



2008 GUIDELINES ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Background

1. Mesa State College has a significant impact on the economy, quality-of-life, and quality and availability of the workforce in Mesa County.
2. Access to higher education, including graduate programs, is much more restricted in rural areas of the state, including Mesa County and the entire region.

The Chamber Supports:

1. Mesa State College continuing to act as a regional college for both four year and graduate education, and remaining responsive and connected to the needs of the area.
2. Continued expansion of Mesa State College through the acquisition of property for future facility development, the closure of streets to gain the physical integrity of the campus, and the development of new and remodeled facilities to facilitate quality instruction and to accommodate student and academic program growth.
3. Measures that promote enhanced technological means for delivery of education to rural areas.
4. Mesa State College advancing the role of the Western Colorado Community College in partnership with School District 51 and the community.
5. Measures that ensure that higher education is affordable and accessible to Colorado residents, particularly residents of Western Colorado.
6. Ensuring that students enrolled throughout Western Colorado have comparable state financial support as they pursue postsecondary degrees.
7. Mesa State College receiving a proportionate share of floor funding made available to state institutions of higher education in Colorado.
8. Full funding of the shortfall quantified by the NCHEMS study over five or fewer years.