

**COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY
STRATEGIC PLANNING
CONTEXT STATEMENTS/Framework**



August 2015

CONTEXT STATEMENTS/Frameworks FOR 2015 STRATEGIC PLANNING AT COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY

The following elements serve as context for the current update to the University's strategic plan.

I. CMU Role and Mission Statements

The initial context for the current planning process is the University's role and mission as expressed in its enabling legislation:

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. (Source: Excerpt from Colorado Revised Statutes 23-53-101)

Additionally, the CMU Board of Trustees adopted the following interpretation of the University's mission statement in 2013:

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.

II. CMU Values Statement

Colorado Mesa University values:

- high quality education in a student-centered environment;
- small class sizes and a high level of student/faculty interaction;
- a learning environment that develops and promotes the skills of inquiry, reflection, critical thinking, problem-solving, innovation, teamwork, and communication in students.
- student choice in academic programming that prepares future leaders to function as productive and responsible members of a global society;
- opportunities that engage students in applied learning;
- a faculty recognized for their professional expertise and quality of instruction
- a staff committed to the highest quality of service to the College community;
- an attainable, accessible post-secondary experience for students in and outside of Western Colorado that emphasizes continuous improvement;

- 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;
- a community and region that supports the College in multiple ways;
- state-of-the-art facilities and technologies that enhance the learning environment; and
- a diversity of students, faculty, staff that promotes a balanced exchange of ideas.

*Statement updated to reflect institutional name change.

III. CMU Vision Statement for 2020*

It is the year 2020 and Colorado Mesa has continued to mature into an institution of higher education that successfully prepares students from diverse backgrounds for lives of career and service anywhere in the world. Over the next decade, Colorado Mesa University will seek to be the first choice institution for students, faculty, and staff.

To achieve this vision Colorado Mesa will leverage:

- An adaptable, flexible approach to learning that allows students to choose from multiple and potentially integrated pathways to achieve certification, associates, bachelors, and graduate degrees.
- A highly qualified faculty that excels in teaching and interacting with students.
- A curriculum, often bridging liberal education and professional programs, that successfully prepares students for the 21st century in the areas of personal and social responsibility, civic engagement, ethics, and intercultural/ global learning.
- Continued investment in facilities and technology that expand, expedite, and enhance learning for every student.
- Community support from businesses, industries, alumni, and residents of the region.
- A wide array of academic programs that are improved on an on-going, continuous basis for quality and relevance to Western Colorado's needs in the context of an ever-changing world.
- An administration that uses human and natural resources wisely, embraces excellence, is committed to shared governance, and is focused on the future.

Colorado Mesa in 2020 will be respected as a learning community that embraces diversity of students, faculty, staff, ideas, and degree levels, while maintaining a quality educational environment that focuses on serving its many constituents. As it assumes an expanded leadership role, CMU will expand its public engagement of the region's stakeholders by serving as the primary intellectual and cultural center and promoting the exchange of ideas that are of regional, national, and international importance.

*Statement updated to reflect institutional name change.

IV. Statewide Planning Goals and Budgeting Framework

Colorado Mesa University's performance contract with the Colorado Commission on Higher Education articulates CMU's commitment to the State's four goals for higher education. The goals relate to credential completion, student momentum and success, closing progress and attainment gaps, and financial stewardship:

The primary performance goal established by this Master Plan is to increase the number of Coloradans aged 25-34 who hold high-quality postsecondary credentials—certificates and degrees—to 66 percent by 2025. . . . The Commission's four performance goals are as follows:

Goal 1. Increase the attainment of high-quality postsecondary 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.

Goal 2. Improve student success through better outcomes in basic skills education, enhanced student support services and reduced average time to credential for all students.

Goal 3. Enhance access to, and through, postsecondary education to ensure that the system reflects the changing demographics of the state while reducing attainment gaps among students from underserved communities.

Goal 4. Develop resources, through increases in state funding that will allow public institutions of higher education to meet projected enrollment demands while promoting affordability, accessibility and efficiency.

In addition to the above goals, the state adopted a new performance funding model for FY 2015-16 budget as specified in HB 14-1319. The legislation emphasized transparency in higher education funding and key outcomes (e.g., timely graduation rates) and reflected a strong desire to make the funding formula more understandable to Colorado taxpayers, students and families.

It was assumed that with the passage of HB 14-1319, the previous performance contract between the State and the University would be replaced by the new model. Two reasons were offered as rationale for why this did not occur: 1) the performance contract legislation also applied to the Local District Colleges, Area Vocational Schools, and Specialty Education Programs, etc., and 2) the performance contracts supposedly "provided more flexibility." Thus the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) decided to retain performance contracts along with the new performance funding model. This decision placed CMU in the position of being accountable to two different, and at times, conflicting performance metrics simultaneously without clarification. CDHE plans to resolve this issue in 2015.