

Day 15: Did you know about some examples of how CMU fulfills its obligation as a public good?

[HLC Criterion 1.D.1.] Actions and decisions reflect an understanding that in its educational role the institution serves the public, not solely the institution, and thus entails a public obligation. AND

[HLC Criterion 1.D.3.] The institution engages with its identified external constituencies and communities of interest and responds to their needs as its mission and capacity allow.

CMU has served the "public good" for the past 90 years through program delivery, research, volunteerism, and "other activities that contribute to the intellectual, social, cultural, and economic life of Colorado." This on-going commitment is evidenced by:

- awarding over 1,800 degrees/certificates in 2015-2016, contributing to the [State's goal](#) to "[i]ncrease the attainment of high-quality post-secondary credentials across the academic disciplines and throughout Colorado by at least 1,000 new certificates and degrees each year to meet anticipated workforce demands by 2025."
- serving as an economic anchor for the regional economy, documented in a [recent study](#), with an estimated dollar impact that has increased from \$144 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003-04 to \$447 million in FY 2015-16.
- creating the [Redifer Institute](#) which serves as the administrative umbrella for numerous outreach projects including the [Ruth Powell Hutchins Water Center](#), the [Unconventional Energy Center](#), and the [Social Research Center](#).
- designing [academic programs](#) that support the region's economic development, while WCCC is serving the interests of business and industry by offering [workforce training certificate programs](#).
- sharing faculty members' expertise as guest speakers, music clinicians, and consultants to the public and engaging with a wide range of local community groups, such as the League of Women Voters, the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce, the Arts Center, the Grand Junction Symphony, and Mesa County Public Library.
- providing facilities as the host site of the [Colorado Special Olympics](#) for the past four years.
- joining with the Grand Junction Economic Partnership on the Rural Jump Start Program to increase competitiveness in attracting high-paying jobs to assist economically distressed areas on the Western Slope.
- making Tomlinson Library's collections, databases, space, events, and services, such as research help, [available to the public](#).
- offering lifelong learning opportunities for personal enrichment and professional development to the community through the [WCCC Community Education Center](#).
- [working with the local school district](#) to house a full-time counselor/admissions staff member in each high school who will focus on encouraging students to enroll in some form of post-secondary education after high school, be it at CMU or elsewhere.

To learn more, log into MAVzone and click on the document link found in the CMU Assurance Argument for HLC channel (top left on the Home tab) for the full text of CMU's Assurance Argument. Links to supporting evidence are identified by underlined words but are not available through the PDF version.

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