



# NEWS

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## **Mesa State works to make college affordable to middle class**

Grand Junction – Mesa State College today announced that it has more than tripled the amount of money given to students for scholarships in the last five years.

“In our experience, our students from low income families are oftentimes able to get the financial aid they need to attend college but those middle class families are increasingly having difficulty getting state and federal assistance,” said Curt Martin, Director of Financial Aid at Mesa State.

By increasing the amount of institutional funds, scholarship money is made available both based on financial needs as well as merit. For the 2008-09 academic year, Mesa State has budgeted almost \$3.3 million for merit and need-based grants.

In 2004-05, the school awarded \$788,000 in scholarships. That grew to \$1.7 million in 2005-06; \$2.1 million in 2006-07; and \$2.5 million in 2007-08.

About 70% of Mesa State students receive state and/or federal aid. Another 20% receive aid in the form of scholarships from the college, its foundation and other foundations. Last year, Mesa State students received more than \$33 million in financial aid and scholarships.

Tuition and fees for an in-state, full-time student is \$4,047. The average merit and need-based financial aid package for a full-time student is \$3,762.

“The Mesa State College Board of Trustees constantly focuses on the importance of keeping Mesa State affordable,” said Mesa State President Tim Foster. “It is of paramount importance that college is accessible to students in western Colorado, the majority of whom come from middle class families.”

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