



University Centers of the San Miguel

Equitable Access to Higher Education is a
Matter of Social and Economic Justice

2010 Annual Report



www.ucsanmiguel.org



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2010 Executive Summary

It has a privilege to continue to learn and grow with the University Centers of the San Miguel (UCSM) over the past two and a half years. 2010 has been an exciting year as we have fostered and created new partner-



ships. This created new educational programs, including a portion of the Paradox Strengthening Communities Grant through the Telluride Foundation to assist us in further developing educational opportunities in western San Miguel and Montrose Counties. UCSM is now the Regional Center in southwest Colorado for Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC), providing UCSM with a formal role with their institution and financial support. This expansion in services is positive and exciting, and new opportunities continue to arise with local organizations and businesses; which led to our most successful year enrolling 190 students in local classes and supporting over 31 of CNCC's Virtual Classroom courses for adults and regional high schools.

The first annual Telluride Summer College provided Environmental Science and Sustainability education, accredited through Mesa State College. 13 students earned a Permaculture Design Certificate, 3 students earned UCSM's Certificate in Sustainable Studies, and 52 credit hours were earned in all. We are proud of that program and look forward to next summer. This success is because of our ability to target the education needed and desired in the communities want and need. While it has been a financially challenging time globally, UCSM is encouraged by our ability to thrive and are honored to be able to serve the population of this incredible region.

2010 Annual Report

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The mission of the University Centers of the San Miguel is to insure that the residents of the San Miguel watershed and neighboring communities have equitable access to accredited post-secondary education, workforce development training, continuing education, and counseling.

Board Members



*Instruction ends in the
school-room,
but education ends only with life.*

Frederick W. Robertson

President Carol Dix, MLIS - Retired librarian
and President of Ski Ranches HOA.

Vice-President Yvette Hensen, MS -
Colorado State University Extension Director
San Miguel and West Montrose Counties

Secretary Sarah Landeryou, MLS - Public
Service Coordinator, Wilkinson Public Library

Treasurer Paula MacMillan, MBA
(candidate) - Chief Financial Officer, Kirkendoll
Management LLC

David Smith, PhD., Vice President,
Colorado Northwestern Community College

I am so proud of UCSM and what we have accomplished in a few short years. I have served on the Board of Directors since its inception in 2005 and am honored to have helped over 900 students reach their goals for higher education. The need that was identified in 2004 for higher education opportunities and college-accredited courses to be available right here in our county is just as compelling today, and we continue to attract and adapt to the ever-changing student demographic.

In 2011, the Board hopes to strengthen and enrich our partnerships with our partner colleges and local organizations, our programming in the West End, and provide college credit opportunities for high school students. If bringing affordable access to postsecondary education and professional training in our area is one of your passions, please contact us, and join our Board of Directors, become an instructor, get educational counseling, or simply take one of our courses.

Carol Dix, President
UCSM Board of Directors



2010 Students of the Year

The University Centers of the San Miguel is proud to announce their Students of the Year for the 2010 school year: **Bob Gleason of Boot Doctors and Jen Morgan of the Telluride Public Schools!** Our Students of the Year were chosen due to their commitment and zeal for the life- long learning process. Both Bob and Jen enrolled in several classes this past school year and demonstrated their desires to expand their knowledge base and abilities.

When asked about his background and desires to learn Spanish with UCSM, Bob said: "For several years I have been plodding through the beginning to conversational classes in Spanish. When our family business, the Boot Doctors, closes for the off season, we have an affection for going to places to the south where there is turquoise water, palm trees, scuba diving, and Spanish in the air.

So I have been on a quest to become proficient at Spanish to make these travels even better." A proud life- long learned and student of UCSM, Bob says "learning is something I have always held in high regard. The UCSM has provided a great opportunity to gain additional language skills. During our busy months, I am quite occupied with the rigors of running our business. The class schedules have always been accommodating for a working guy wanting to learn." Bob just recently finished Spanish 2A Intercambio, meaning "exchange" in Spanish. This class features more advanced Spanish instruction as well as the chance to speak with native Spanish speakers who are learning English. Bob says "the recent Intercambio class that just finished was a great way to grow from grammar to conversation. Meeting with the Spanish natives who were learning English was a hoot. We enjoyed each other's company and made some inroads in language. My only regret is the class did not continue longer."

Jen is in her 10th year teaching art and photography at Telluride High School. In regards to her classes with UCSM, Jen said "As a teacher, I can not say how thankful I am that a program as great as UCSM exists in our small mountain town. Because of UCSM, I was able to earn credits toward my licensure as a teacher right here at home." Jen took several classes this past summer as part of the first annual Telluride Summer College, such as Introduction to Sustainability, Native Plants of the San Miguel, and Teaching Movies that Matter. Jen had this to say about these classes, "I took an incredible Introduction to Sustainability Class that directly prepared me for a high school Intensive Study Period I was co-teaching this last fall. I was also able to take courses covering subjects of personal and local interest like Native Plants of the San Miguel Watershed. I truly believe in being a lifelong learner and look forward to the interesting courses, teachers and classmates in my future with UCSM."

2010 Classes Offered:

MSC Accredited Courses:

Creative Writing
English Composition
Environmental Science: Forest Ecology
Teaching Movies that Matter
Introduction to Sustainability
Native Plants
Permaculture Design Certificate
Immigration in the Southwest
Southwest Archeology

CNCC Accredited Courses:

2 sections of live: Intro to Early Childhood Education Theory/Lab

Nutrition, Health, and Safety

Support for Virtual Classroom:
24 classes offered

Spanish, French:

Spanish: 4 Beginning Levels
Intercambio Conversation
French: 3 Levels

Business:

Entrepreneurship 101

Computer Applications:

Microsoft Excel
Introduction to Apple Computers
Introduction to Photoshop

*Education is not the
filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire.*

William Butler Yeats



College Partnerships

Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) provides accessible, affordable, quality education to prepare learners to achieve their educational, workplace and personal goals. CNCC has two campuses located in Craig and Rangely with additional regional centers including Meeker, South Routt, Hayden, and now Telluride. UCSM serves the regional high schools to provide Accuplacer placement testing, coordination and registration for accredited high school classes, and support for CNCC's Virtual Classroom Certificates and Degrees.



CNCC has been a driving force in the formation and success of UCSM. Sarah Silver, the founder and previous Executive Director, partnered with CNCC to teach Early Childhood Education certificates since 2000, a program that remains strong and vital to this region.



Mesa State College (MSC) is a comprehensive regional public higher education institution offering liberal arts, professional, and technical programs at the master's, bachelor's, associate, and certificate levels. MSC and UCSM partnered from the beginning in 2005 to offer live, local, accredited courses in the San Miguel Watershed region. In 2010, UCSM offered its first annual Telluride Summer College program accredited through MSC, focused on Environmental Science and Sustainability.



Prescott College (PC) is an independent, liberal arts college offering bachelor's, master's, Ph.D. degrees, as well as teacher certification. Our educational programs reflect the College's commitment to the environment and social justice. PC has also been associated with UCSM since its inception, offering yet another option for distance degree completion in this remote and rural region.



Communities Served

UCSM serves the people of the San Miguel Watershed and neighboring communities. These include: Telluride, Mountain Village, Sawpit, Placerville, Norwood, Redvale, Naturita, Nucla, and Paradox.

Although this is thought of as an affluent region, the people are as diverse as the terrain creating a wide variety of income brackets, and educational needs. UCSM is expanding services and opportunities to accommodate all needs including teacher training, business development, languages, computer programs, and sustainable studies.

Please take the time to complete the survey to let us know your needs (www.ucsanmiguel.org).



Classes/Certificates/Degrees through UCSM and partners:

Colorado Northwestern Community College:

- UCSM is the CNCC Regional Center
 - Liaison with 6 high schools
- Illuminate Virtual Classroom:
 - Certificate and Associates Degree
 - Banking/Finance
 - Small Business Development
 - Early Childhood Education

Mesa State College:

- Accredited courses:
 - General Education
 - Partner with the MSC Certificate in Sustainable Practices

Prescott College:

- Degree Completion program assistance

Additional Services Offered:

- UCSM Certificate-Sustainable Studies
- Non-credit Classes:
 - Second Language Series
 - Computer Applications
 - Small Business/Nonprofit Development
- College Information Meetings
- Pathways to College Youth Counsel
- Adult Career and College Counsel

Work Study and Scholarship Opportunities

Providing access to equitable education is part of our mission, and our average cost for class is eight dollars per instructional hour. Students who cannot afford class can choose to volunteer for UCSM in exchange for a reduction in tuition. This program grew out of a suggestion by a student, and has proven successful. Students have often donated more time than they were required. The Work Study program strengthens the organization because it creates a partnership with community members and contributes to larger enrollment.

However, this program is limited to two students per semester because we need more funding to support it. There is a need for scholarship funding for accredited and non-credit courses. UCSM is currently in search of businesses and organizations to offer scholarships so that more students can expand their skills and obtain their goals.

Contact UCSM if you can contribute to the scholarship fund.

Supporters



UCSM survives and thrives because of in-kind donations and community collaborations. Telluride, Norwood, Ridgway and West End schools, Bright Futures, Colorado Northwestern Community College, Prescott College, and Mesa State College are educational partners. Wilkinson Public Library, San Miguel County, Naturita Elementary School, Telluride Middle School, Town of Mountain Village, and Town of Telluride provide free classroom facilities for our courses. One Telluride is working with us on an "Intercambio" Spanish class with their English Language Learners. UCSM has partnered with local organizations to expand class offerings, including The New Community Coalition to provide sustainable studies education to high school and adult learners. UCSM is working with the Wilkinson Public Library, Telluride Institute, AhHaa School for the Arts, Mountain Film, and more in the upcoming year. The director of the Naturita Public Library and the Director of Planning for Western Montrose County are on UCSM's West Advisory Committee that will increase our educational classes and services more consistently to the remote region. UCSM looks forward to collaborating with these and other organizations and institutions in the coming years.

Individual Contributions: Thank you!

- David Swanson
- Eric and June Nepsky
- Sally Puff Courtney
- David Smith
- Yvette Henson
- Carol Dix
- ADL Charitable Trust
- Nancy Craft
- Sarah Landeryou
- Lynne Beck
- Chris Myers
- Sandy Wickham
- Paula MacMillan
- Joan Anderson
- Marshall Whiting

UCSM Grantors:

San Miguel County
Town of Telluride
Town of Mountain Village
Telluride Foundation
El Pomar Foundation
Anschutz Family Foundation
Faraway Foundation



“Education is exercise for the mind. Life-long learning is as important to one’s health as maintaining proper fitness. We are proud to provide adult education to a region that holds both so highly.”

~ Robyn Wilson,
Executive Director

Fiscal Responsibility

Fiscal Responsibility is important to donors, grantors, and board members, and it is essential in the success of the organization as a whole. UCSM considers fiscal responsibility a multi-faceted endeavor. Our practice consists of strict bookkeeping with QuickBooks, detailed forecasting and monthly reviews, strategic partnerships, and cost saving strategies. UCSM strives to balance quality and cost. This small organization is consistently searching for new alternatives to reduce spending in order to provide more educational programming in the region.

Helpful Hint: When researching non-profits and their fiscal documents, look up Guidestar. It is a free and easy way to gather information and compare organizations.

Looking to 2011

Looking forward, we welcome 21st Century education. UCSM will realize projects started in 2010, such as West End Educational Development, greatly increasing the educational possibilities for the region through technology as well as expansion of live classes. This is an exciting time for higher education and non-profits, because while there are challenges, there are also opportunities.

The Strengthening Communities Grant from the federal government through the Telluride Foundation for economic development in western San Miguel and Montrose counties will be implemented. Through collaboration with the Naturita Community Library, Telluride and Naturita will have a video-conferencing system in order to expand class offerings throughout the region. This grant also includes funding for a comprehensive community assessment, computer programs and educational materials, and professional organizational training.

CNCC is increasing their certificate and degree options via their Virtual Classroom program, creating easily accessible classes throughout this remote region.

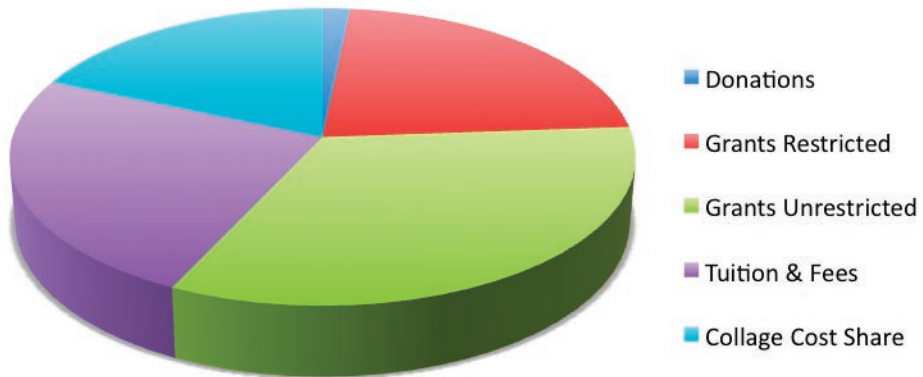
In 2011 will hold the second annual Telluride Summer College, which is an accredited program through MSC focused on sustainability and environmental science. In 2011, MSC will announce its new Certificate in Sustainable Practices with UCSM as a partner.

UCSM Needs:

- Individual Contributions
- Scholarship Funding to support those in need
- Sponsor a Class
- Donate office, classroom space, or professional services
- Donate printing services
- Take a Class
- Teach for UCSM
- Become a board member, or join an advisory committee
- Help UCSM advertise, hang fliers at your business, include class schedules in newsletters, tell your family and friends, etc.



2010 Income

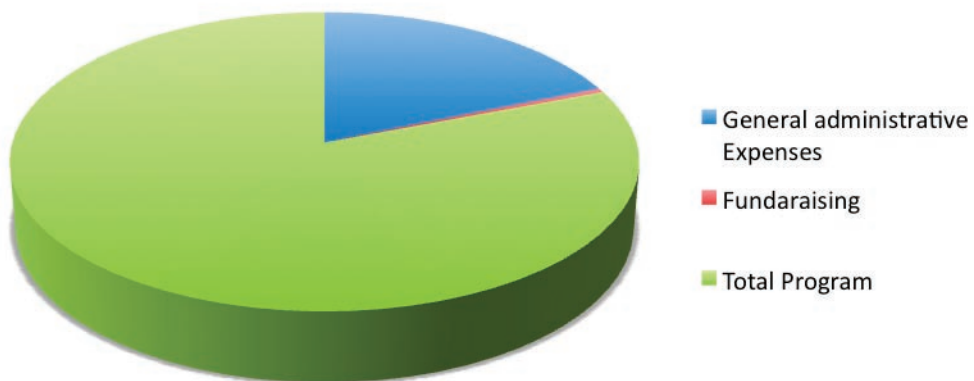


| Income: | | |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Donations | | 1,830 |
| Grants | Restricted | 24,966 |
| | Unrestricted | 37,175 |
| Tuition & Fees | | 27,444 |
| Collage Cost Share | | 20,800 |
| Total | | 112,215 |

| Expenses: | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| General administrative Expenses | 16,385 |
| Fundraising | 381 |
| Total Program | 70,712 |
| Total: | 87,477 |

Restricted Grant: Telluride Foundation, Strengthening Communities Fund mainly for year 2011 expenses,

2010 Expenses





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