



# NEWS

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## **Mesa State opens new sports track at Grand Junction High**

Grand Junction – Mesa State College and Mesa County Valley School District 51 announced the culmination of a partnership project that provides their student-athletes a premier venue for track and field events with a new facility located at Grand Junction High School.

A ribbon held by members of the Mesa State and GJHS track and field teams was cut today by team captains, coaches, and leaders of District 51, Mesa State and the community.

Mesa State paid for construction of the \$600,000 eight-lane, 400-meter running track, and areas for field events at Grand Junction High School.

“It is a classic win-win,” said MSC President Tim Foster. “They had the room that we didn’t have and we have needed someplace for our women’s track and field team to practice and to compete since we added it as a varsity sport in 2006.”

The team has been using the track at Stocker Stadium, which is also used by area high schools. Because of NCAA requirements that high school and college athletes not practice together, the team has had to practice at 5:30 am, said MSC Athletic Director Butch Miller.

“This is a great opportunity for our student-athletes to have a place to practice and to compete,” Miller said.

The college has not been able to host competitive meets because of inadequate facilities for some of the required events such as the steeplechase and pole vault. The new venue will allow Mesa State to do so. It is also available for high school students to use when it is not in use by the college.

As long as the college and high school student-athletes are not practicing the same event at the same time, the NCAA should approve the shared use, Miller said.

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