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Colorado MESA Annual Report Shows Sustainable Success, Sense of Urgency to Do More with 'Race to the Top' National Priority

Today's Business Challenges Require Drastically Increasing Number of Engineering Students

DENVER, CO; May 18, 2010 – Today businesses are faced with many new, complex engineering and technical challenges; Colorado MESA is the solution. The bottom line is that Colorado's 21st Century economy will be based on a highly educated knowledge-based workforce that will fuel our economic and business success with the dedication and strength of its greatest asset – human capital. Over the past 30 years, Colorado MESA has contributed substantially by training more than 40,000 students with STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and leadership skills. Colorado MESA's new Annual Report, with personal stories of students whose lives have been impacted and highlights of how businesses are reaping the benefits, is available now at www.cmesa.org illustrating progress and call for more action in line with the 'Race to the Top' federal education initiative.

It's no small coincidence that President Obama is talking to students across the nation about STEM and backing it up as a critical component to the \$4.35 Billion 'Race to the Top' federal education initiative. "Reaffirming and strengthening America's role as the world's engine of scientific discovery and technological innovation is essential to meeting the challenges of this century," said President Obama. "That's why I am committed to making the improvement of STEM education over the next decade a national priority."

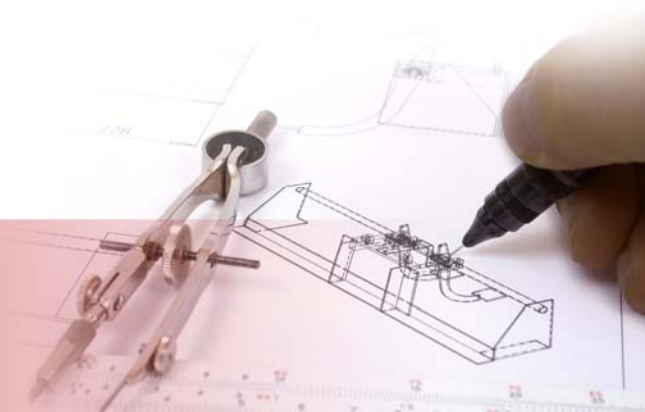
Colorado MESA Works - Serves Underrepresented Communities

Student Demographics	MESA	CO*
African American	4.42%	6.00%
Anglo American	48.55%	60.90%
Asian American/Pacific Islander	5.46%	3.60%
Hispanic/Latino	38.37%	28.40%
Native American	3.21%	1.20%

In FY 2009, Colorado MESA served 3,647 students from 161 participating schools across the state. An impressive 1,150 students participated in MESA's competitive events. Eighty percent of students come from gender and ethnic groups underrepresented in engineering, mathematics and science careers. Fifty percent participate in free and reduced lunch programs.

*Source: Colorado Department of Education

- **100%** of MESA reported seniors graduate from high school fully prepared for college and require no remediation.
- **90%** college matriculation rate for graduates.
- **80%** enroll in STEM majors in college.



About Colorado MESA

Colorado Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) is a thirty-year-old organization which enables and increases the number of historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students throughout Colorado to graduate from college and successfully pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Colorado MESA is an after-school math and science mentoring program with over 3,600 participating students from 160 schools throughout the state. As part of a national network of MESA organizations, Colorado MESA is hosting the MESA USA National Engineering Design Competition for the second consecutive year, June 25-27, 2010. More information and a copy of the annual report is available online at www.cmesa.org.

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