Diane Duffy named chief operating officer

DENVER – May 27, 2016: Today the department announced that Diane Duffy will be the next chief operating officer for the Colorado Department of Higher Education, effective June 1, a position currently held by Jennifer Sobanet.

Sobanet accepted a position of vice chancellor for finance and chief financial officer at the University of Colorado-Denver. Her last day at the department is June 10.

"The Colorado Commission on Higher Education is thrilled to be able to work with Diane in this capacity," said Monte Moses, chair of the commission. "She brings strong skills and experience that will help Colorado continue to improve higher education across the state. We also thank Jennifer Sobanet for her outstanding service in the role."

Duffy is currently the chief financial officer. In her role of almost two years, Duffy has successfully implemented a new funding model, developed an integrated budgeting process for Colorado's higher education system, and helped focus resources on the Completion Agenda (Colorado Commission on Higher Education's Master Plan) and closing the attainment gap. Prior to DHE, she has served in leadership roles at the Kansas Board of Regents, the University of Kentucky and the Voinovich Center for Leadership and Public Affairs. Prior to joining higher education, she was the deputy secretary for the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and worked for the Kansas State Treasurer and Legislative Research Office.

"I'm thrilled that Diane has accepted this position," said Sobanet. "Her work within the department is widely regarded and respected both at DHE and across the state. She has created a culture of excellence and inclusivity in our finance and accounting team and become a trusted mentor and friend to us all. I wish her all the best."

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