



NEWS

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ExxonMobil funds research with \$82,500 grant to MSC *The two join forces to study Piceance Basin reclamation*

Grand Junction – ExxonMobil presented Mesa State College last week a ceremonial check for \$82,500 to study improved methods for re-vegetation used in oil and gas development in the Piceance Basin.

“We are very pleased to be working with ExxonMobil to study soil conditions in the Piceance Basin and to create solid working relationships with the oil and gas operators in our communities,” said Mesa State College President Tim Foster. “As many of you know, ExxonMobil recently donated \$500,000 to St. Mary’s Hospital. This grant to Mesa State is more evidence of ExxonMobil being a good corporate neighbor.”

A team of Mesa State faculty who specialize in environmental science has begun doing research. The objective is to determine the best practices for restoration at well sites. Currently, the team’s focus is on comparing soil characteristics such as roughness, infiltration rates and nutrient distribution at sites disturbed by natural gas activity. Dr. Russ Walker, Mesa State professor of environmental science and chairman of the Physical and Environmental Sciences Department, represented the team during last week’s event.

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