



FOREWORD

The Community Colleges of Colorado comprise the state's largest and fastest growing system of higher education. Its career and academic programs in the 13 state community colleges and career and technical programs in 157 school districts and seven other post-secondary institutions serve more than 247,000 students annually including a majority—six out of 10—of all public college freshmen and sophomores in the state.

The State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (the Board) was established in 1967 by legislative action. The Board staff was organized under a Director of Community Colleges and a Director of Occupational Education, each of whom reported directly to the Board. The first policy manual was developed over a period of years and was published in 1974. The manual was composed of a collection of Board actions dealing with policy matters which had been approved since the establishment of the Board. Additional policies and revisions of policies were approved from time to time and added to the manual.

The Colorado General Assembly enacted legislation HB 1237 in 1986 which reconstituted the Board. Subsequently, the new Board, on September 11, 1986, created the Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System (the System) through which to administer its responsibilities. The staff was restructured by the System President who serves as the Director of Community Colleges and Director of Occupational Education. The Vice Presidents, as well as the state system community college presidents, report to the President of the System who is responsible to the Board. The name of the system was changed on June 8, 2000 to the Community Colleges of Colorado.

Policy development and review of policies is an ongoing process. As changes are approved, updates will be issued for placement in the manual and be electronically available for reading. Each policy specifies the date it was approved by the Board and the date the policy became effective. These dates refer to the latest action of the Board and do not necessarily indicate whether there have been previous iterations. The System President should be contacted for information regarding initial approval and/or past revisions of policies of the Board.

Joe D. May, System President

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