



Attachment A

Fact Sheet: SB21-008

Remove Junior From Certain College Names

What: This bill would change the names of Trinidad State Junior College, Otero Junior College, and Northeastern Junior College; to Trinidad State College, Otero College, and Northeastern Junior College. Effectively removing the name Junior from all colleges, with hopes of boosting recognition and student enrollment.

Why: The three acting Presidents of the respected Junior Colleges asked for legislation to be intended for the removal of the Junior College name. Jay Lee President of Northeastern Junior College, Rhonda Epper President of Trinidad State Junior College and Timothy Alvarez of Otero Junior College, made this request through Chancellor Garcia, chancellor of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS).

Additional Facts: After introduction the House Sponsors received a sufficient amount of constituent concerns regarding the name change of Northeastern Junior College. A survey was requested by the House sponsors and completed by students, faculty, alumni and community members. The results came back 2:1 opposed to the name change. Therefore Northeastern Junior College will remain Northeastern Junior College. Northeastern Junior College President, Jay Lee, stated-

“As a result of this vote, the Colorado Community College System will notify the sponsors of the bill that an amendment to remove Northeastern from the bill is appropriate.

This means that Northeastern will remain a junior college. As a matter of fact, it means that Northeastern will be the only junior college in Colorado and one of only two in the entire Rocky Mountain region. Additionally, it means we will be one of only 13 junior colleges in the entire country representing just 0.0025% of all higher education institutions.”