



Colorado State Board of Education

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
BEFORE THE  
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMISSION  
DENVER, COLORADO  
June 9, 2016, Part 1

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT on June 9, 2016, the  
above-entitled meeting was conducted at the Colorado  
Department of Education, before the following Board Members:

Steven Durham (R), Chairman  
Angelika Schroeder (D), Vice Chairman  
Valentina (Val) Flores (D)  
Jane Goff (D)  
Pam Mazanec (R)  
Joyce Rankin (R)  
Debora Scheffel (R)



1 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Thank you. The State Board  
2 of Education will please come to order. Ms. Burdsall, if  
3 you'd call the roll please.

4 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Flores.

5 MS. FLORES: I'm sorry?

6 MS. BURDSALL: I'm calling the roll.

7 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Roll.

8 MS. FLORES: Oh, yes. Here.

9 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Goff?

10 MS. GOFF: Here.

11 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Rankin?

12 MS. RANKIN: Here.

13 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Mazanec.

14 MS. MAZANEC: Here.

15 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Scheffel.

16 MS. SCHEFFEL: Here.

17 MS. BURDSALL: Board Member Schroeder.

18 MS. SCHROEDER: Here.

19 MS. BURDSALL: And Chairman Durham.

20 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Here. Quorum is present.

21 First order of business is the recognition of the 2015-16  
22 Online Blended Educators' Commission, it's blended. Okay.  
23 Commissioner, all right.

24 MS. ANTHERS: There's a lack of punctuation  
25 there.



1                   CHAIRMAN DURHAM: We won't worry about that.  
2 I think at this point I'm supposed to call on the  
3 Commissioner.

4                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

5                   CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Commissioner.

6                   MS. ANTHERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are  
7 pleased today to be honoring another outstanding Online  
8 Blended Educator today. We honored three of the four  
9 educators at the last meeting, and today we're excited to  
10 have Kevin here. He is local, and so I'll turn it over to  
11 Misti Ruthven, our new Executive Director of Innovation, to  
12 present the award.

13                  CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Okay.

14                  MS. RUTHVEN: Thank you, Commissioner Anthes.  
15 It's my pleasure to talk --

16                  MS. SCHROEDER: You have to talk -- you have  
17 to put your mouth --

18                  CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Just stand close.

19                  MS. RUTHVEN: It's my pleasure.

20                  CHAIRMAN DURHAM: There you go.

21                  MS. ANTHERS: Lift the stand. You have to --  
22 you have to pretend you're a rock singer.

23                  CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Try speaking into it and  
24 see.



1 MS. RUTHVEN: No, it's not working. Is this  
2 better?

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Perfect.

5 MS. RUTHVEN: So it is my pleasure to tell you  
6 that each year the Division of Innovation and the Office of  
7 Blended Online Learning recognizes exceptional school  
8 counselors and teachers. And this year is the 2015-16  
9 Online and Blended Educator Recognition Award.

10 These educators demonstrate strong evidence  
11 of their positive impact on student performance and academic  
12 growth. They are exceptionally resourceful in meeting the  
13 individual needs of their students and are leaders in their  
14 fields. Principals, directors, and superintendents of  
15 Online and Blended Schools and Programs can nominate  
16 applicants. In the application, they articulate how  
17 applicants improve student outcomes using various mediums  
18 such as differentiating instructional services to meet the  
19 needs of individual students, building a strong student  
20 teacher relationship to increase attendance, and innovative  
21 ways to use technology effectively with students and  
22 colleagues.

23 The selection committee relies heavily on  
24 responses being evidence-based to prove that the  
25 practitioner's role and strategies transfer to positive



1 outcomes and growth for online students. This year the  
2 committee selected one blended online school counselor and  
3 three online blended teachers.

4 Kevin Wright from Monte Vista Online Academy  
5 is present today. The three other recipients were  
6 recognized at the May meeting in Denver. Let me tell you a  
7 little bit about Kevin Wright. Kevin Wright's approach to  
8 teaching writing has led to notable gains in student writing  
9 skills and an increase in positive views toward writing as a  
10 form of expression at Monte Vista Online Academy. Kevin  
11 offers multiple customized pathways toward the same goal,  
12 which provides students with a personalized approach.

13 Kevin's on-time completion rates have risen  
14 every year for the past three years and have contributed to  
15 fewer students becoming at risk for delayed graduation or  
16 dropping out due to being behind English credits. Kevin is  
17 a dedicated English teacher committed to helping every  
18 student succeed and taking a genuine active interest in each  
19 student. Kevin, would you like to say a word -- a few words  
20 about the award in Monte Vista Online Academy?

21 MR. WRIGHT: I'll -- I'll keep this brief  
22 because I know you guys have a lot of business. Thank you  
23 so much for the honor. And as somebody who's been in  
24 education in one form or another since 1999, well, I guess  
25 I'll -- I'll -- I'll real quickly allude to the fact that



1 I've taught everything from kindergarten through college.  
2 I've taught elementary in the past. I switched over to a  
3 secondary license. I've taught middle school. I've taught  
4 high school. I've taught a little bit of college, and the  
5 last three years have been an honor teaching online.

6                   At first, I was a little bit tentative, but  
7 there are some amazing things going on in online education,  
8 and so on behalf of our little rural district who is just  
9 doing amazing innovative things for our kids and for kids  
10 across the state, and also on behalf of our schools director  
11 Mr. Oden, who's sitting back here. And then on behalf of my  
12 team too, my teammates, my fellow online instructors, who  
13 are just amazing, highly dedicated, creative, innovative  
14 individuals. Thank you so much for this honor. I really  
15 appreciate it.

16                   MS. RUTHVEN: Congratulations.

17                   (Applause)

18                   MR. WRIGHT: Thank you very much.

19                   CHAIRMAN DURHAM: Kevin, on behalf of the  
20 State Board of Education, I want to extend our  
21 congratulations and thanks you do on behalf of the students  
22 of the state of Colorado. And thank you for the leadership  
23 that you've demonstrated to your fellow educators.  
24 Congratulations, and you have your award, and I believe  
25 we'll probably have a picture ceremony someplace with a good



- 
- 1 background with Ms. Rankin, who is your -- your State Board
  - 2 representative.
  - 3 (Meeting adjourned)



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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberly C. McCright, Certified Vendor and Notary, do hereby certify that the above-mentioned matter occurred as hereinbefore set out.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT the proceedings of such were reported by me or under my supervision, later reduced to typewritten form under my supervision and control and that the foregoing pages are a full, true and correct transcription of the original notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25th day of October, 2018.

/s/ Kimberly C. McCright

Kimberly C. McCright

Certified Vendor and Notary Public

Verbatim Reporting & Transcription, LLC

1322 Space Park Drive, Suite C165

Houston, Texas 77058

281.724.8600