

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 31, 2014

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, Southwest
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

We are writing in support of Colorado State University-Global Campus's (CSU-Global) application for the Department of Education's December 4, 2013 Experimental Sites Initiative. CSU-Global's proposal will utilize Credit by Exam (CBE) and Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) programs to decrease students' time to completion and the cost of a degree, while also allowing students who demonstrate competencies based on their professional experience and non-collegiate learning to obtain credit for their learning.

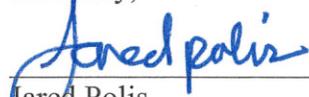
As the first and only fully online, and accredited public, non-profit institution in America, CSU-Global's mission is to address the unique needs of nontraditional adult learners. The university provides innovative ways to finance education at considerable savings to the student. For instance, students who enroll will not see tuition increases as long as they take one class per year and there are no student fees, beyond the cost of textbooks and course materials. CSU-Global also provides a considerable return on investment for students. Ninety-five percent of CSU-Global graduates are working for pay and report an average increase in pay of over 20 percent per year.

Based on CSU-Global's successful experience in these areas and commitment to providing quality education at an affordable price, we believe CSU-Global's proposal will result in a more personalized and effective higher education program. We feel that allowing students to use Title IV funds to cover each CBE (at \$250 per two attempts at a 3-credit exam) and PLA (at \$150 per 3-credit paper or assignment) is especially important for increasing access and affordability for nontraditional adult learners and veterans, who make up the majority of CSU-Global's student body.

Impressively, after paying off their \$12 million start-up loan one year ahead of schedule, CSU-Global now operates a sustainable model without future appropriations from the State of Colorado. Finally, CSU-Global was also just ranked #16 for Best Online Bachelor's Programs for 2014 by U.S. News and World Report.

We urge you to support CSU-Global's application to be an experimental site and would welcome an opportunity to work with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress