

# STATE OF COLORADO



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*Colorado Commission on Higher Education*

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## **CCHE Approves Proposed 5-year Higher Ed Capital Improvements**

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) meeting at Adams State College in Alamosa today approved the proposed Five-Year Capital Improvements Program for the state's public post-secondary institutions covering Fiscal Years 08-09 through 12-13.

The proposal includes requests for 217 capital construction projects from 26 institutions and agencies and 11 governing boards (including the Colorado Historical Society).\*

The combined five-year plan shows total capital needs of over \$3.7 billion in total funds, with state funding requested for \$1.7 billion and institutional funds covering \$1.9 billion. This split points to the scarcity of state funds for higher education capital construction and the need for institutions' increasing reliance on private donations and student fees in order to build and maintain needed facilities.

"This list illustrates the very real capital needs facing public institutions of higher education," CCHE Chairman Ray Baker commented. "With construction cost inflation rising at 1% to 2% per month, it makes sense and saves money for these projects to be funded and constructed as soon as we can."

"These capital projects are crucial if Colorado is going to have the capacity to meet growing demand for post-secondary education for Colorado students in the coming years," said Department of Higher Education Executive Director David Skaggs. "We'll need modern facilities to prepare students for a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce."

\*Note to editors: The full plan is available at <http://highered.colorado.gov/CCHE/Meetings/2007/oct/oct07agenda.pdf>.

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