

# STATE OF COLORADO



DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
*Colorado Commission on Higher Education*

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*Press Release*  
March 4, 2008

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## **Colorado One of Three States to Receive Grant to Help Adults Get College Degrees**

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) announced today that Colorado was one of three states selected to participate in a new grant program called *Non-traditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners*. Twelve states had applied for the grants.

Colorado, along with Arkansas and Nevada, will work with WICHE for the next two years to guide policies and develop practices to assist “ready adults” – those who are just short of having enough credits to obtain their college degree – graduate from college.

The two-year grant totals \$65,000. The Colorado Department of Higher Education will use the funds and technical assistance from WICHE to develop and test new policies and practices targeting adult learners and the special challenges they face in going back to school – however briefly. The objective will be to create a way to make degree attainment practicable for this category of typically older students, figuring out how to find and communicate with the relevant population and tailoring student resources to better meet their needs.

“Changing demographics and the growing demand for an educated workforce are causing states and postsecondary institutions to broaden their thinking about how to increase degree attainment,” said WICHE President David Longanecker. “This project provides a unique opportunity for them to target ready adults and bring them back to college.”

“We’re delighted to have this chance to assist Coloradans who are in striking distance of a degree,” David Skaggs, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education said. “Colorado can really benefit from a successful program to help these folks get to graduation. Our economy is exceedingly dependent on a highly educated workforce, but we don’t have enough traditional students in the higher ed ‘pipeline’ to meet the demand. Colorado needs non-traditional programs like this to ensure that our workforce stays competitive and the state economy stays healthy.”

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