

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

December 11, 2024

TOPIC: Legislative Update

PRESENTED BY:

Fiona Lytle, Chief Communications Officer, Legislative Liaison; Moira Cullen, The Capstone Group; and Jason Hopfer, JLH Public Affairs; and Karen Wick

EXPLANATION:

Fiona and CCCS lobbyists will give the Board a brief summary of the following:

- Post-election results and activities occurring at the Capitol leading up to the 2025 session.
- Priorities of the Governor's proposed budget for higher education.
- Review CCCS's legislative priorities for the 2025 session.
- Bills and initiatives on the horizon that will affect higher education.

Governor's Proposed Budget for Higher Education

On November 1st, the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) released the administration's [Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget proposal](#). Due to lower inflation rates (from a high of 8% in 2022 to an expected 2.5% in 2024) and significant growth in caseload for critical programs such as k-12 education, the correctional system, and specifically Medicaid, the Governor's proposal for higher education General Fund operating is very tight, with a mere **\$12.1 million investment and tuition cap of 2.3% for in-state resident tuition**. For comparison, last year the Governor's proposal for higher education General Fund operating reflected an increase of \$42.7 million and 2% resident tuition cap, and the General Assembly ultimately allocated \$114.3 million for higher ed and approved a 3% resident tuition cap. For CCCS, the Governor's proposal equates to \$2.3 million, 0.8% increase from the previous fiscal year 2024-25. This investment would only cover 47% of CCCS's projected operating costs for FY-26.

The Governor's budget proposal also recommends \$85.6 million for all Level 1 Controlled Maintenance projects which includes 31 projects from institutions of higher education for a total of \$49.2 million. Level 1 controlled maintenance projects make the most critical repairs to state facilities and address concerns such as life safety and loss of use.

Regarding capital project requests, of CCCS's eight capital construction project requests and five information technology (IT) project requests, the Governor's budget proposal only recommended funding for Colorado Northwestern Community College's IT project (\$571,163). CCCS will continue to advocate for funding for other college projects, as listed below in priority order.

College	Capital Construction Project	FY 2025-26 Total Cost	FY 2025-26 CCF Request	FY 2025-26 CF Request
CNCC	Weiss & Hefley Renovation	\$8,652,142	\$8,652,142	\$0
ACC	Health Programs Integration, Phase II	\$40,487,561	\$37,248,556	\$3,239,005
RRCC	Health Sciences, EMS and Fire Science Building	\$37,339,236	\$29,871,389	\$7,467,847
PPSC	First Responder Emergency Education Complex, Phase I	\$28,821,210	\$26,501,103	\$2,320,107
CCA	Classroom Building 3rd Floor Renovation	\$6,632,714	\$6,367,405	\$265,309
Otero	Welding Shop Metal Building	\$1,597,641	\$1,597,641	\$0
LCC	Maintenance Building Expansion	\$1,709,500	\$1,709,500	\$0
	Total for Capital Construction Projects	\$132,510,004	\$118,617,736	\$13,892,268

College	IT Project	FY 2025-26 Total Cost	FY 2025-26 CCF Request	FY 2025-26 CF Request
Otero	Campus Security and Device Upgrades	\$505,050	\$425,050	\$80,000
CNCC	South Campus Redundancy Upgrade	\$571,163	\$571,163	\$0
NJC	Camera Upgrade	\$548,035	\$548,035	\$0
CCA	Campus Technology Modernization	\$2,018,990	\$1,839,080	\$179,910
RRCC	Safety and Security	\$1,170,015	\$1,170,015	\$0
	Total for IT Projects	\$4,813,253	\$4,553,343	\$259,910

CCCS Preparation and Priorities for the 2025 Session

As part of our annual preparation for the legislative session, CCCS's legislative team has conducted extensive outreach over the summer and early fall, meeting with college presidents, Chancellor Garcia, CCCS executive staff, and key external partners, including the Governor's Office, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, and non-profit organizations like Colorado Succeeds. This year, our efforts are centered on navigating a challenging state budget landscape ahead that anticipates significant financial constraints across the board. While CCCS is actively engaging in discussions around legislative proposals impacting higher education, concurrent enrollment, and career and technical education, we are not leading any legislative bills this session. Instead, our primary focus is on advocating for the maximum possible operating funding for higher education to support our students and sustain institutional operations.

RECOMMENDATION:

No Board action required.

ATTACHMENT(S):

2024 Election Results

CCCS 2025 Legislative Priorities and Budget Requests