



HLC: 16 Days and Counting...Did You Know?
November 2, 2013

Did you know that CMU's commitment to diversity is reflected through efforts such as enrolling a growing number of students from underrepresented groups and offering of co-curricular activities?

Self-Study Report, Evidence Item 1C1-1. The institution has clearly articulated that it values diversity. The following diversity statement is found in the CMU Catalog (p. 8, col. 3):

Colorado Mesa University is a community of scholars in the liberal arts tradition. . . . We believe that all people, regardless of age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation, have something worthwhile to contribute and that these contributions benefit us all. Therefore, we intend that within our academic community all cultural differences will be treated with equal respect and tolerance. We desire that our students have the opportunity to appreciate the diversity of our modern world, and we encourage them to partake of the resources available within our community. . . . We pledge ourselves to provide as many divergent cultural experiences for our students as the resources of the college and the needs of our disciplines allow. To further tolerance and appreciation of our society's diversity, Colorado Mesa University requires that all graduates fulfill General Education requirements. In doing so, we honor the validity of a liberal education. We hope that the experience will help our students understand how to appreciate the true diversity of the world. Because diversity promotes multiple opinions, techniques, viewpoints and approaches, it is not the individual courses within the General Education program which we believe will further the above stated goals, but the whole experience of the program itself.

Self-Study Report, Evidence Item 1C1-2. The University's Strategic Plan and the 2011 Performance Contract emphasize CMU's commitment to underserved populations. Colorado Mesa University's 2011 Performance Contract Report (p. 6, goal 1) with the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) commits the University to:

ensure widespread access to Colorado's public colleges... with particular emphasis on increasing the participation and success of underserved students and . . . provide learning experiences that foster the development of skills and abilities that prepare students for the global economy . . . [and] establish critical thinking and logic skills essential to full participation in a democratic society.

Moreover, the 2011 Strategic Plan (p. 13, para 1) outlines the University's vision that CMU will be "an institution of higher education that successfully prepares students from diverse backgrounds for lives of career and service anywhere in the world" and that, among its values, are:

- student choice in academic programming that prepares future leaders to function as productive and responsible members of a global society;



- a vibrant and varied campus setting that values diversity and diverse activities and encourages involvement and interaction outside the classroom;
- a culture committed to integrity and academic and intellectual freedom; and
- a diversity of students, faculty, and staff that promotes a balanced exchange of ideas.

Goal four in the 2011 Strategic Plan (p. 16) further expresses CMU's commitment to human diversity, stating that the University will "actively engage students of all backgrounds in on- and off-campus activities which broaden their educational experiences and enhance their successes," with specific objectives addressing the diversity of learners including first-time students, returning students, adult learners, and commuter students.

Colorado Mesa University further communicates an understanding of the relationship between its mission and the diversity of U.S. society in the Catalog (p. 3, top section). The institution's general policy statement includes its Affirmative Action program, stating, "Colorado Mesa University is committed to providing admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its educational endeavors, consonant with applicable laws and without regard to race, creed, color, religion, sex, disability, age, national origin, veteran status, marital status, or sexual orientation."

To learn more:

- Click here to [read](#) more of the PDF version of the report.
- Click here to [read](#) the related core-component in the web-version of the report.

SelfEvidence Item 3B4-3. CMU enriches its educational offerings by emphasizing human and cultural diversity through a number of co-curricular activities. One CMU group whose function is to promote and support campus diversity of all types is the student-led [Cultural Diversity Board](#) (CDB). CDB is composed of several clubs, including the Black Student Alliance, Gay Straight Alliance, International Student Association, La Raza, Native American Student Council, and Ho'olokahi Polynesian Club. These clubs are required to provide educational events to the campus yearly, and some regularly visit classes as invited guests to teach other students about their cultures and experiences.

Please note that in the Self-Study Report, maroon text indicates the HLC's criteria for accreditation, while CMU's response is in black text, with links to supporting documentation identified by blue text (available only in web-version of the report in MAVzone).

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