December 24, 2013

John Wells, Chair Board of Trustees
Fort Lewis College
1000 Rim Drive
Durango, CO 81301
jmwells@frontier.net

Dear Chairman Wells:

The Colorado Department of Higher Education supports Fort Lewis College’s administration’s recommendation to return to a 3-credit model. As you know, all other Colorado institutions of higher learning operate on a 3-credit model. Since the landmark legislation of 2001 (H.B. 1263 “The King Bill” and H.B. 1298 “The Berry Bill”), seamless transfer has been an important goal in Colorado to aid in degree completion.

Per Colorado Revised Statutes §23-1-108(7) and §23-1-125(1-5), as well as Colorado Commission on Higher Education Policy I, L: Statewide Transfer, governing boards and all Colorado public institutions have the responsibility to eliminate restrictions against automatic transfer of credit hours of acceptable course work between institutions. The proposal submitted by the Fort Lewis College administration positively aligns itself to state law and policy. The return to a 3-credit model will also reduce confusion for students who transfer in or out of Fort Lewis College to other public Colorado institutions and the advisors who advise them, thus enhancing timely degree completion.

The Colorado Department of Higher Education works closely with each institution’s representative on the General Education Council and with faculty from each campus to maintain the integrity of the state general education curriculum (gtPathways) and many Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements, of which Fort Lewis College participates in most, and all of which are guaranteed to transfer. In order to best serve students and to prevent the accumulation of unnecessary credits and student debt, these guaranteed pathways rely on a minimum level of consistency between institutions, one of which is a 3-credit model. For this reason, the Department supports the return of the 3-credit model at Fort Lewis College. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ian K. Macgillivray, Ph.D.
Assistant Deputy Director for Academic Affairs

cc: President Dene Thomas and Provost Barbara Morris