

# STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

May 11, 2022

**TOPIC:** Law Enforcement Academy Recommendations

**PRESENTED BY:** Landon K. Pirius, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

**RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:** Transform the Student Experience. Create Education Without Barriers Through Transformational Partnerships.

**EXPLANATION:**

In the wake of George Floyd's death on May 25, 2020, CCCS leadership hoped to be able to do more than issue statements of support for marginalized communities. Upon further reflection, we realized our system has 8 law enforcement academies that educate hundreds of law enforcement cadets a year. Upon deeper review of the curriculum requirements for graduation and the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) minimum requirements, we quickly found that there were very few hours dedicated to de-escalation, implicit bias, intercultural communication, and social justice.

We immediately decided to embark on a system-wide effort to review and change our law enforcement curriculum to produce prepared officers who would protect and serve all communities. We reached out to other higher education institutions, government officials, and community leaders. In doing so, three non-CCCS higher education institutions joined our efforts – Colorado Mountain College, Aims Community College, and Western Colorado Community College.

We also created two committees – a steering committee to guide the overall work and a curriculum committee to focus on what is taught, how it is taught, who teaches the courses, and professional development. The steering committee includes representatives from higher education, the Attorney General's Office, sheriffs, police chiefs, and community organizations. The curriculum committee includes academy representatives, faculty, and community representatives.

We applied for and received a grant from the Colorado Health Foundation to support our work. We are just over a year into the grant work and will provide a summary of our first year, the plan for the second year, and a synopsis of some of the challenges that exist.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

No action needed at this time.

**Attachments:**

No attachments