

enrollment opportunities. She is a former career-technical educator at the high school level.

Dan Jorgensen

Dan Jorgensen serves as the assistant director of the division of accountability and research within Aurora Public Schools. Jorgensen is responsible for and contributed to the evaluation and assessment of district-wide initiatives and efforts including the 5th block program, K-8 school conversion, pilot schools, discretionary grants and the Title funded programs. He is an active member of APS Teacher Evaluation and Service-Oriented Architecture Committees. Mr. Jorgensen also is an adjunct faculty member at Johnson & Wales University.

Jhon Penn

Jhon Penn is the director of performance support at the Colorado Department of Education. Penn is a graduate of Ohio University and Liberty University. Penn worked as both an elementary and middle school principal before becoming district director of achievement for the Garfield County School District 16.

Mark Rangel

Mark Rangel is the director of instructional support for Morgan County School District Re-3. Rangel is also a consultant for the Educational Research and Training Corporation. Previous to joining the Morgan County School District Re-3, he was the principal at Heath Middle School in Greeley-Evans School District 6.

Cliff Richardson

Cliff Richardson is the vice president for administration and finance for the Colorado Community College System. He acts as the chief financial officer for 13 Colorado community colleges and oversees the functions of accounting, payroll, accounts payable, internal audit and system-wide budgeting. Richardson also provides leadership with the development of system-wide fiscal policies recommendations to the president and board of the Colorado Community College System. Richardson also has served as the president at Red Rocks Community College.

Deborah Schmitt

Deborah Schmitt is currently the vice president for academic affairs over arts and sciences programs at Colorado Mountain College. Schmitt taught history at the U.S. Air Force Academy for 10 years and then took a position with Pikes Peak Community College as the dean of communications, humanities and technical studies. Her

administrative experience working with concurrent enrollment programs in both academic transfer programs and career and technical programs is extensive. With more than 20 years experience in higher education, Schmitt is dedicated to building partnerships with local high schools to better prepare students for college-level work.

Scott Springer

Scott Springer is the executive director of post-secondary pathways for Denver Public Schools and has served as a DPS educator for the past 23 years. Springer is responsible for supervision of career and technical education, pre-collegiate initiatives, postsecondary partnerships, counseling, AVID, arts and physical education. Springer also has served as the principal of CEC Middle College of Denver and spent 13 years as an instrumental music teacher at Horace Mann Middle School and East High School.

Scott Stump

Scott Stump is dean of career & technical education for the Colorado Community College System. Prior to assuming this role in January of 2008, Stump served as the state director of agricultural education and as the state FFA advisor beginning in 2001 with the Colorado Community College System, managing the student organization and state FFA officer team.

Diana Wenzel

Diana K. Wenzel currently serves as associate provost for extended studies at Adams State College. Wenzel's responsibilities include administration of the concurrent enrollment program at Adams State, including oversight of all distance education programs. Prior to her appointment as associate provost, Wenzel served as chief academic and assessment officer. Wenzel's 30-year educational career includes experience at both K-12 and higher education levels.

Key Features of the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act

- Districts may begin implementing during the 2009-2010 school year and by year 2012 high schools must operate all concurrent enrollment programs under the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act.
- To create a concurrent enrollment opportunity, districts must first enter into a cooperative agreement with a qualified institution of higher education.

- Districts are required to reimburse concurrent courses at the in-state community college tuition rate and all concurrently enrolled students will be classified as Colorado residents for tuition setting purposes.
- Students may concurrently enroll into any career and technical education course, certificate program, community college course and traditional college course, if the institution of higher education meets the following qualifications:
 - Is accredited by a regional accrediting agency or association;
 - Provides an educational program for awarding a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree;
 - Is authorized by the Colorado Department of Higher Education to do business in Colorado;
 - Maintains a physical campus or instructional facility;
 - Is determined by the U.S. Department of Education to be eligible to administer federal financial aid (i.e., "Title IV eligible").
- Students in grades nine through 12 may qualify to concurrently enroll in postsecondary courses if the student has:
 - Received approval for their academic plan of study;
 - Applied for concurrent enrollment approval no later than 60 days before the end of the academic term that immediately precedes the intended term of concurrent enrollment;
 - Met the minimum prerequisites for the course (students need not meet all Higher Education Admission Requirements [HEAR]);
 - *Note:* Twelfth-grade students who have not satisfied minimum high school graduation requirements established by his or her high school by the end of his or her 12th grade year may *not* concurrently enroll into more than nine credit hours (including basic skills courses) in any subsequent years while registered as a K-12 student.
- Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, districts can participate in the ASCENT program. The ASCENT program permits eligible students to participate in a "5th year" of high school while enrolled concurrently. Districts with ASCENT students will receive a fixed amount of per-pupil operating revenue. ASCENT program participants shall not be considered a high school

graduate until they have completed participation in the ASCENT program and any remaining graduation requirements.

- To participate in ASCENT, students must:
 - Have completed or be on schedule to complete at least 12 credit hours (semester hours or equivalent) of postsecondary course work prior to the completion of his or her 12th grade year;
 - Not be in need of basic skills coursework as defined by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education's remedial education policy;
 - Have been selected for participation in the ASCENT program by his or her high school principal or equivalent school administrator;
 - Have satisfied the minimum prerequisites for the course before his or her enrollment in the course;
 - Have not participated in the ASCENT program in previous years.

About District Participation in ASCENT

Districts that would like to participate in the ASCENT program for the 2010-2011 school year should submit a list of current twelfth graders who will be eligible for the ASCENT program during the upcoming school year. For example, current seniors (2009-10 school year) who plan to remain enrolled at the high school in order to participate in a dual degree or fifth-year program in the 2010-11 school year.

Districts should submit data and any questions to Charles Dukes at dukes_c@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6142. All data should be submitted by Monday, Nov. 23.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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