



COLORADO
TRUSTEE
NETWORK

HIGH ASPIRATIONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Press Release Draft 1

New Statewide Advocacy Network Connects to Help Higher Ed

DENVER – For more than a decade, Colorado has ranked near the bottom nationally in the amount of state support invested in public higher education institutions. A new effort hopes to change that and the college narrative by creating a statewide advocacy coalition that builds awareness about the state’s public higher education system’s challenges and opportunities.

Unlike K-12, there has never been an organized effort to have a unified voice advocating for what is in the best interest of public higher education in Colorado. Elaine Berman, an ardent education supporter and former trustee of Metropolitan State University of Denver, is spearheading this initiative after watching the ratio of state funding and student tuition flip over time, so that students are now responsible for two-thirds of the cost of college compared to one-third two decades ago.

The Colorado Trustee Network (CTN) is grounded on the premise that board members of Colorado’s public universities value and prioritize higher education. This network is led by a founding committee of Berman, Colorado Commission on Higher Education Trustee Sarah Hughes and one trustee from each public college or university in the state.

“There are shared goals and areas of interest that can benefit from a unified “trustee voice” that transcends individual institutions,” said Berman. Ultimately, the network plans to expand membership beyond public institution trustees to former trustees, alumni, community and business leaders, and private university representatives.

There are approximately 100 appointed or elected trustees serving on governing boards across the state with little to no opportunity to learn together or discuss common issues facing higher education, let alone to use their collective voices to advocate for the best interests of Colorado’s students. CTN plans to champion one voice on issues such as postsecondary funding, postsecondary equity gaps, and the alignment of postsecondary education to workforce needs.

The founding committee, which first convened in November 2020, includes Berman, Sarah Hughes (CCHÉ), Michele Lueck (Adams State University), Landon Mascareñaz (Colorado Community College System), Nate Easley (Colorado State University System), Alison Griffin (Colorado Mesa University), Chris Romer (Colorado Mountain College), Jesus Salazar (Colorado School of Mines), Ellen Roberts (Fort Lewis College), Russell Noles (Metropolitan State University of Denver), Lesley Smith (University of Colorado System), Steve Jordan (University of Northern Colorado) and Nancy Chisolm (Western Colorado University).

To join the network or find more information, visit coloradotrusteenetwork.org.



Higher Education Trustees Convening January 26, 2021

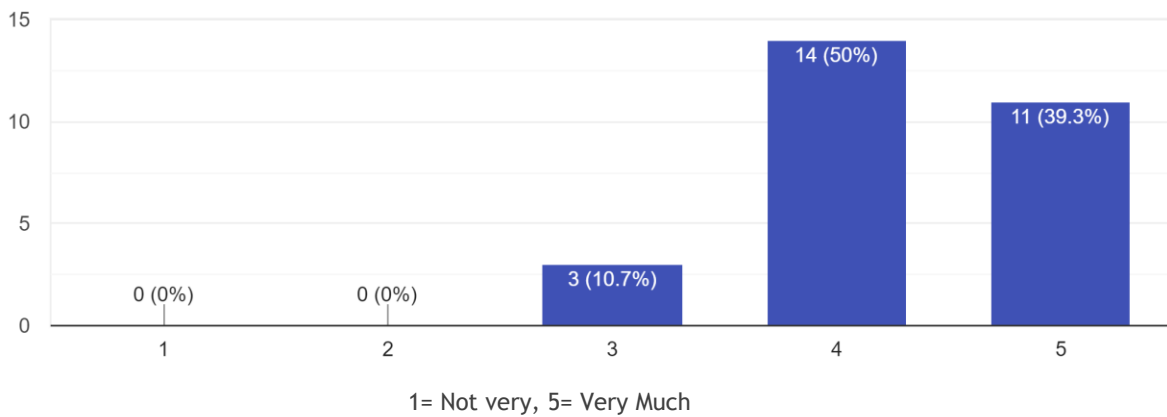
Event Survey

Attended:

Surveys Received as of 2/2/21: 28

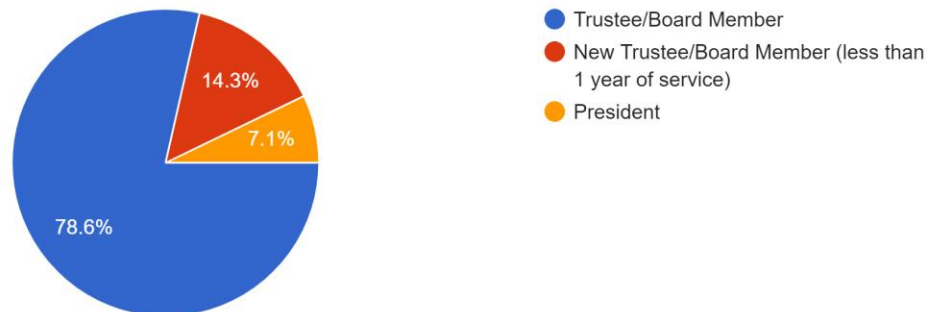
How satisfied were you with the event?

28 responses



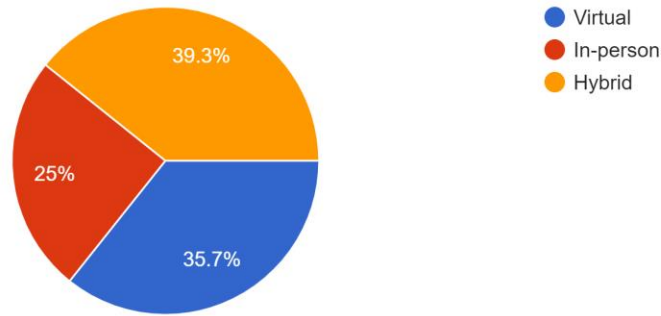
What is your role?

28 responses

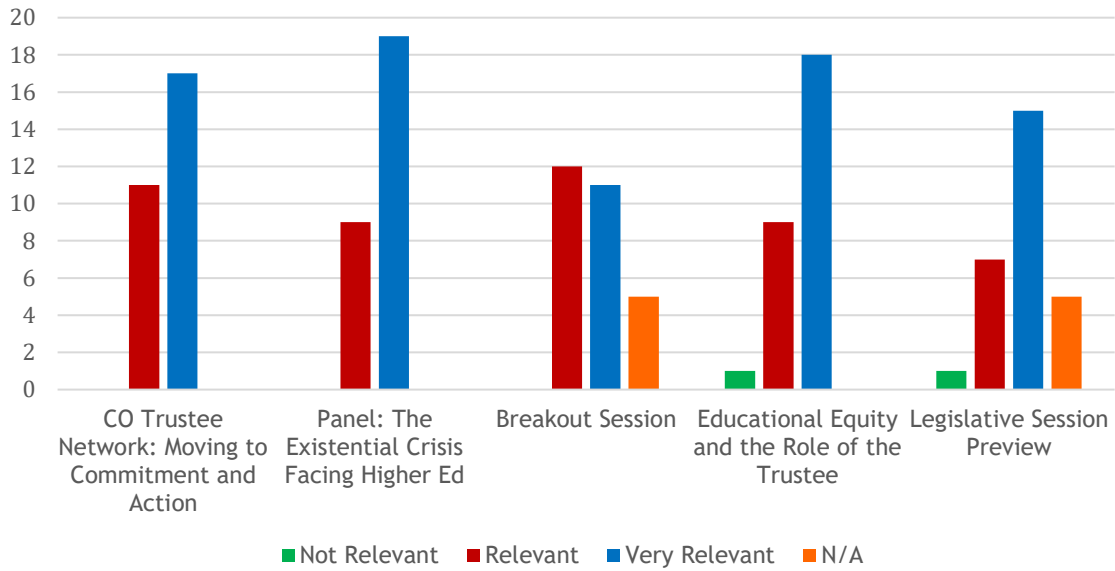


For future meetings, would you prefer....

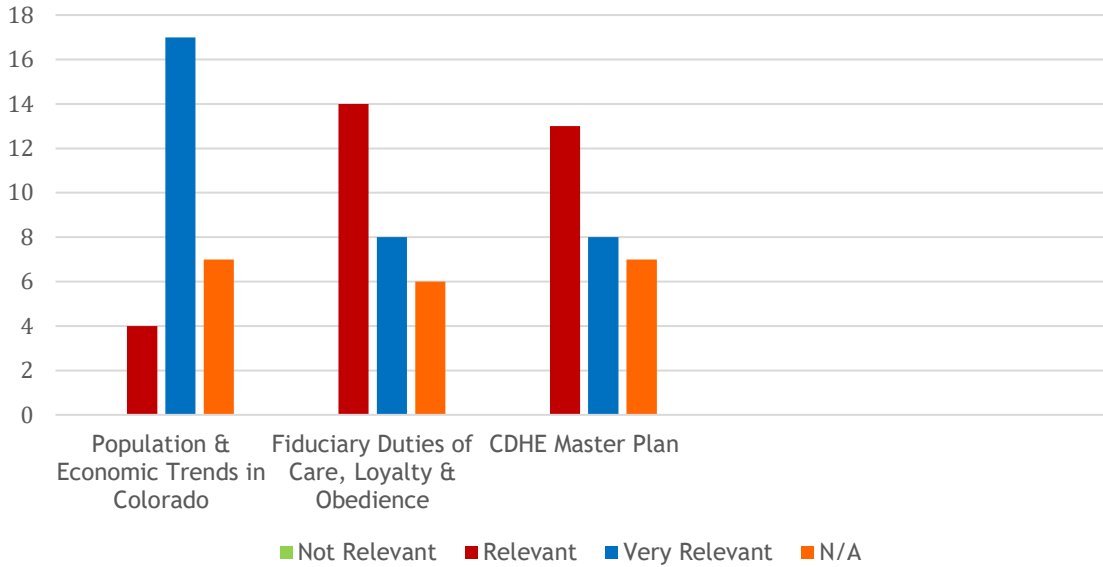
28 responses



Were the sessions relevant and informative?



Were the videos relevant and informative?



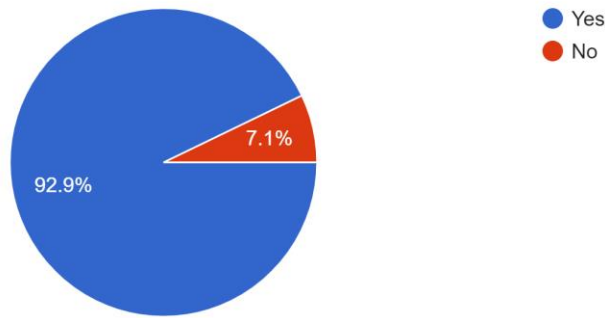
Do you have any comments or feedback related to any of the sessions?

- Would be great to have national speakers participate in the breakouts
- Several of our board members attended, and we felt that the morning session was very much pitched toward community college and rural universities.
- Please host these on Fridays. Mid-week is too hard with other commitments.
- Need to actively manage CHAT box and Questions
- Meet on Fridays
- I was a bit surprised and disappointed at the degree to which many trustees appeared to be in the dark on so many pressing issues. This is disconcerting.
- Well planned for a virtual meeting.
- State Demographer should do a more granular review and analysis for underrepresented populations
- The training was very helpful. I appreciated the homework. The sessions were well run by experts.



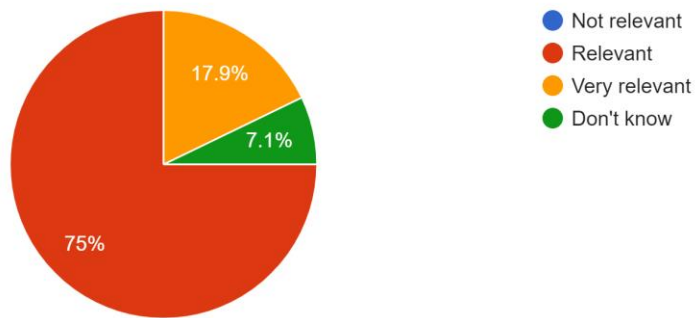
Were you able to access the session materials from the website?

28 responses



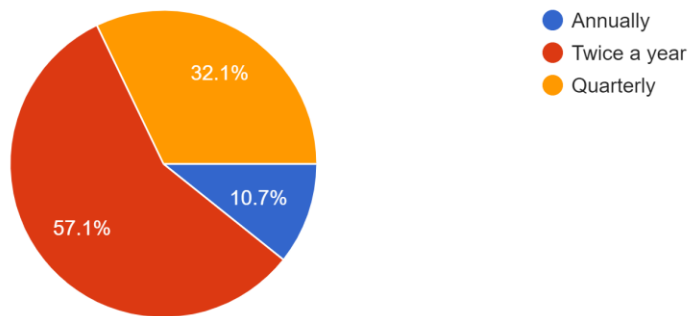
Were the session materials relevant and informative

28 responses



The Department and the Colorado Trustee Network are looking to host additional panels in the coming year. These sessions would cover specific ...often would you like these made available to you?

28 responses



What suggestions do you have for future meetings? What topics would you suggest for future meetings?

- Follow topic of campus innovation post COVID especially interesting and effective crosswalks between liberal arts and market driven coursework
- Please avoid dates that have scheduled meetings of IHE boards. Would seem easy to check with institutions in advance to avoid conflicts.
- Keep them to an hour; topic on funding higher ed, assessing quality at IHE
- Funding, Learning ways to reach all stakeholders and instill in them the critical importance of higher education to our economy, etc.
- Maybe the main conference in January is in person, the others virtual. I would have loved to receive the agenda via email.
- ...the new guy/gal!
- Granular Review and Evaluation of Underrepresented Populations
- Not sure there should be another "organization " and not sure where the Trustees are going either this concept
- Possibly a community/student panel re: concerns & issues??
- Invite legislative leaders to discuss THEIR role in higher education sustainability and perhaps some students
- Legislative Issues
- Funding, Low Income and Underrepresented Populations
- More on how institutions like ours actually operationalized innovative changes focused on equity
- I would appreciate a directory of all trustees / directors of all Colorado Higher Education institutions and the CCHE. I would like to cover these topics: I would appreciate having a better definition of the role of CDHE. Who is the 'customer' of the HEI? What role does HEI play in bending the world toward racial justice? What are the core values of HE in Colorado.

What were your key take aways?

- Excited about the potential of the Trustee Network
- One size approach will not work for IHEs in our state
- Changing future for higher education.
- Get involved
- Helpful to get trustees together across the statewide system
- General Outlook and Priorities. But not aligned with legislature/ion.ion. (legislation?)
- Helpful to get trustees together across the statewide system
- Trustees have an impossible role to balance all the issues with making sure the institutions stay on track
- My major concern is why are we #48 in the U.S. - it does not seem that the legislature is not really trying to come up with positive solutions. Dr. Jordan had an excellent recommendation that should be listened to.
- See answer above. In addition, I came away being very thankful I am a trustee where I serve with visionary, competent, caring administrators
- Good info on role of Trustees
- Non-alignment with goals and funds



- Trustee network is underway (a great thing); Colorado higher ed must urgently focus on learners of color in everything it does
- The HE landscape is changing. Our role as trustee is very important. There is much work to be done. There is room for collaboration among the institutions, although this needs to be defined.

As a member of the newly established Trustee Network, how can the Network 1) best support you (in your role as a trustee) and 2) be a resource to your governing board?

- Trustee educational topics, state and national trends, approaches to current challenges
- Share best practices on topical issues; speak with one voice about increased funding
- Workshops/meetings on topics that are relevant too boards.
- Continue to help trustees find their comfort zone
- Communications
- A resource though we already have AGB
- Come up with solutions to funding for higher education that works!!!!
- Send out relevant resources/data/research that apply to governing
- Continue the work started
- Advocacy
- Keep individual governing boards centered on a cohesive state goal/strategy and pull us out of our bubbles for the bigger picture; love the content - keep it coming.
- See the suggestions above for future meetings.



CDHE Trustee Network Mentimeter Results

01/26/21

Equity Gap

- Equity
- Student mobility between institutions
- How do we assist all minority students to excel in higher education? They need resources, loans, etc.
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion – training for trustees, preferred action plans and more
- Eliminating racial, ethnic and gender discrepancies
- Granular focus on underrepresented populations
- Marketing of higher ed to communities of color
- Master plan goals and execution

Funding

- Appropriate allocation of limited state resources among CO public institutions
- Addressing enrollment and revenue challenges created by Covid-19
- Pay for college athletes
- Shared resources between campuses
- Initiate a discussion about consolidation of Colorado's higher education infrastructure
- Tabor

Governance

- Board training (this might be governance from prior options)
- Improve trustee effectiveness
- Promoting behavior as a system as opposed to a collection of individual institutions

Advocacy

- Change public perception of value of higher education
- Best ways/forums for us to advocate for HR
- Identify and elevate voice of Coloradoans who need and want postsecondary education and training
- Incentives for partnerships across higher education
- Public/Private Partnerships
- Becoming effective advocates for the value and importance of public higher education—moving beyond being ambassadors for our institutions/systems to become advocates for higher ed more broadly
- Expand the educational value and perception of state institutions
- Retaining Coloradoans and attracting out of state people to HE in CO

Transferability

- Transferability and more partnerships between 2 and 4 year institutions
- Statewide transfer agreements
- Easy transfer for students among institutions
- Creating more seamless pathway options from high school and community college
- Apprenticeships in higher education

Other

- Coming back better from post Covid-19
- Reach out to rural areas as well, not just metro areas
- Does the current higher education structure serve Colorado well? Especially post pandemic
- Emphasis on higher ed Covid recovery in Year 1
- Overall credential completion