

April 29, 2009

Diane Evans
Dick Robinson
Marguerite Salazar
Co-Chairs, Search Committee
Colorado State University System Chancellor

Dear Search Committee Co-chairs:

After a great deal of thought and reflection, I hereby formally and enthusiastically place my name into consideration for the role of Chancellor of the Colorado State University System.

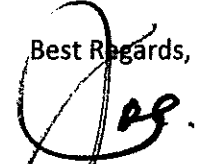
I believe this is a pivotal time in the future of higher education in Colorado - both in terms of funding and leadership. Equally, this position provides the opportunity to reassert the strength of our institution and all its campuses. This is a time for bold leadership. The challenges have never been greater; the needs have never been more acute. Immodestly, I believe I have the unique skills and talents required to help transform Colorado State University, making it the leader it must be going forward.

These challenges come infrequently. In my experience I have been fortunate to have been afforded the opportunity twice to create an atmosphere of commitment and excitement, with a team that knows no limits. The first such challenge came with the opportunity, in 1980, to be a part of the senior management of Mission Viejo Company which created the community that is today Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Starting with a plan, to moving forward to full development required an ability to address complex issues and working very closely with all levels of government, from the governor to local elected officials, including the Douglas County Schools. The community today is home to 100,000 families and is generally regarded as one of the most successful master planned communities in the United States.

The second opportunity came just 10 years ago when I was selected as president and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. Certainly, at that time, this organization was struggling with its relevance and impact on behalf of businesses, and finding the right voice for its public policy engagement. Today we are an \$11.5 million operation, collaborating on a statewide basis and are recognized and respected as Colorado's business leadership. Lead by an outstanding Board of Directors and a dedicated and enthusiastic team of professionals, we are recognized nationally as best in class.

The challenge and opportunity presented in the position of Chancellor of the Colorado State University System comes at just the right moment. I would look forward to working with the Board of Governors, campus leadership, faculty, staff and students to fulfill the promise ahead.

As I said at the outset, these challenges only come very infrequently. I would appreciate the opportunity to seize this one, and help create and execute a vision that ensures Colorado State University is unmatched in its educational excellence.

Best Regards,

Joseph B. Blake

Enclosures