

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: October 19, 2016

TO: Barbara Gellman-Danley, President
Higher Learning Commission

FROM: Lt. Gov. Donna Lynne
Acting Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education

RE: Adams State University – request to reschedule April 2017 evaluation

I am writing to express my support for Adams State University's request that the HLC comprehensive evaluation of Adams State University scheduled for April 2017 be rescheduled to Fall 2017.

The Colorado Department of Higher Education has monitored the situation concerning the administration of distance education programs at Adams State very closely and has kept the Colorado Commission on Higher Education informed about efforts to rectify problems that led to ASU being placed on probation by the Higher Learning Commission.

As described in Dr. Flanagan's letter, ASU has commissioned or received three consultant reports on the distance education programs and is working assiduously to resolve concerns and implement recommendations for improvement contained in the reports. I am reassured by his assessment that Adams State takes this matter very seriously and has a thorough plan and ambitious timetable in place. I also share the concern that despite its best efforts, ASU faces a daunting timetable to complete its work in advance of the HLC comprehensive evaluation. The consequences of falling short would be injurious for ASU and for all of public higher education in Colorado.

Adams State University is an important asset in the Colorado higher education system. As one of the oldest Normal schools in the west, its longstanding contributions to one of the most diverse and economically challenged regions of the state cannot be overstated. We are proud of ASU's USDOE designation and role as a Hispanic Serving Institution. We deeply appreciate Adams State University's historic commitment to under-served populations, including underrepresented minorities, first-generation, and low-income students.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please feel free to contact me.

CC: Dr. Beverlee McClure, President of Adams State University
Diane Duffy, Chief Operating Officer, CDHE