

## **HB24-1082: First Generation-Serving Higher Education Institutions**

### **Bill Concept**

The bill requires the Department of higher education (department) to identify and designate state institutions of higher education (state institutions) as first-generation-serving institutions (see more in Summary of the Bill- 1. & 2.)

### **The Issue**

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education's Master Plan, Colorado Rises: Advancing Education and Talent Development, set a statewide goal for 66% of Colorado's adult population to hold a post-secondary credential. (In 2021, about 27.4 percent of people in Colorado aged 25 years and over held a Bachelor's degree as their highest level of education.)

To increase the number of people with a postsecondary credential there is a need to increase the number of first-generation students, which can be done through recognizing institutions that serve first-generation students.

### **Summary of the Bill**

The bill would increase the number of Colorado's adult population with postsecondary credentials by recognizing institutions that:

1. Have a resident first-generation undergraduate student population share for three consecutive years, including the current year, that is equal to or higher than 45% of the institution's overall resident student population.
2. Secured a first scholars network of institutions designation from the Center for First-Generation Student Success or a rigorous independent third-party designation.

Within thirty days after the annual public release of enrollment, retention, and graduation data from each state institution of higher education in 2024 each year after, the department must:

- Identify institutions of higher education that meet the definition of first-generation-serving intuitions for that school year
- Post on the department's website the names of the first-generation-serving institutions for that school year
- Notify each first-generation-serving institution and The Colorado General Assembly of the Designations.

Institutions need to recognize first-generation students to give them a sense of belonging.