

Day 17: Did you know that CMU has two documents that define its role within Colorado public higher education and guide what levels and range of programs it offers, who it serves, where it invests its resources, and what are its general priorities?

In 2012, CMU adopted an institutional mission statement that builds on its enabling legislation. Over the past half-dozen years, the University's enabling legislation has been amended by the Colorado General Assembly multiple times, beginning in 2010 to allow for a greater number of undergraduate and graduate offerings. It was subsequently updated in 2011 to reflect the name change to Colorado Mesa University from Mesa State College, and in 2012 to signify the shift from a moderately selective to a selective admissions category as defined by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. The current legislation reads, in part:

There is hereby established a university at Grand Junction, to be known as Colorado Mesa University, which shall be a general baccalaureate and graduate institution with selective admission standards. Colorado Mesa University shall offer liberal arts and sciences, professional, and technical degree programs and a limited number of graduate programs. Colorado Mesa University shall also maintain a community college role and mission, including career and technical education programs. Colorado Mesa University shall receive resident credit for two-year course offerings in its commission-approved service area. Colorado Mesa University shall also serve as a regional education provider.

In Fall 2012, the CMU Board of Trustees adopted an institutional mission statement that clearly articulates CMU's purpose and priorities beyond the enabling legislation:

Committed to a personal approach, Colorado Mesa University is a dynamic learning environment that offers abundant opportunities for students and the larger community to grow intellectually, professionally, and personally. By celebrating exceptional teaching, academic excellence, scholarly and creative activities, and by encouraging diversity, critical thinking, and social responsibility, CMU advances the common good of Colorado and beyond.

Both of these statements, along with the University's vision, values, and goals found in its *Strategic Plan 2020*, provide the primary context for the 2017 Assurance Argument responses.

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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