



**POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN
SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO**

NOVEMBER 2006

The purpose of this report is to describe the educational, demographic, and economic trends in Southwestern Colorado. Information in this report was provided by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education in response to a formal request from Representative Mark Larson and Senator Jim Isgar.

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INTRODUCTION

This report is a response to a formal request by Representative Mark Larson and Senator Jim Isgar, which was received by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education in May 2006. This study examines current postsecondary higher education options in the Southwestern region of the state of Colorado, as well as the changes in educational needs projected to occur in the future, based on demographic and economic forecasting.

The feasibility of a long-range, postsecondary education strategy with regard to career and technical, two year and four year programs has been complicated by geographical and diverse socio-economic conditions. Legislative representatives of the region believe that a current comprehensive study of the higher education service needs of the region is much needed, especially considering steadily dwindling resources and the possibility of the unnecessary duplication of service delivery.

The following analysis will respond to legislative and stakeholder requests concerning the future, projected education service needs for the region. The report will provide an examination and analysis of the following: the current structure and offerings of the postsecondary institutions in the southwest region of the state, as well as enrollment and funding trends at each institution. Additionally, demographics of the southwestern region of Colorado will be provided, including an overview of the current population by service areas for each institution, projected population growth and decline by service area and projected high school enrollment and graduation rates. An economic development analysis, including current economic development trends and future projections, will be provided. The report will conclude with recommendations for post secondary educational options that will best serve the current and projected needs of the region's population based on the feasibility findings.

Scope of Study

The counties on which this study is based are those in the far Southwestern section of the state—Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel (see Figure A below).

Figure A: Counties



Sources of data for this study include the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, the Colorado Department of Education, the United States Census, the Center for Business and Economic Forecasting, the National Center for Education Statistics, Fort Lewis College in Durango and San Juan Basin Technical College (SJBTC), Pueblo Community College (PCC) Southwest Campus in Cortez and Durango and San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico.

SECTION I: POSTSECONDARY OVERVIEW

Current Structure and Offerings

Currently there are three postsecondary institutions servicing the southwest region of the state, including a career and technical college awarding certifications and applied degrees; a two-year community college awarding certification, applied and associate degrees, and a selective, residential, four year liberal arts college awarding associates degrees, (through a two year authority which enables collaboration with both the community college and the area vocational school) and several undergraduate Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. San Juan Basin Technical College, Pueblo Community College (Southwest Campus, Cortez and Durango Campuses), and Fort Lewis College provide a combination of degrees and educational services for a regional population of 90,489.

Abbreviated descriptions of each of the three postsecondary institutions of the Southwestern region of Colorado are provided below, including each institution's role and mission, program offerings, and current total enrollment.

Fort Lewis College

Role and Mission: (1) There is hereby established a college at Durango, to be known as Fort Lewis college, which shall be a public liberal arts college, with selective admission standards with a historic and continuing commitment to Native American education. In addition, the college may offer professional programs and a limited number of graduate programs to serve regional needs. The center of southwest studies provides a valuable regional, national, and international resource.

(2) (a) Fort Lewis college shall be a regional education provider and shall have two-year authority which shall be utilized in collaboration with a community college and any area vocational school.

(b) The Colorado commission on higher education shall, in consultation with the board of trustees of Fort Lewis College, establish the criteria for designation as a regional education provider.

Programs: Fort Lewis College offers a total of 26 undergraduate Bachelors of Arts and Bachelors of Science degrees, as well as an Associate of Arts or Science degree in Agricultural Science. For a complete listing of the undergraduate degrees offered at Fort Lewis College, please refer to Appendix A, attached at the end of this report.

Current Total Enrollment: In 2005 (the most recent year for which the CCHE has complete data), the total actual enrollment by unduplicated headcount was **3,946**.

Pueblo Community College (Southwest Campus, Cortez and Durango Campuses)

Role and Mission: There is hereby established a state system of community and technical colleges which shall be under the management and jurisdiction of the state board for community colleges and occupational education. The mission of the community colleges shall be to serve Colorado residents who reside in their service areas by offering a broad range of general, personal, vocational, and technical education programs. Each college shall be a two-year college. No college shall impose admission requirements upon any student. The objects of the community and technical colleges shall be to provide educational programs to fill the occupational needs of youth and adults in technical and vocational fields, two-year transfer educational programs to qualify students for admission to the junior year at other colleges and universities, basic skills, workforce development, and a broad range of personal and vocational education for adults.

Program Offerings: Pueblo Community College (Southwest Campus, Cortez and Durango Campuses) offers courses leading to the following degrees:

- Associate of Arts
- Associate of Science
- Associate of General Studies (Generalist)
- Associate of General Studies with articulation agreements in Accounting, Business Management, Early Childhood Education, and Criminal Justice
- Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education, Applied Technology, Nursing (second year of an A.D.N. program), and Respiratory Therapy

The following certificates programs are also offered:

- Emergency Medical Services Advanced Paramedic Certificate
- Southwest Regional Law Enforcement Academy Certificate

Students in Cortez may complete pre-requisites for the applied science programs along with general education/transfer courses but are not able to complete any of the degrees or certificates on site. The only exception is the Associate of Applied Science in Applied Technology. Through a state-wide articulation agreement, an area vocational school student who earns a certificate may transfer the courses (typically between 42-45 credits) to PCC; and upon completion of 15-18 general education credits, the student may graduate with an AAS in Applied Technology.

Students in Durango may complete all degrees and certificates listed above.

Enrollment Pueblo Community College: In 2005 (the most recent attainable information for PCC Southwest Campus), the total actual enrollment by unduplicated headcount was **544**. PCC does not separately report enrollment figures for students enrolled at its Southwest Campus to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, but it does periodically generate this information. As a result, some specific enrollment data for the PCC SW Campus does not appear in this report.

San Juan Basin Area Vocational College

Role and Mission: "Area vocational school" means a school offering approved postsecondary vocational programs for credit, operated by a local school district or by a board of cooperative services, and designated by the general assembly as an area vocational school in conformity with standards established by the state board for community colleges and occupational education. Tuition rates and fees charged any person not enrolled in a secondary school curriculum shall be uniform for any group classification. For the purposes of this article, the following schools, as named in this subsection (1) or as their names may be changed pursuant to section 23-60-801, are declared to be area vocational schools: The Emily Griffith opportunity school, the San Juan basin area vocational school, the Delta-Montrose area vocational school, and the Aurora tech center.

Program Offerings: San Juan Basin Area Vocational College offers a total of 6 different Associate of Applied Sciences degrees, as well as thirty certificate programs. For a complete listing of the degrees offered at San Juan Basin Area Vocational College, please refer to Appendix A, attached at the end of this report.

Current Total Enrollment: In 2005 (the most recent year for which the SJBTC has complete data), the total actual enrollment by unduplicated headcount was **2,092**.

Enrollment Trends

The enrollment trends herein include data collected from Fort Lewis College and San Juan Basin Technical College and Pueblo Community College. Data reflect enrollments for the previous five years, 2001-2005. The data reflect actual enrollment by unduplicated headcount and include a sample disaggregated by gender and race/ethnicity.

Table 1.1: Total Student Enrollment, 2001-2005, Fort Lewis College, San Juan Basin Technical College & Pueblo Community College Southwest Campus

Student Enrollment							
Institution	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	# Change from 2001 to 2005	% Change from 2001 to 2005
Fort Lewis College	4,429	4,349	4,182	4,194	3,946	-483	-10.9%
San Juan Basin Technical College	2,542	996	1,951	1,928	2,092	-450	-17.7%
PCC Southwest Campus	1005	959	923	592	544	-461	-46%

Data provided by CCHE, SJBTC, and PCC

Fort Lewis College: With the exception of a very slight increase in enrollment from 2003-2004, (4,182 in 2003 to 4,194 in 2004), Fort Lewis College has experienced an overall five-year longitudinal decrease in enrollment of 483 students during academic years 2001-2005. The decrease of 483 students represents an approximately 11% decrease in overall enrollment of unduplicated headcount, annualized student FTE.

Further, Fort Lewis College experienced somewhat modest, incremental decreases in enrollment from 2001 to 2003, including a decrease of 80 students from 2001-2002, and 167 students from 2002-2003. From 2004-2005, Fort Lewis College experienced its most significant decline in enrollment. In 2004, Fort Lewis College had an unduplicated headcount and annualized student FTE of 4,194, while in 2005, that number dropped to 3,946, resulting in a loss of 248 students.

Comparable enrollment numbers for Fort Lewis College are featured in the table below, which depicts enrollment numbers for the institution from 2001 through 2005, including the change in raw numbers of students during that time period as well as the change in overall percentage of enrolled students from 2001-2005.

San Juan Basin Technical College: SJBTC has experienced a somewhat inconsistent and irregular pattern of student enrollment during the previous five years, resulting in a net loss of 450 students or nearly 18% of its student population during the academic years 2001-2005. Included in the overall five-year enrollment decline of the college is the steep decrease in enrollment during the 2001 and 2002 academic years. In 2001, SJBTC reported an overall student enrollment of 2,542, by 2002, the overall enrollment of the college had dipped to its lowest point in the five year period, enrolling fewer than 1000 students (996). Overall enrollment numbers for 2003 demonstrate that the college

significantly increased its enrollment numbers over the previous year, to 1,951 students, however still fell significantly short of the total 2001 enrollment of 2,542. The school's enrollment increased very slightly in 2004, to 1,928, before climbing over the 2000 mark to 2,092 in 2005. However, although the 2005 enrollment boasted the 2nd highest enrollment numbers for the five year period, it still lagged significantly behind the 2001 enrollment of 2,542.

Pueblo Community College Southwest Campus: PCC's Southwest Campus has experienced a decline in student enrollment from 2001 to 2005, resulting in a net loss of 461 students or nearly 46%. The Southwest Campus student body is derived from courses taught at both its Cortez and Durango campuses and courses taught through PSEO at local high schools.

The number of students enrolled at PCC through PSEO/dual enrollment programs significantly declined when schools faced funding issues and did not have sufficient funds to support Post Secondary Options (PSEO) students. Some high schools also began exploring and implementing options for providing more Advanced Placement courses for students who want to get a "head start" on their college careers. The decline can also be attributed, in part, to the College's decision not to hold classes with low enrollment, a slight loss of students when PCC made a decision to terminate the Culinary Arts Program due to low enrollment, a decline in the number of students enrolled in Early Childhood Education classes (PCC lost a large cohort that transferred to Fort Lewis College), and a slight loss of Law Enforcement Academy headcount due to students who were dropped for integrity issues and/or academic issues.

Participation Rates for Underserved Students

Fort Lewis College:

This section utilizes race as a proxy for identifying "underserved students." To that end, the enrollment numbers disaggregated by labels of race demonstrate that overall numbers of enrolled minority students increased by almost 5% between 2001 and 2005. That is, there was an increase of 48 minority students in the five year span between 2001 and 2005, including modest, overall increases in the Hispanic and Native American populations, the two largest minority subgroups at Fort Lewis College. The Asian population remained fairly stable throughout the five year span, never falling below 35 total students but never climbing above 39. The total number of Black students remained in roughly the same range throughout the five year period, peaking at 48 in 2002, before falling to 38 in 2005. In 2003, the college experienced its lowest enrollment of Black students throughout the 5 year span. Thirty-five Black students were enrolled in the college in 2003. It should be noted that during the same five year period the total population of White, Non-Hispanic students fell by 22%, from 3,198 in 2001 to 2,620 in 2005, reinforcing the 12%, overall decline in enrollment at the college from 2001-2005. For a graphic comparison of enrollment by race, please refer to Appendix B at the end of this report.

San Juan Basin Technical College:

This section utilizes race as a proxy for identifying “underserved students.” To that end, the enrollment numbers disaggregated by labels of race demonstrate that overall numbers of enrolled minority students increased by 27% between 2001 and 2005. During the five year span, overall minority enrollment increased by 135 students. Although the minority enrollment numbers in 2002 dipped significantly, thereby mimicking the overall enrollment decline in student numbers during the 2002 academic year, minority student enrollment increased incrementally and consistently from 2003 to 2005, peaking in 2005 at 501 students, and accounting for the 27% increase from 2001 to 2005.

When disaggregated further, the minority student data suggests that the enrolled number of Asian, Native American and Latino students increased throughout the five year period, while overall numbers of Black students remained the same during the same period. Asian student enrollment increased by 73%; however that percentage can be deceiving when the actual raw number of the sub-group is calculated (11 total students). Nevertheless, Asian student enrollment grew from 3 to 11 students during the five year period, staying stable from 2001-2002, before more than doubling in 2003, (to 8), and remaining stable in 2004, (7), to reaching a five year high of 11 enrolled students in 2005.

Likewise, Native American student enrollment also increased during the same five year period, from 220 in 2001 to 329 in 2005, resulting in a 33% increase in overall Native American student enrollment at the institution. Although Native American enrollment followed the trend patterns of overall enrollment at the school, (falling significantly in 2002), it continued to steadily increase from 2003-2005, peaking in 2005 to a five year high of 329.

Enrollment among Latino students also increased during the same reporting period, while Black student enrollment remained low, but stable. Overall, Latino student enrollment increased by 12% over the five year reporting period, increasing from 137 enrolled students in 2001, to 155 students in 2005. In the interim years, Latino enrollment at the College declined significantly in 2002, reinforcing the overall pattern of enrollment decline at the institution, falling to its lowest point in the five year reporting period – 69 students. From 2003 to 2004, Latino student enrollment increased significantly and held steady, going from 69 students in '02, to 115 in both '03 and '04. By 2005, Latino student enrollment had exceeded its 2001 enrollment. 155 Latino students were enrolled in the college in 2005, accounting for the five year, 12% increase.

Unlike the other sub-groups of minority students, Black student enrollment has been flat and low during the five year reporting period. The number of enrolled Black students held steady over the five year period at 6. In the years in between, 2002-2004, Black student enrollment fell to 2 and then 1, before rebounding to four in 2004. By 2005, Black student enrollment had climbed back to its 2001 level of 6 students.

Pueblo Community College Southwest Campus:

This section utilizes race as a proxy for identifying “underserved students.” To that end, the enrollment numbers disaggregated by labels of race demonstrate that overall numbers of enrolled minority students decreased by 43% between 2002 and 2005. During the four year span, overall minority enrollment decreased by 88 students. It is important to note that total population for the Southwest Campus declined in the same 2002 to 2005 period by 367 students or by a decreasing rate of 38%.

From 2002 to 2005, Black student enrollment increased by 1 student and went from .63% to 1.29 % of the total student body. Hispanic student enrollment dropped by 61 students, but decreased as a percentage of the total student body from 11.05% in 2002 to 8.27% in 2005. Native American enrollment also saw a decline in actual number of students from 89 to 61 but saw nearly a 2% increase as a percentage of the total student body, from 9.28% to 11.21% from 2002-2005.

Table 1.2: Student Enrollment at Fort Lewis College, San Juan Basin Technical College & Pueblo Community College Southwest Campus, 2001 – 2005, by Ethnicity.

Institution	Ethnicity	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Fort Lewis College						
	Asian	38	39	35	36	39
	Black, Non-Hispanic	45	48	35	42	38
	Hispanic	210	199	209	233	228
	Native American	684	723	708	730	720
	<i>Minority, Subtotal</i>	<i>977</i>	<i>1,009</i>	<i>987</i>	<i>1,041</i>	<i>1,025</i>
	White, Non-Hispanic	3,198	3,062	2,953	2,862	2,620
	NR Alien	87	81	64	61	51
	Unknown	167	197	178	230	250
	<i>Total</i>	<i>4,429</i>	<i>4,349</i>	<i>4,182</i>	<i>4,194</i>	<i>3,946</i>
San Juan Basin Area Vocational College						
	Asian	3	3	8	7	11
	Black, Non-Hispanic	6	2	1	4	6
	Hispanic	137	69	115	115	155
	Native American	220	79	216	239	329
	<i>Minority, Subtotal</i>	<i>366</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>501</i>
	White, Non-Hispanic	1,984	815	1,538	1,490	1,501
	NR Alien					
	Unknown	192	28	72	83	127
	<i>Total</i>	<i>2,542</i>	<i>996</i>	<i>1,950</i>	<i>1,938</i>	<i>2,129</i>
Pueblo Community College Southwest Campus						
	Black, Non-Hispanic		6	4	3	7
	Hispanic		106	87	66	45
	Native American		89	90	76	61
	Other		4	10	8	4
	<i>Minority, Subtotal</i>		<i>205</i>	<i>191</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>117</i>
	White, Non-Hispanic		733	717	430	422
	NR Alien					
	Unknown		21	15	9	5
	<i>Total</i>		<i>959</i>	<i>923</i>	<i>592</i>	<i>544</i>

Source of Data: CCHE, SJBTC, and PCC.

Enrollment by Gender

Fort Lewis College experienced an overall reduction in enrolled, female students of nearly 10% during 2001-2005. Likewise, male enrollment also fell by nearly 15% during the same time period. The numbers of enrolled females declined steadily and consistently during the five year period from 2001-2005, including fairly significant declines every year beginning in 2001 through 2003. However, the most significant dip in the enrollment of female students occurred between 2004-2005, when the number of enrolled females declined by 111, from 2,018 in 2004 to 1,907 in 2005. This precipitous decline was preceded by the smallest decline in enrolled female students at the college. During 2003-2004, enrolled female students fell from 2,020 to 2,018. Male student enrollment declined steadily from 2001 through 2003, then climbed slightly from 2003 to 2004; the largest decline was experienced from 2004-2005, when male enrollment dropped by 137, from 2,176 to 2,039. For a graphic comparison of enrollment by gender, please refer to Appendix B at the end of this report.

Table 1.3: Student Enrollment by Gender, 2001-2005, Fort Lewis College, San Juan Basin Technical College & Pueblo Community College Southwest Campus

Institution	Gender	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Fort Lewis	Female	2,091	2,058	2,020	2,018	1,907
	Male	2,338	2,291	2,162	2,176	2,039
	% Male	53%	53%	52%	52%	52%
San Juan Basin	Female	1,208	476	820	775	885
	Male	1,334	520	1,131	1,153	1,207
	% Male	52%	52%	58%	60%	58%
PCC	Female	673	641	652	430	385
	Male	336	318	271	162	159
	% Male	33%	33%	29%	27%	29%

SJBTC experienced a decline in both female and male students throughout the five year reporting period, 2001-2005. Overall, the enrolled number of female students declined 323 total students, or 27% from 2001-2005. Numbers of enrolled female students fell by more than one-half between 2001-2002. During 2001, the school reported 1,208 enrolled female students; by 2002, that number had decreased by 732 students to 476 – its lowest point in the five year reporting period. Like overall enrollment for the institution, the 2002 female enrollment fell significantly. Throughout the remainder of the reporting period, female enrollment rebounded and increased incrementally from 2002-2003, before falling slightly in 2004 to 775 before increasing again in 2005, to 885.

Meanwhile, male enrollment at the school exceeded the numbers of enrolled female students. However, like overall enrollment numbers, including disaggregated numbers for overall female enrollment; male enrollment fell significantly during 2002. In 2001,

1,334 male students were enrolled in SJBTC, and although male numbers fell significantly during 2002, to 520, they rebounded, growing steadily and consistently from 2002-2005, with the 2005 numbers being the second highest of the five year reporting period. From 2002 to 2005, numbers of enrolled male students increased from 520, to 1,131 and 1,153, respectively, culminating in a four-year high in 2005 of 1,207. Overall, male students account for 58% of the overall student enrollment at SJBTC, and although that is a 6% decrease in male enrollment for the five year period, male students still account for over 50% of the overall student enrollment at the school.

Pueblo Community College Southwest Campus experienced a decline in both male and female students from 2001 to 2005 of 46% or 461 students. Overall the enrolled number of male students declined by 53% or 177 actual students, higher than the average percentage decline for the institution as a whole. However, female enrollment saw a percentage increase in terms of male to female ratio for the period, 2001 to 2005 but a decline in actual numbers. The female percentage of the institution increased from 67% in 2001, to 71% in 2005 after peaking at 73% in 2004. Female enrolment from 2001 to 2005 decreased by 288 students or 43%.

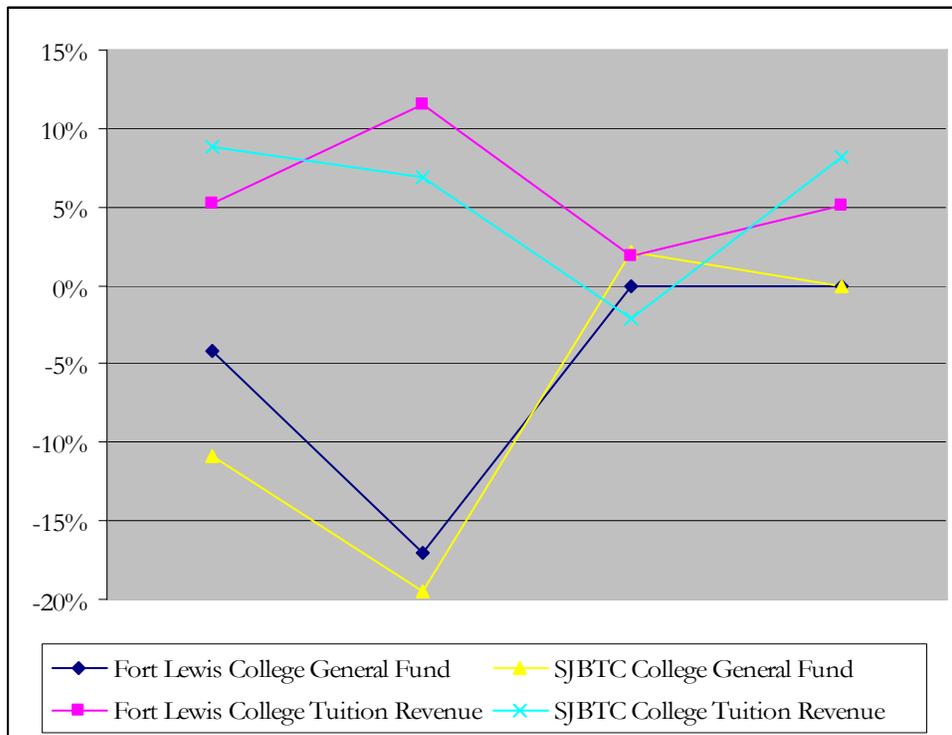
Funding

As was the case at most postsecondary institutions in the state, general fund financing at Fort Lewis College declined consistently over the course of the past 5 years. The institution has experienced incremental decreases consistently from 2002 to 2006, totaling an overall decrease in the allocation received from general fund dollars throughout the five year period of 21%. At the same time, tuition revenue for the college has been on an increased trajectory, culminating in an overall increase in tuition revenue of close to 26% for the five year period from 2002-2006. Listed below are general fund and tuition revenue dollars for Fort Lewis College, including fiscal years 2002 through 2006.

Table 1.4: General Fund and Tuition Revenue at Fort Lewis College and San Juan Basin Technical College, 2002 – 2006.

General Fund and Tuition Revenue						
Fort Lewis College	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	% Change
General Fund	\$ 9,354,415	\$ 8,967,623	\$ 7,435,161	\$ 7,435,161	\$ 7,435,161	-20.52%
Tuition Revenue	\$ 18,253,149	\$ 19,209,236	\$ 21,430,496	\$ 21,820,346	\$ 22,937,875	25.67%
General Fund Per Headcount	\$ 2,151	\$ 2,144	\$ 1,773	\$ 1,884		
Tuition Revenue Per Headcount	\$ 4,197	\$ 4,593	\$ 5,110	\$ 5,530		
San Juan Basin Technical College	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	% Change
General Fund	\$ 1,518,551	\$ 1,353,940	\$ 1,090,018	\$ 1,113,467	\$ 1,113,374	-26.68%
Tuition Revenue	\$ 497,798	\$ 541,421	\$ 578,980	\$ 566,875	\$ 613,568	23.26%
General Fund Per Headcount	\$ 1,525	\$ 694	\$ 565	\$ 532		
Tuition Revenue Per Headcount	\$ 500	\$ 278	\$ 300	\$ 271		

Figure 1.1: Annual Change in General Fund and Tuition Revenue at Fort Lewis College and San Juan Basin Technical College, 2002-2006



SECTION II: REGIONAL PROFILE: DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS

Overview of Current Population/Projections to 2030

The 2000 United States Census reported a total population in the region of 90,489. Estimated trend data for the population growth of the region suggests that, by 2030, the population of the seven county region will grow by nearly 75 percent to 157,382. According to current projection figures, Archuleta and San Miguel will more than double their populations, and La Plata County will grow to more than 70,000 residents.

The 2000 Census further demonstrates that La Plata, Montezuma and Archuleta currently account for over 85% of the region's total population. Although the other counties in the region may be significantly smaller, in terms of population, all are projected to experience significant positive population growth over the next two and one half decades.

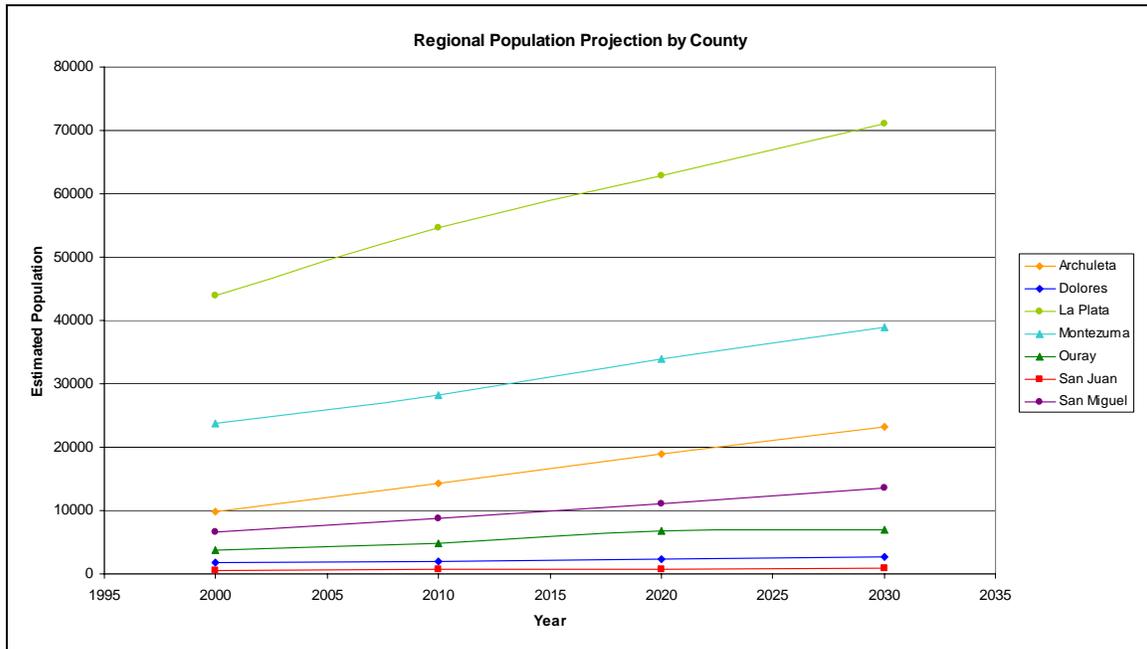
Table 2.1: Regional Population Trends

	2000	% of Regional Population	2010	2020	2030	# Change from 2000 to 2030	% Change from 2000 to 2030
Colorado	4,301,261	-----	5,131,089	6,009,699	6,911,154	2,609,893	60.68%
Archuleta	9,898	11%	14,248	18,939	23,295	13,397	135.35%
Dolores	1,844	2%	2,038	2,350	2,703	859	46.58%
La Plata	43,941	49%	54,664	62,868	71,041	27,100	61.67%
Montezuma	23,830	26%	28,254	33,870	38,951	15,121	63.45%
Ouray	3,752	4%	4,792	6,711	7,024	3,272	87.21%
San Juan	558	<1%	651	768	868	310	55.56%
San Miguel	6,666	7%	8,674	11,120	13,501	6,835	102.81%
Region	90,489	100%	113,321	136,626	157,382	66,893	73.92%

Source of Data: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Historic Census Population; US Census Bureau.

While the expected population growth in the Southwestern section of the state will eclipse the overall growth in the state, when disaggregated by age, the statistics demonstrate important regional variances.

Figure 2.1: Projected Population Changes, 2000 – 2030, by County



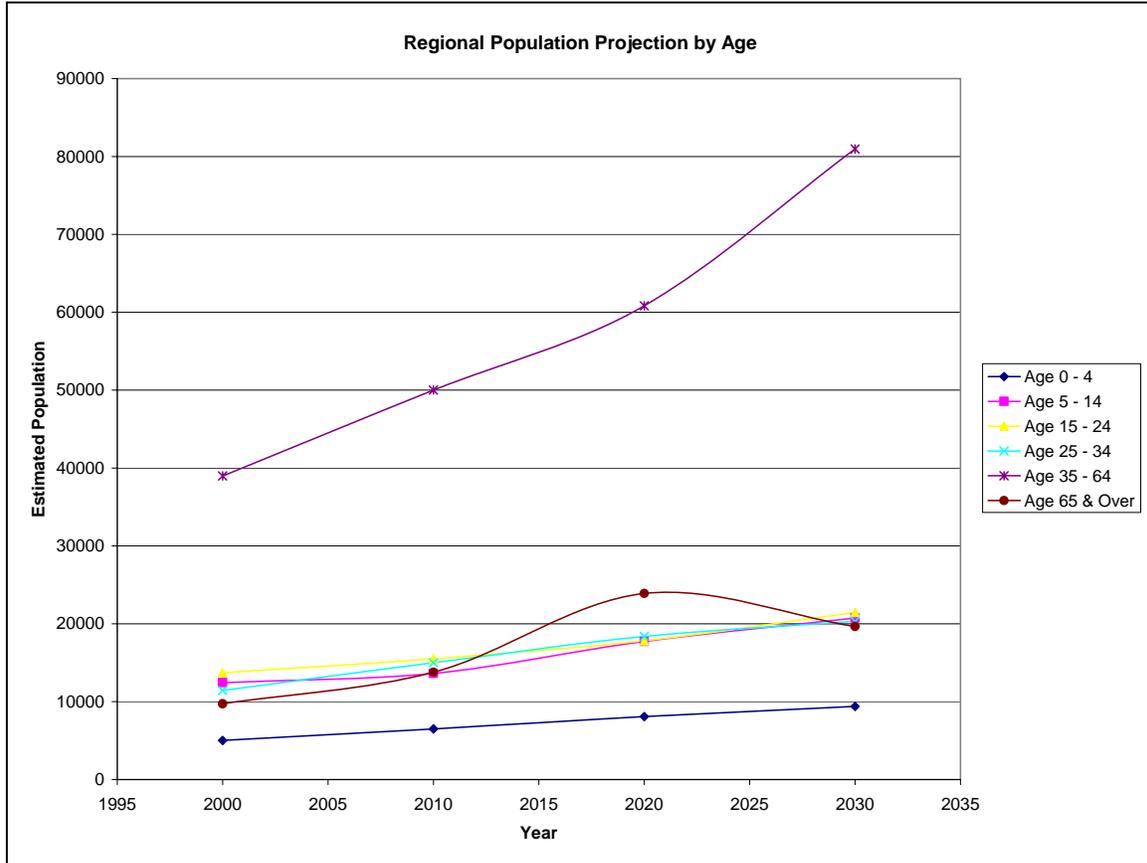
Current Regional Population by Age

According to the 2000 United State Census, the largest population group, by age range, is 35-64 year-olds. In each of the seven counties, 35-64 year-olds currently comprise between 41 and 57 percent of the total county population.

In three of the seven counties, the second largest age group is 5-14 year-olds. In Archuleta, Montezuma and Ouray, 5-14 year-olds represented 15%, 16%, and 14%, of their respective counties' overall populations. In San Juan and San Miguel counties, the 25-34 year-old population of the 2000 census represented the second largest group. In San Juan County, 12% of the population was in the 25-34 age group; in San Miguel county 24% of the population was in the same age group. With the exception of San Miguel County, infants and toddlers 0-4 represented the smallest numbers in the population.

An analysis of age distributions among current and projected populations in the seven county region suggests that the growth trajectories are variable, with different age populations increasing or decreasing in different counties and at different rates. In some counties the elderly population is expected to grow at a faster rate compared to other categories, in others the adolescent and adult populations appear headed for significant growth, and in most of the counties the distribution of projected population increases across age groups appear somewhat balanced. However, based upon the population projections provided herein, it is reasonable to believe that adult population in general and the elderly of that sub-population in particular will comprise a larger portion of the region's population by 2030 than they do today.

Figure 2.2: Projected Population Changes, 2000 – 2030, by Age.



While it is impossible to speculate accurately the college-going behaviors of students based on their age alone, to better appreciate the impact the changes to the region’s demographics may have on college enrollment, below is a table containing enrollment in the state’s colleges by age for years 2001 – 2005.

Table 2.2: Student Enrollment in All State Colleges, 2001 -2005, by Age

Enrollment Level	Age	In-State Student Headcount* Enrolled in Fall --					
		2003		2004		2005	
		#	% of Level	#	% of Level	#	% of Level
In-State	1-19	47,762	27.7	48,915	28.1	48,372	28.4
	20-24	63,872	37.0	65,442	37.7	65,348	38.4
	24 and younger	111,634	64.7	114,357	65.8	113,720	66.7
	25-34	32,206	18.7	32,282	18.6	31,487	18.5
	35 +	28,573	16.6	27,110	15.6	25,142	14.8
	Above 24	60,779	35.2	59,392	34.2	56,629	33.2
	Unknown	42	0.0	41	0.0	20	0.0
	Level Total	172,455	100	173,790	100	170,369	100
In-State Graduate/First	1-19	28	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0
	20-24	2,876	1.7	2,953	1.7	2,817	1.7
	24 and younger	2,904	16.0	2,954	16.3	2,817	16.4
	25-34	9,677	5.6	9,856	5.7	9,345	5.5
	35 +	5,580	3.2	5,325	3.1	5,048	3.0
	Above 24	15,257	84.0	15,181	83.7	14,393	83.6
	Unknown	8	0.0	9	0.0	8	0.0
	Level Total	18,169	100	18,144	100	17,218	100
In-State Total*	1-19	47,790	25.1	48,916	25.5	48,372	25.8
	20-24	66,748	35.0	68,395	35.6	68,165	36.3
	24 and younger	114,538	60.1	117,311	61.1	116,537	62.1
	25-34	41,883	22.0	42,138	22.0	40,832	21.8
	35 +	34,153	17.9	32,435	16.9	30,190	16.1
	Above 24	76,036	39.9	74,573	38.9	71,022	37.9
	Unknown	50	0.0	50	0.0	28	0.0
	Level Total	190,624	100	191,934	100	187,587	100

Enrollment Level	Age	Total Student Headcount* Enrolled in Fall --					
		2003		2004		2005	
		#	% of Level	#	% of Level	#	% of Level
Total	1-19	56,562	28.9	57,518	29.2	56,221	29.3
	20-24	75,531	38.5	77,058	39.1	76,640	39.9
	24 and younger	132,093	67.4	134,576	68.3	132,861	69.2
	25-34	34,245	17.5	34,379	17.4	33,286	17.3
	35 +	29,569	15.1	28,097	14.3	25,830	13.5
	Above 24	63,814	32.6	62,476	31.7	59,116	30.8
	Unknown	55	0.0	44	0.0	26	0.0
	Level Total	195,962	100	197,096	100	192,003	100
Total Graduate/First	1-19	37	0.2	2	0.0	1	0.0
	20-24	4,343	19.4	4,248	19.3	4,064	19.3
	24 and younger	4,380	19.6	4,250	19.3	4,065	19.3
	25-34	11,868	53.0	11,969	54.3	11,420	54.2
	35 +	6,119	27.3	5,826	26.4	5,574	26.5
	Above 24	17,987	80.4	17,795	80.7	16,994	80.7
	Unknown	8	0.0	9	0.0	8	0.0
	Level Total	22,375	100	22,054	100	21,067	100
Total*	1-18	56,599	25.9	57,520	26.2	56,222	26.4
	20-24	79,874	36.6	81,306	37.1	80,704	37.9
	24 and younger	136,473	62.5	138,826	63.3	136,926	64.3
	25-34	46,113	21.1	46,348	21.1	44,706	21.0
	35 +	35,688	16.3	33,923	15.5	31,404	14.7
	Above 24	81,801	37.5	80,271	36.6	76,110	35.7
	Unknown	63	0.0	53	0.0	34	0.0
	Level Total	218,337	100	219,150	100	213,070	100

Based upon data found in Table 2.2, among resident undergraduate students, the lowest enrollments were among students aged 35 years or more; the largest enrollments were among students 24 years of age and younger. While these statistics might be considered unsurprising to most observers, when compared to the projected population changes in the Southwest, they become very important as they relate to the demand for postsecondary education. That is to say, according to population projections from the U.S. Census, the largest age demographic in the Southwest is and will continue to be those residents between the ages of 35 – 64, which is also the same demographic with the smallest postsecondary participation in the state.

Regional Population by Ethnicity

The data collected for the analysis of population by race in the region came from the 2000 census. The data demonstrate that the largest sub-group of residents in each county are White, including at least 82% of the total population, (in Montezuma County), and as much as 97%, (in San Juan County). The second largest sub-population according to race category is comprised of Hispanic/Latino residents, who account for 17% of the population in Archuleta County, 4% of the population in Dolores and Ouray Counties, 10% of the population in La Plata County, and 7% of the population in San Juan and San Miguel Counties. With the exception of Montezuma County, where Native Americans comprise the 2nd largest sub-group by race in the County, (11%), Hispanic/Latinos constitute the second largest sub-population, by race, in the 7 county region. Native American or Alaska Natives comprise the 3rd largest sub-group by race in the region; however, their overall numbers are relatively small in comparison to White and Hispanic/Latino residents. Blacks and Asians provide trace percentages of the overall breakdown by race of population in the region.

Table 2.3: Southwest Regional Propitiation by Ethnicity and County, 2000

<i>Regional Population by Ethnicity, 2000</i>							
	<i>County</i>						
<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Archuleta</i>	<i>Dolores</i>	<i>La Plata</i>	<i>Montezuma</i>	<i>Ouray</i>	<i>San Juan</i>	<i>San Miguel</i>
White	77.37%	93.26%	80.73%	76.29%	94.13%	91.25%	88.68%
Black or African American	0.31%	0.05%	0.29%	0.13%	0.08%	0.00%	0.27%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.23%	1.91%	5.34%	0.10%	0.91%	0.67%	0.80%
Asian	0.27%	0.37%	0.37%	0.19%	0.34%	0.17%	0.70%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.03%	0.05%	0.05%	0.06%	0.05%	0.34%	0.07%
Hispanic or Latino	14.68%	3.77%	9.62%	8.87%	3.97%	6.90%	6.31%
Other	6.11%	0.58%	3.60%	3.98%	0.52%	0.67%	3.19%

Regional Population, by Income Level

1999 data from the US Census demonstrates that in the seven county region, 3 of the counties contained populations of close to 20% in the household income range of \$50,000-\$74,999. Ouray and San Miguel counties show over 20% of their respective populations in the \$50,000-\$74,999 income range, (Ouray at 21.80% and San Miguel at 20.20%). Median household income reinforces this distribution trend, demonstrating that Ouray and San Miguel counties have the highest median household income of the seven-county region, at \$42,019 and \$48,154, respectively. Dolores, Montezuma, Ouray and San Miguel counties have a concentration of their respective populations situated in the

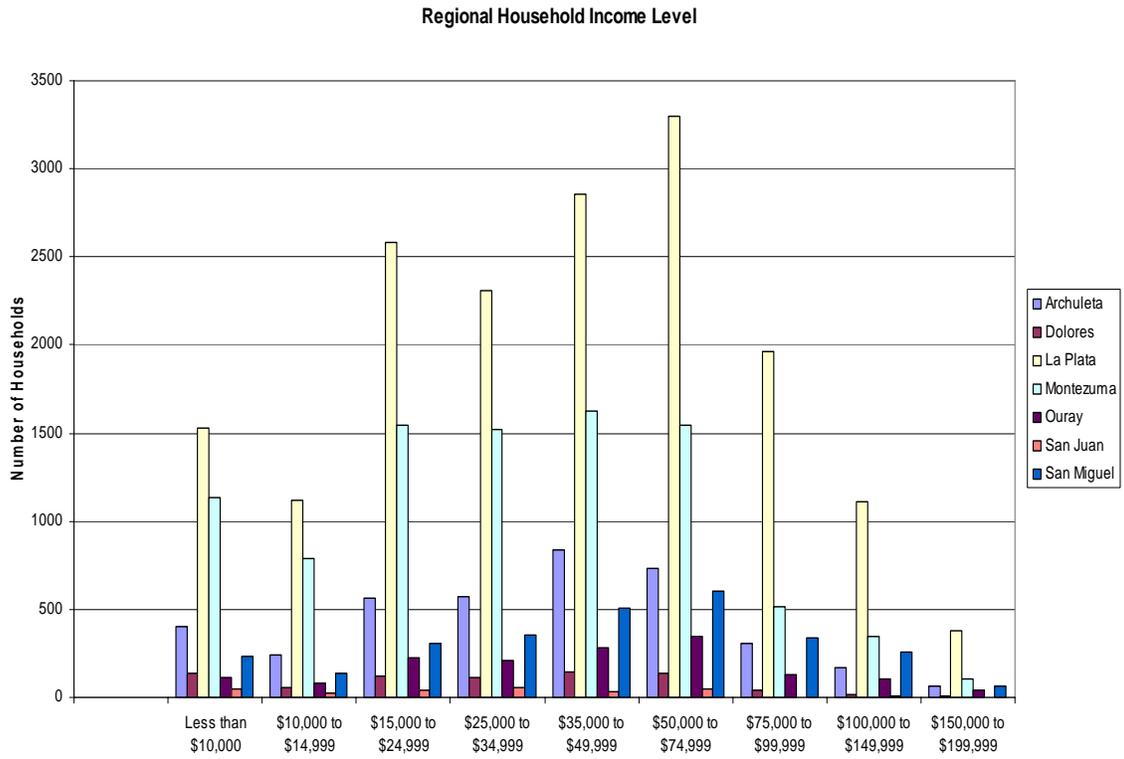
\$35,000-\$49,999 and \$50,000-74,999 income brackets. In Dolores County, roughly 37% of the county’s population falls into one of the two income ranges. Likewise in Montezuma County, 35% falls into the same income range(s). Ouray and San Miguel counties have 40% and 38%, respectively in the \$35,000-74,999 income range.

Table 2.4: Household Income in Southwestern Colorado, by Income Range.

	Archuleta		Dolores		La Plata		Montezuma		Ouray		San Juan		San Miguel	
Income by Household	3,989		783		17,346		9,212		1,577		269		3,010	
Less than \$10,000	403	10.1%	134	17.1%	1,525	8.8%	1,137	12.3%	115	7.3%	47	17.5%	230	7.6%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	245	6.1%	58	7.4%	1,121	6.5%	790	8.6%	83	5.3%	24	8.9%	134	4.5%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	563	14.1%	118	15.1%	2,584	14.9%	1,544	16.8%	224	14.2%	41	15.2%	307	10.2%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	573	14.4%	115	14.7%	2,311	13.3%	1,520	16.5%	210	13.3%	60	22.3%	352	11.7%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	839	21.0%	147	18.8%	2,858	16.5%	1,628	17.7%	278	17.6%	31	11.5%	504	16.7%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	729	18.3%	139	17.8%	3,302	19.0%	1,543	16.7%	344	21.8%	51	19.0%	607	20.2%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	306	7.7%	42	5.4%	1,762	10.2%	513	5.6%	132	8.4%	3	1.1%	340	11.3%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	165	4.1%	14	1.8%	1,111	6.4%	342	3.7%	103	6.5%	9	3.3%	261	8.7%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	63	1.6%	7	0.9%	379	2.2%	102	1.1%	40	2.5%	3	1.1%	67	2.2%
\$200,000 or more	103	2.6%	9	1.1%	393	2.3%	93	1.0%	48	3.0%	0	0.0%	208	6.9%
Median household income	\$ 37,901		\$ 32,196		\$ 40,159		\$ 32,083		\$ 42,019		\$ 30,764		\$ 48,514	

According to 1999 income distribution data, Ouray is the wealthiest of the seven counties, with 40% of households in the county reporting incomes between \$35,000 and \$74,999. Whereas San Juan County lists the majority of their household incomes in the \$25,000-\$34,900 and below. Further, San Juan and Dolores counties each have 17% of their total households in the “less than \$10,000 income range”, while Archuleta, La Plata, Montezuma, Ouray and San Juan counties each have at least 14% of their total county population in the \$15,000-\$24,999 income range. When analyzed in the aggregate, the majority of the entire region’s population is concentrated generally in the \$15,000-\$74,999 income range. Other than La Plata and San Miguel counties, where residents report at least 10% population concentration in the \$75,000 to \$99,999 income range, (10 and 11 percent respectively), all other counties of the region list single digit percentages for population in income brackets above \$75,000. For a graphic presentation of the region’s 2000 population by income level, please refer to Appendix C at the end of this report.

Figure 2.3: Number of Households in Population within Income Ranges, by County.



SECTION III: REGIONAL PROFILE: EDUCATION

Educational Attainment

On average, the residents of the seven counties in Southwestern Colorado are generally well educated. More than 90 percent of the residents of La Plata, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel counties hold a high school diploma or higher; the proportion of residents in these counties with a baccalaureate degree or higher is greater than the proportion of state of Colorado with similar academic credentials. Dolores County and Montezuma County, in contrast, have the lowest proportions of high school and college graduates among the counties in the southwest.

San Juan, Ouray and La Plata counties have the highest proportions of residents possessing a graduate or professional degree: 16% in San Juan County, 13% in Ouray County and 12% in La Plata County. Dolores County lists the smallest percentage of residents with a graduate or professional degree (3%).

Current educational attainment data suggest that the concentration of formal, postsecondary degrees are situated in La Plata, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel counties, and to some extent, Archuleta County. The numbers also suggest that Dolores County has the lowest percentages, across all categories, of educational attainment, including high school graduates, and graduates of 2 year programs, four year colleges/universities and graduate and professional degrees.

Table 3.1: Population by Educational Attainment Level, 2000

Educational Attainment	Archuleta		Dolores		La Plata		Montezuma		Ouray		San Juan		San Miguel	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	1,829	26.8%	440	33.3%	6,462	23.1%	5,129	33.1%	591	21.6%	62	14.5%	717	15.1%
Associate degree	356	5.2%	69	5.2%	1,700	6.1%	813	5.2%	181	6.6%	15	3.5%	217	4.6%
Bachelor's degree	1,331	19.5%	133	10.1%	6,788	24.3%	1,938	12.5%	644	23.5%	118	27.6%	1,741	36.6%
Graduate or professional degree	648	9.5%	46	3.5%	3,382	12.1%	1,312	8.5%	366	13.4%	69	16.1%	567	11.9%
Percent high school graduate or higher	87.3%		76.0%		91.4%		81.1%		93.4%		92.1%		93.6%	
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	29.0%		13.5%		36.4%		21.0%		36.8%		43.7%		48.5%	

Source of Data: US Census Bureau.

K-12 School Enrollment

In 2000, Archuleta, Dolores and San Juan counties had the highest proportions of residents enrolled in high school at 29%, 31% and 36%, respectively. 2000 census data further demonstrate high numbers of enrolled college/graduate students in La Plata (36%), although this percentage is skewed by the fact that Fort Lewis College is situated in the County. San Juan and San Miguel counties each had over 10% of their total population enrolled in college or graduate school in 2000.

In 2000, each county in the region had at least 35% of its total population enrolled in elementary school. Archuleta County had the highest percentage of total population enrolled in elementary school (53%). However, Montezuma, Dolores, Ouray and San Miguel counties all had at least 50% of their populations enrolled in elementary schools. Although not as high, San Juan and La Plata counties still had 40% and 35% of their total populations enrolled in elementary school.

Table 3.2: Population by School Enrollment, 2000

	Archuleta		Dolores		La Plata		Montezuma	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	2,222		365		13,191		5,872	
Nursery school, preschool	106	4.8%	20	5.5%	681	5.2%	360	6.1%
Kindergarten	152	6.8%	15	4.1%	553	4.2%	357	6.1%
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	1,172	52.7%	182	49.9%	4,594	34.8%	2,934	50.0%
High school (grades 9-12)	651	29.3%	115	31.5%	2,631	19.9%	1,498	25.5%
College or graduate school	141	6.3%	33	9.0%	4,732	35.9%	723	12.3%
	Ouray		San Juan		San Miguel			
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	779		111		1,155			
Nursery school, preschool	59	7.6%	9	8.1%	100	8.7%		
Kindergarten	43	5.5%	3	2.7%	50	4.3%		
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	400	51.3%	45	40.5%	565	48.9%		
High school (grades 9-12)	221	28.4%	40	36.0%	258	22.3%		
College or graduate school	56	7.2%	14	12.6%	182	15.8%		

Source of Data: US Census Bureau.

Turning to the data in Table 3.3, it is noteworthy that, with the exceptions of Montezuma-Cortez RE-1 and Silverton 1, all school districts in the region enjoyed graduation rates at or above the state average (82.5% in 2004). College matriculation rates, however, were generally well below the state average (63.1%). This could be due to the fact that many students in the region attend colleges outside of Colorado or enroll at SJBTC and therefore are not counted in the state's postsecondary data system. Nevertheless, turning to the need for remedial education among those students who did enroll in state institutions, students from three of the four school districts for which remedial data were reportable were assessed for remediation at rates well above the state average (29.6%)

Table 3.3: Current High School Enrollment and Graduation Rates

School District Name	Graduation Number	Graduation Rate	Matriculation to College	Matriculation Rate	Remediation Rate
Archuleta County 50JT	121	87.10%	46	38.02%	50.00%
Dolores County RE No. 2	24	92.30%	10	41.67%	n/a
Durango 9-R	312	83.20%	131	41.99%	36.64%
Bayfield 10 JT-R	96	82.10%	37	38.54%	48.65%
Ignacio 11 JT	66	82.50%	17	25.76%	n/a
Montezuma-Cortez RE-1	176	54.20%	53	30.11%	28.30%
Dolores RE-4A	45	95.70%	20	44.44%	n/a
Mancos RE-6	39	85.80%	7	17.95%	n/a
Ouray R-1	8	88.90%	5	62.50%	n/a
Ridgeway R-2	15	88.20%	12	80.00%	n/a
Silverton 1	6	75.00%	3	50.00%	n/a
Telluride R-1	37	100.00%	11	29.73%	n/a
Norwood R-2J	20	87.00%	11	55.00%	n/a
State Average	44,773	82.50%	28,268	63.14%	29.60%

Sources: Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Commission on Higher Education

Matriculation to College

The data in tables 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6 shows where the recent graduates of high schools in the Southwest region are attending college or university. This data only includes public institutions in the state of Colorado and statistics from San Juan College in Farmington, NM, which is the closest out of state institution that residents of the area attend in significant numbers. There is no information available on private schools that students from the region may be enrolled in, either in Colorado or other states. Public institutions from other states are also not included in these figures.

Table 3.4: Total Enrollment at Colorado Colleges and Universities for All Graduates of Southwestern Colorado High Schools, Fall 2005.

Institution	Count from SW H.S.
Adams State College	35
Aims Community College	4
Arapahoe Community College	13
Colorado Mountain College	16
Colorado Northwestern Community College	13
Colorado State University - Pueblo	9
Community College of Aurora	14
Community College of Denver	10
Denver University	15
Fort Lewis College	20
Front Range Community College	40
Lamar Community College	2
Mesa State College	170
Morgan Community College	3
Northeastern Junior College	13
Otero Junior College	4
Pikes Peak Community College	21
Pueblo Community College	282
Red Rocks Community College	21
Trinidad State Junior College	11
University of Colorado - Boulder	83
University of Colorado - Colorado Springs	25
University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center	7
University of Northern Colorado	66
Total	897

Table 3.4 encompasses graduates from Southwestern regional high schools that are currently enrolled in Colorado public institutions either as an undergraduate or graduate student, the data was attained through enrollment files of the institutions and is subject to high schools submitting the information voluntarily, so this information should not be viewed as comprehensive.

Table 3.5: Four-year (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005) Enrollment Trends Among Colorado Residents at San Juan College (Farmington, NM), by City of Residence.

Colorado City of Residence	Year			
	2002	2003	2004	2005
Durango	62	81	101	87
Cortez	21	23	39	30
Ignacio	25	29	25	21
Hesperus	21	19	14	21
Dolores	5	6	7	5
Other	59	75	103	94
Total	193	233	289	258

Data from San Juan College, Farmington, NM

Tables 3.5 and 3.6 illustrate the number of students from Colorado attending San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico, the closest out of state college in the region. Table 3.5 shows the breakdown of Colorado students by city of residence. Table 3.6 shows the majors that Colorado residents are enrolled in at San Juan. The total of Colorado students attending San Juan College in table 3.5 and table 3.6 is different because the data was collected at two different periods in the year.

Figure 3.6: Three-year (2003, 2004, 2005) Enrollment Trends Among Colorado Residents at San Juan College (Farmington, NM), by Major.

Colorado Residents Enrolled at San Juan College (NM)		FA 2004	FA 2005	FA 2006
MAJOR		Total	Total	Total
ACCT	Accounting	2	2	4
AOAP	Administrative Office Assistant Program	1	1	1
ASEP	Auto Service Educ Program	7	5	10
AUBO	Auto Body	3	2	3
AUTE	Auto Technology	3	5	3
AVIA	Aviation	7	4	2
AWTP	Advanced Water Treatment	3	2	
BADM	Business Administration	13	12	8
BIOL	Biology	1	1	
CAAT	Creative Arts and Technologies	2	2	2
CAPP	DaimlerChrysler College Automotive Program	4	6	5
CARP	Carpentry	2	1	1
COMP	Natural Gas Compression		3	
CONT	Controls Technology	3	4	
COSC	Computer Science	2	6	7
COSM	Cosmetology		2	5
DHYG	Dental Hygiene	4	7	1
DIME	Diesel Mechanics	9	3	1
DRFT	Drafting	7	4	6
ECED	Early Childhood Ed	13	8	7
EDUC	Education	1	2	4
ENGR	Engineering	2	4	3
FIRE	Fire Science		5	5
GEOL	Geology	1	1	1
GNST	General Studies		2	9
GSCI	General Science	1		
HIST	History	1		
HITP	Health Information Technology	7	8	6
HMSV	Human Services	4	3	5
INWT	Industrial Water Treatment	1		
INST	Instrumentation		1	5
IPOP	Industrial Process Operator			1
ITCT	Information Technology Certification			1
LBAS	Asso of Arts - Liberal Arts	52	38	79
LEAS	Legal Assistant	2	1	
MASH	Machine Shop	1	1	1
MEAD	Medical Administrative Assistant	1		
MTRN	Medical Transcription		1	
MUSI	Music	1		
NURS	Nursing	11	14	11
NWTE	Network Technology	1	1	
OLER	Outdoor Leadership		1	
PACE	Professional Airline Career Enhancement		1	1
PDHY	PreDental Hygiene	1	2	4
PENG	Pre Engineering	2	2	
PHYS	Physics			1
PMED	Pre Medical	5	3	1
PNUR	Pre-Nursing	4	7	13
POLI	Police Proficiency		1	
PPFA	PrePhysical Therapy			2
PSYC	Psychology		2	
REES	Real Estate		1	1
RENG	Renewable Energy	6	2	4
TTEN	Toyota Tec Educational Network	12	11	16
UNCL	Unclassified	132	130	34
VEIT	Vet Tech			1
WELD	Welding	3	1	2
Grand Total		338	326	277

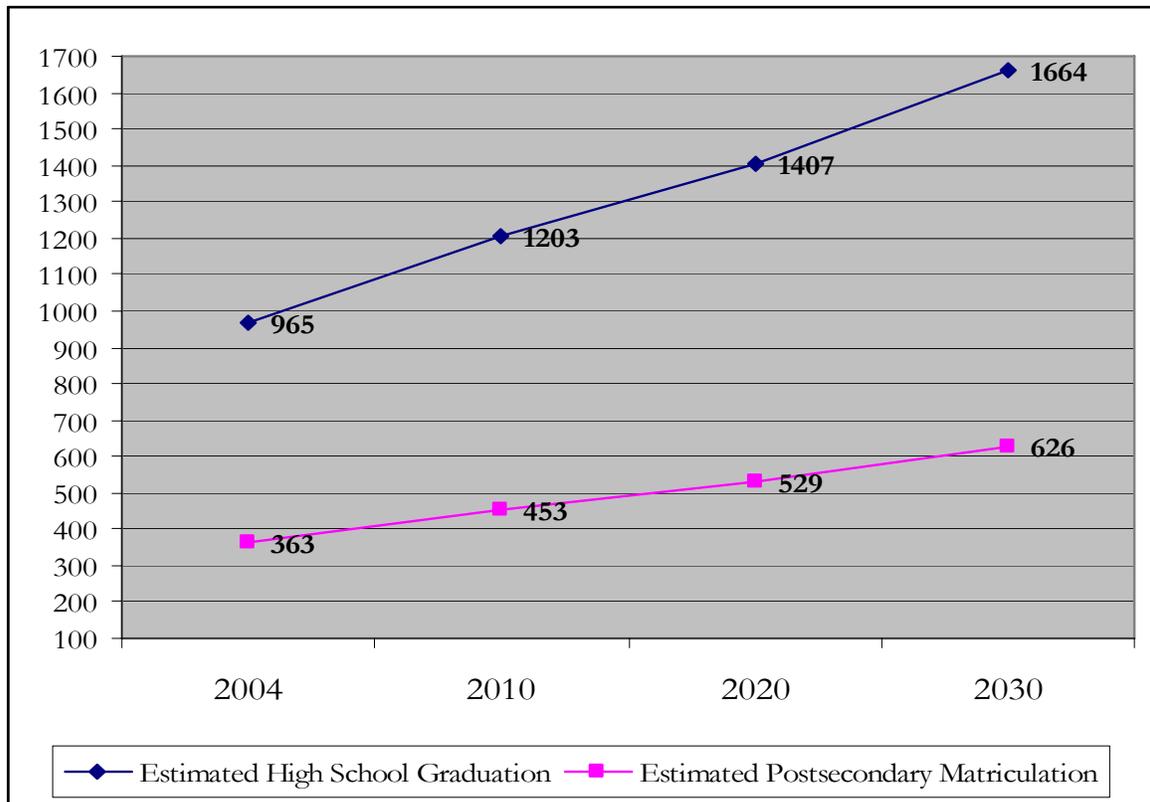
Source: New Mexico Higher Education Department

Projected high school enrollment and graduation rates

Projecting the number of high school graduates is a very difficult task, even more so for small school districts. Even so, in the following tables we have attempted to provide a few statistical glimpses of projections of statistics concerning high school graduation and college matriculation rates.

By comparing data collected by the United States Census, the Colorado Department of Education, and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, data in figure 3.1 projects estimated numbers of students who might graduate from high school and matriculate to college. The trends presented in this figure generally mirror growth rates presented elsewhere in this paper. The exception is the projected change in college matriculation. Though linear and positive, the projected number of students who matriculate to college is modest as a result of the traditionally lower than average matriculation rate among graduates of high schools in the southwestern section of the state.

Figure 3.1: Proxy Estimates of Growth Among High School Graduates and Postsecondary Matriculation Based Upon 2004 Actual Enrollment Figures and U.S. Census Actual Data (2000) and Projections (2010, 2020, & 2030).



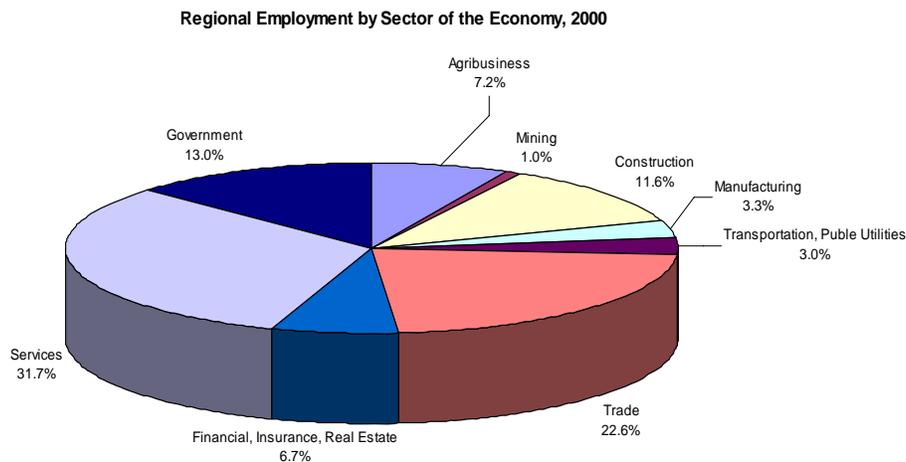
SECTION IV: REGIONAL PROFILE: ECONOMIC FOUNDATION AND OUTLOOK

Current Economic Foundation

The following section describes the current and projected economic profile of Southwestern Colorado. Data for this section were collected from the Colorado Department of Labor and Economics, the U.S. Census, and the New Mexico Department of Labor.

Figure 4.1 below provides a general description of number of jobs in the region by the major components of Southwestern Colorado's economy. Like other destination locations in the state, the principal types of employment in the region are in Services and Trade (retail sales). Together, these two sectors comprise more than 54 percent of the region's jobs. Government, Construction, and Agribusiness are the next three largest economic sectors with regard to jobs.

Figure 4.1: Regional Employment (Actual) in Southwestern Colorado, 2000.



Data in Table 4.1 illustrate the changes in the numbers of jobs, by sector that occurred between 1999 and 2004. With regard to rate of change in the production of jobs, the fastest growing sectors in the region's economy were in Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation; Wholesale Trade; Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing, and Transportation and Warehousing. Deceleration in job production most affected

Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Agriculture Support; Unclassified Establishments; Educational Services; Manufacturing; and Utilities.

Turing to growth and decline in the total number of jobs, the sectors with the largest jobs production were in Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (+538), Health and Social Assistance (+407), Construction (+320), and Retail Trade (+287). The fastest declining sectors were Manufacturing (-641), Educational Services (-92), and Unclassified Establishments (-51) and Forestry, Fishing, Hunting and Agriculture Support (-51).

Table 4.1: Changes in Job Production in Southwestern Colorado, 1999 – 2004.

Industry Code Description	Number of Employees for week including March 12			
	1999	2004	Change #	Change %
Arts, entertainment & recreation	909	1,447	538	59.19%
Wholesale trade	740	1,005	265	35.81%
Real estate & rental & leasing	748	939	191	25.53%
Transportation & warehousing	368	430	62	16.85%
Admin, support, waste mgt, remediation services	860	981	121	14.07%
Information	555	627	72	12.97%
Health care and social assistance	3,361	3,768	407	12.11%
Professional, scientific & technical services	1,407	1,556	149	10.59%
Other services (except public administration)	1,178	1,286	108	9.17%
Construction	3,648	3,968	320	8.77%
Retail trade	5,417	5,704	287	5.30%
Finance & insurance	941	990	49	5.21%
Accommodation & food services	6,911	6,988	77	1.11%
Mining	327	329	2	0.61%
Utilities	254	213	(41)	-16.14%
Manufacturing	1,808	1,167	(641)	-35.45%
Educational services	196	104	(92)	-46.94%
Unclassified establishments	61	10	(51)	-83.61%
Forestry, fishing, hunting, and agriculture support	51	-	(51)	-100.00%
Total	29,740	31,512	1,772	5.96%

Source: U.S. Census

Finally, projections on the production of jobs for Southwestern Colorado are not available, as such projections are made for recognized Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) only. The closest MSA to Southwestern Colorado is the Farmington, New Mexico MSA, which covers the counties directly south of Montezuma, La Plata, and Archuleta counties in Colorado. Economic projections of the Farmington MSA provide a proxy for changes that may take place in Southwestern Colorado.

Percentage changes in the projected production of jobs in the Farmington MSA suggest that fast changing economic sectors will be Computer and Mathematics Occupations (+31.8%), Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (+29.3%), and Community and Social Services Occupations (+28.6%). Regarding projected growth of the total number of jobs in the region, fast growing sectors in the Farmington MSA mirror those in Table 4.1 for Southwestern Colorado—Food Preparation and Serving

Related Occupations (+990), Sales and Related Occupations (+780), Education, Training, and Library Occupations (+780), and Construction and Extraction (+640).

Table 4.2: Farmington MSA Economic Projections, 2002 – 2012.

Occupational Category	Farmington MSA			
	2002	2012	Change #	Change %
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	730	770	40	5.50
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	410	470	60	14.60
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	1,630	1,890	260	16.00
Business and Financial Operations	1,060	1,250	190	17.90
Community and Social Services Occupations	490	630	140	28.60
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	440	580	140	31.80
Construction and Extraction Occupations	5,860	6,500	640	10.90
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	2,850	3,630	780	27.40
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	--	--	--	--
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	4,560	5,550	990	21.70
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	2,220	2,870	650	29.30
Healthcare Support Occupations	1,050	1,340	290	27.60
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	2,970	3,340	370	12.50
Legal Occupations	210	240	30	14.30
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	360	420	60	16.70
Management Occupations	3,220	3,760	540	16.80
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	6,750	7,050	310	4.60
Personal Care and Service Occupations	1,130	1,410	280	24.80
Production Occupations	1,970	2,200	230	11.70
Protective Service Occupations	1,600	2,010	410	25.60
Sales and Related Occupations	4,690	5,470	780	16.60
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	3,650	4,080	430	11.80

Source: New Mexico Department of Labor

SECTION V: PROJECTED POSTSECONDARY NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Projected needs for postsecondary educational services

Southwestern Colorado's educational needs can be anticipated to some certainty based on existing and projected demographic, economic, and postsecondary enrollment data. Section III of this report on regional graduation and matriculation estimates (Figure 3.1) used data from the US Census, the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to project the increase in the number of high school graduates and students matriculating to postsecondary educational institutions from the Southwest region. This data projects that in 2030, the region will be graduating 1664 students from high school and 626 will matriculate to postsecondary institutions. This is an increase of nearly 700 high school graduates and 263 students matriculating to postsecondary institutions in approximately 30 years. Regional population trends by age category (Figure 2.2) show that the fastest growing age group for the region will be the 35-64 age group, which is anticipated to double in population from just under 40,000 to a little over 80,000 people. The age category most associated with postsecondary education, is the 15-24 group (Table 2.2) will increase only slightly.

The graduation and matriculation rates viewed along with the projected population trends do not suggest that the region will have sufficient increase in population to justify the feasibility of an additional full-scale, postsecondary institution in the region. However, there is sufficient population to justify a continued postsecondary presence in the region.

Postsecondary needs in terms of course offerings can be projected by using economic data trends to anticipate the needs and requirements of jobs that will play an increasingly important role in the economy. As seen in Table 4.1 which illustrates the changes in the Southwestern Colorado regional economy from 1999-2004, the fastest growing jobs by sector were: Arts, entertainment, and recreation; wholesale trade; real-estate and rental; transportation and warehousing; admin, support, waste mgt, remediation services; information; health care and social assistance; professionals, scientific and technical; services; and construction. All of these job sectors listed had a growth rate of near 10% or higher. The chart also shows those sectors that experienced a decline from 1999 to 2004, such as forestry, fishing, hunting and agricultural support; educational services; and manufacturing. Table 4.2 shows the closest metropolitan statistical area projection for the Southwestern region of Colorado. The MSA of Farmington, NM projects that computer and mathematical occupations; health care; education, training and library occupations and community and social services occupations are expected to grow between 28% and 31% by 2012.

Recommendations

As a result of the analytical findings of this report, CCHE has developed recommendations for stakeholders to consider in order to best serve the educational needs of the region's population while meeting the growing changes both demographically and economically.

Based on projected population increase, high school matriculation and projected matriculation, and funding constraints, there is not sufficient growth to recommend the creation of a new stand-alone community college in the region.

However, CCHE believes that several changes can be made to the current system of postsecondary education opportunities within the region to better meet the existing demands of the population and to accommodate for future changes, ensuring that the region's population is offered viable choices for postsecondary education.

Recommendation 1:

Recommend that the Commission consider changing the service area of Pueblo Community College to allow PCC to provide its full course offerings at the Southwest Campus, Durango branch.

Recommendation 2:

Recommend that Ft. Lewis College consider relinquishing its two year mission over to Pueblo Community College.

Recommendation 3:

San Juan Basin Technical College should consider the transfer of its post secondary vocational technical mission to the Pueblo Community College Southwest Campus Cortez branch and concentrate on its K-12 vocational mission.

Implementing these three recommendations would serve the postsecondary needs of the region both currently and into the future in the most feasible manner. By allowing Pueblo Community College to change its service area and offer its full vocational and transfer program course offerings at the Southwest Campus, which includes the main teaching location in Durango, a site in Cortez, and course offerings throughout its service areas in southwest Colorado students would have the increased educational opportunities offered at one branch centrally located within the region. By using Pueblo Community College and not creating a new stand alone community college the region will save money and time that would be necessary in the accreditation and capital construction of a new institution. By already being accredited and having an established presence in the region, Pueblo Community College is in a unique position to expand its course offerings to help current students not just those in the future. Students of the region will have the opportunity to receive the full services that a community college can offer by leveraging the existing structure of the Pueblo Community College system.

Appendix A: Academic Programs at Postsecondary Institutions in Southwestern Colorado

a. Fort Lewis College Program Offerings:

Program	Degree Type	Award
Agricultural Science	Associate Degree (AA or AS)	A.A.
American Indian Studies	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Southwest Studies	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Computer Science Information Systems	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Spanish	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
English	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Interdisciplinary Studies	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Humanities	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Biology	Bachelor's Degree	B.S.
Mathematics	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Student Constructed Major	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Exercise Science	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Philosophy	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Chemistry	Bachelor's Degree	B.S.
Geology	Bachelor's Degree	B.S.
Physics	Bachelor's Degree	B.S.
Psychology	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Anthropology	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Economics	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Political Science	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Sociology & Human Sciences	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Theatre	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Art	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Music	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Business Administration	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
Accounting	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.
History	Bachelor's Degree	B.A.

Source of Data: SURDS; Data originated from institutions, and signed off as valid and accurate by said institutions.

b. San Juan Basin Area Vocational College Program Offerings:

Program	Degree Type	Award
Agricultural Records & Business Planning	Certificate	C
Agricultural Financial Management	Certificate	C
Agricultural Marketing & Risk Management	Certificate	C
Accounting	Certificate	C
Business Fundamentals	Certificate	C
Administrative Assistant	Certificate	C
Business Software User Specialist	Certificate	C
Digital Design Technology	Certificate	C
Executive Assistant	Certificate	C
Computer Information Systems	Certificate	C
Internet Service Provider Technician	Certificate	C
Practical Nursing	Certificate	C
Practical Nursing	Associate of Applied Science	A.A.S.
Emergency Medical Technician	Certificate	C
Emergency Medical Technician	Associate of Applied Science	A.A.S.
Certified Nursing Aide	Certificate	C
Med-Prep	Certificate	C
Health Unit Clerk	Certificate	C
Post-PN IV Therapy	Certificate	C
First Aid/CPR	Certificate	C
First Responder	Certificate	C
Automotive Technology	Certificate	C
Automotive Technology	Associate of Applied Science	A.A.S.
Broadcast Media	Certificate	C
Construction Technology	Certificate	C
Diesel & Heavy Equipment	Certificate	C
Diesel & Heavy Equipment	Associate of Applied Science	A.A.S.
Diesel Product Specialist	Certificate	C
Diesel Product Specialist	Associate of Applied Science	A.A.S.
Electronics Technology	Certificate	C
Cisco Networking	Certificate	C
Fire Science Technology	Certificate	C
Fire Science Technology	Associate of Applied Science	A.A.S.
Industrial Mechanics Technology	Certificate	C
Commercial Trucking Program	Certificate	C
Welding Technology	Certificate	C

Source: SJBTC course catalog.

Appendix B: Population Data

a. Total Population, Actual and Projections, By County

	2000	2010	2020	2030
Colorado	4,301,261	5,131,089	6,009,699	6,911,154
Archuleta	9,898	14,248	18,939	23,295
Dolores	1,844	2,038	2,350	2,703
La Plata	43,941	54,664	62,868	71,041
Montezuma	23,830	28,254	33,870	38,951
Ouray	3,752	4,792	6,711	7,024
San Juan	558	651	768	868
San Miguel	6,666	8,674	11,120	13,501
Region Total	90,489	113,321	136,626	157,382

Source of Data: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Historic Census Population; US Census Bureau.

b. Total Population by Age, Actual and Projections, By County.

	2000	2010	2020	2030
Archuleta				
0-4	530	774	1,110	1,488
5-14	1,476	1,730	2,416	3,336
15-24	1,157	1,842	2,271	3,143
25-34	940	1,988	2,855	3,698
35-64	4,733	5,818	7,801	22,106
65 & Over	1,191	1,956	3,093	4,086
Dolores				
0-4	92	126	155	178
5-14	234	248	318	370
15-24	204	250	281	340
25-34	200	259	308	334
35-64	798	846	952	1,090
65 & Over	316	295	336	380
La Plata				
0-4	2,247	3,054	3,557	4,056
5-14	5,788	6,323	8,196	9,151
15-24	8,223	8,101	9,079	10,674
25-34	5,637	7,555	8,208	8,959
35-64	18,495	23,623	28,662	33,212
65 & Over	4,180	6,181	10,911	14,921
Montezuma				
0-4	1,638	1,787	2,265	2,550
5-14	3,709	3,767	4,561	5,386

15-24	2,892	3,771	4,133	4,826
25-34	2,652	3,351	4,504	4,767
35-64	9,664	10,823	15,059	15,017
65 & Over	3,308	4,077	5,695	7,107
Ouray				
0-4	180	217	367	332
5-14	514	541	802	819
15-24	302	645	778	814
25-34	371	550	1,091	817
35-64	1,944	2,191	2,757	3,224
65 & Over	457	671	936	1,039
San Juan				
0-4	26	30	40	40
5-14	57	64	78	82
15-24	53	56	71	78
25-34	66	60	73	78
35-64	317	316	252	250
65 & Over	39	76	143	133
San Miguel				
0-4	299	495	583	748
5-14	654	947	1,347	1,603
15-24	878	833	1,200	1,568
25-34	1,574	1,213	1,323	1,668
35-64	3,035	6,404	5,329	6,066
65 & Over	223	529	2,788	1,693

Source of Data: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, State Demography Office.

c. Population by County and Ethnicity, 2000.

County	Number	Percent
<i>Archuleta</i>		
White	8,743	88.3%
Black or African American	35	0.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	139	1.0%
Asian	31	0.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	3	0.0%
Hispanic or Latino	1,659	16.8%
Other	690	7.0%
<i>Dolores</i>		
White	1,757	95.3%
Black or African American	1	0.1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	36	2.0%
Asian	7	0.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino	71	3.9%

Other	11	0.6%
<i>La Plata</i>		
White	38,364	87.3%
Black or African American	136	0.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2,539	5.8%
Asian	177	0.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	24	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino	4,571	10.4%
Other	1,712	3.9%
<i>Montezuma</i>		
White	19,474	81.7%
Black or African American	33	0.1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2,676	11.2%
Asian	48	0.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	15	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino	2,263	9.5%
Other	1,016	4.3%
<i>Ouray</i>		
White	3,605	96.3%
Black or African American	3	0.1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	35	0.9%
Asian	13	0.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	2	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino	152	4.1%
Other	20	0.5%
<i>San Juan</i>		
White	542	97.1%
Black or African American	0	0.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	0.7%
Asian	1	0.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	2	0.4%
Hispanic or Latino	41	7.3%
Other	4	0.7%
<i>San Miguel</i>		
White	6,170	93.6%
Black or African American	19	0.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	56	0.8%
Asian	49	0.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	5	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino	439	6.7%
Other	222	3.4%

Source of Data: US Census Bureau.

Appendix C: Income and Educational Attainment Data

a. Household Income by County and Level, 1999

	Archuleta		Dolores		La Plata		Montezuma	
Income by Household	3,989	100%	783	100%	17,346	100%	9,212	100%
Less than \$10,000	403	10.10%	134	17.10%	1,525	8.80%	1,137	12.30%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	245	6.10%	58	7.40%	1,121	6.50%	790	8.60%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	563	14.10%	118	15.10%	2,584	14.90%	1,544	16.80%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	573	14.40%	115	14.70%	2,311	13.30%	1,520	16.50%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	839	21%	147	18.80%	2,858	16.50%	1,628	17.70%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	729	18.30%	139	17.80%	3,302	19%	1,543	16.70%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	306	7.70%	42	5.40%	1,762	10.20%	513	5.60%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	165	4.10%	14	1.80%	1,111	6.40%	342	3.70%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	63	1.60%	7	0.90%	379	2.20%	102	1.10%
\$200,000 or more	103	2.60%	9	1.10%	393	2.30%	93	1%
Median household income (dollars)	37,901		32,196		40,159		32,083	

	Ouray		San Juan		San Miguel	
Income by Household	1,577	100%	269	100%	3,010	100%
Less than \$10,000	115	7.30%	47	17.50%	230	7.60%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	83	5.30%	24	8.90%	134	4.50%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	224	14.20%	41	15.20%	307	10.20%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	210	13.30%	60	22.30%	352	11.70%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	278	17.60%	31	11.50%	504	16.70%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	344	21.80%	51	19%	607	20.20%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	132	8.40%	3	1.10%	340	11.30%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	103	6.50%	9	3.30%	261	8.70%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	40	2.50%	3	1.10%	67	2.20%
\$200,000 or more	48	3%	0	0%	208	6.90%
Median household income (dollars)	42,019		30,764		48,514	

Source of Data: US Census Bureau.

b. Population by County, School Enrollment, and Educational Attainment Level, 2000.

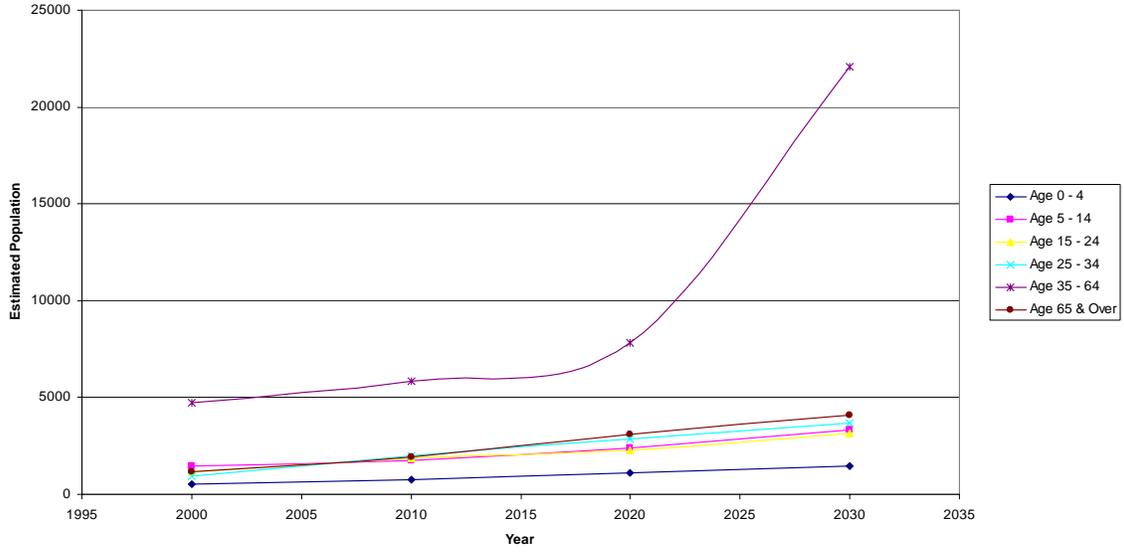
	Archuleta		Dolores		La Plata		Montezuma	
School Enrollment								
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	2,222	100%	365	100%	13,191	100%	5,872	100%
Nursery school, preschool	106	4.80%	20	5.50%	681	5.20%	360	6.10%
Kindergarten	152	6.80%	15	4.10%	553	4.20%	357	6.10%
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	1,172	52.70%	182	49.90%	4,594	34.80%	2,934	50%
High school (grades 9-12)	651	29.30%	115	31.50%	2,631	19.90%	1,498	25.50%
College or graduate school	141	6.30%	33	9%	4,732	35.90%	723	12.30%
Educational Attainment								
Population 25 years and over	6,821	100%	1,323	100%	27,973	100%	15,512	100%
Less than 9th grade	256	3.80%	94	7.10%	793	2.80%	997	6.40%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	611	9%	223	16.90%	1,619	5.80%	1,932	12.50%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	1,829	26.80%	440	33.30%	6,462	23.10%	5,129	33.10%
Some college, no degree	1,790	26.20%	318	24%	7,229	25.80%	3,391	21.90%
Associate degree	356	5.20%	69	5.20%	1,700	6.10%	813	5.20%
Bachelor's degree	1,331	19.50%	133	10.10%	6,788	24.30%	1,938	12.50%
Graduate or professional degree	648	9.50%	46	3.50%	3,382	12.10%	1,312	8.50%
Percent high school graduate or higher	87.30%		76%		91.40%		81.10%	
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	29%		13.50%		36.40%		21%	

	Ouray		San Juan		San Miguel	
School Enrollment						
Population 3 years and over enrolled in school	5,872	100%	111	100%	1,155	100%
Nursery school, preschool	360	6.10%	9	8.10%	100	8.70%
Kindergarten	357	6.10%	3	2.70%	50	4.30%
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	2,934	50%	45	40.50%	565	48.90%
High school (grades 9-12)	1,498	25.50%	40	36%	258	22.30%
College or graduate school	723	12.30%	14	12.60%	182	15.80%
Educational Attainment						
Population 25 years and over	15,512	100%	428	100%	4,762	100%
Less than 9th grade	997	6.40%	10	2.30%	117	2.50%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	1,932	12.50%	24	5.60%	186	3.90%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	5,129	33.10%	62	14.50%	717	15.10%
Some college, no degree	3,391	21.90%	130	30.40%	1,217	25.60%
Associate degree	813	5.20%	15	3.50%	217	4.60%
Bachelor's degree	1,938	12.50%	118	27.60%	1,741	36.60%
Graduate or professional degree	1,312	8.50%	69	16.10%	567	11.90%
Percent high school graduate or higher	81.10%		92.10%		93.60%	
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	21%		43.70%		48.50%	

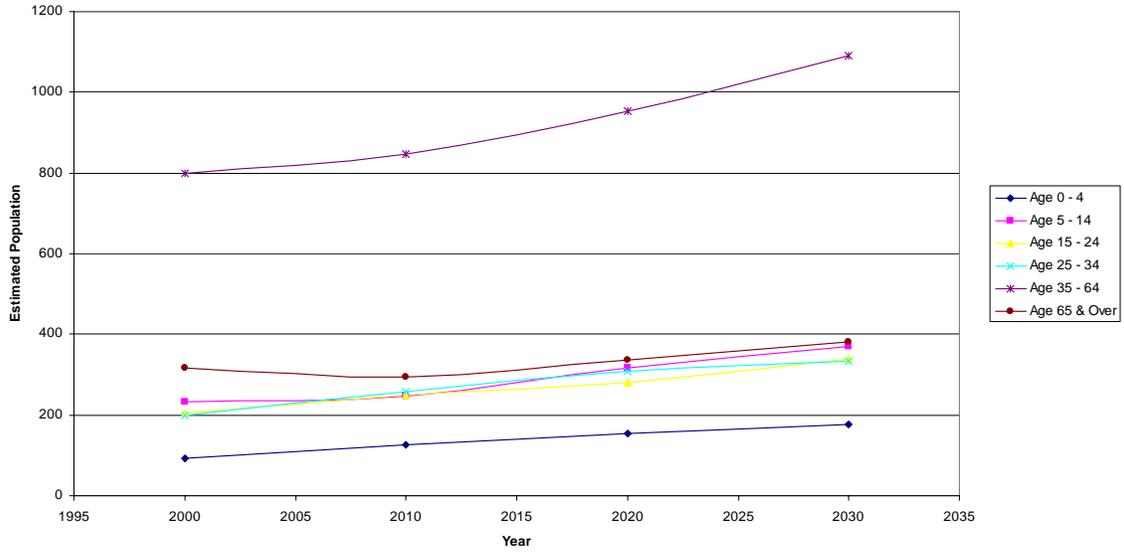
Source of Data: US Census Bureau.

Appendix D: Population Trends by County

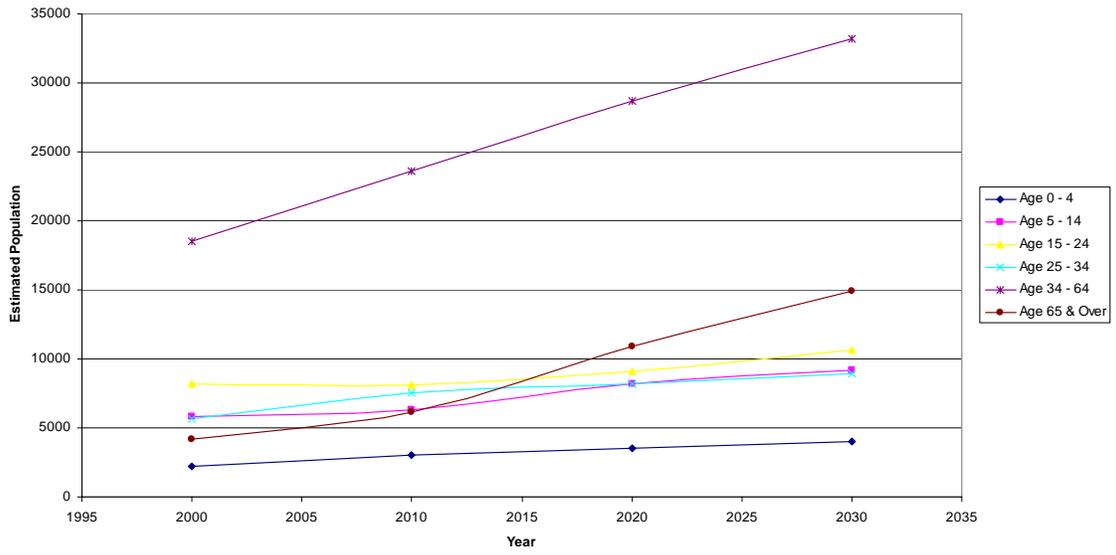
Achuleta County Population Projection by Age



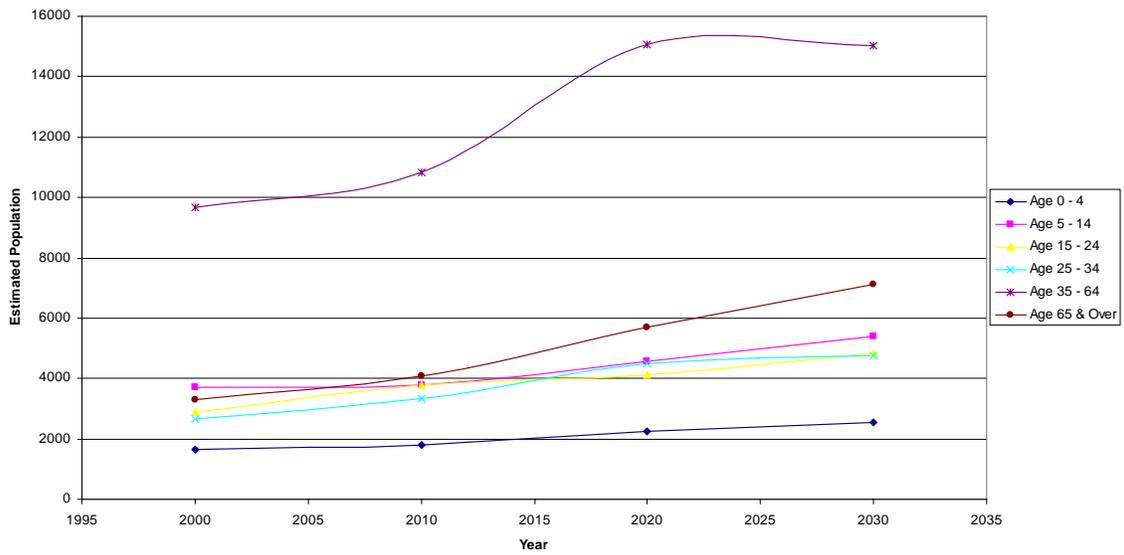
Dolores County Population Projection by Age



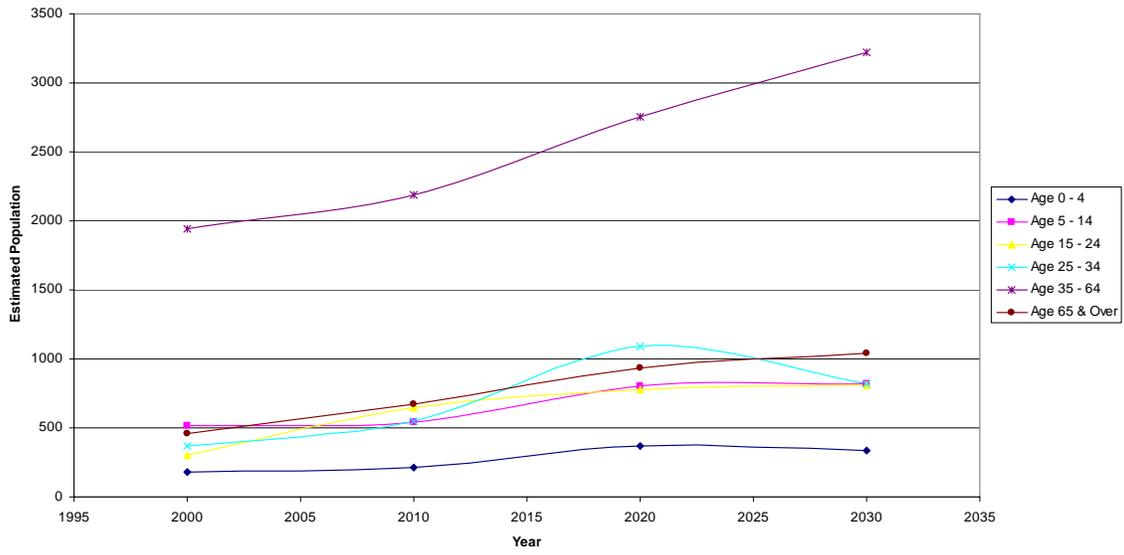
La Plata County Population Projection by Age



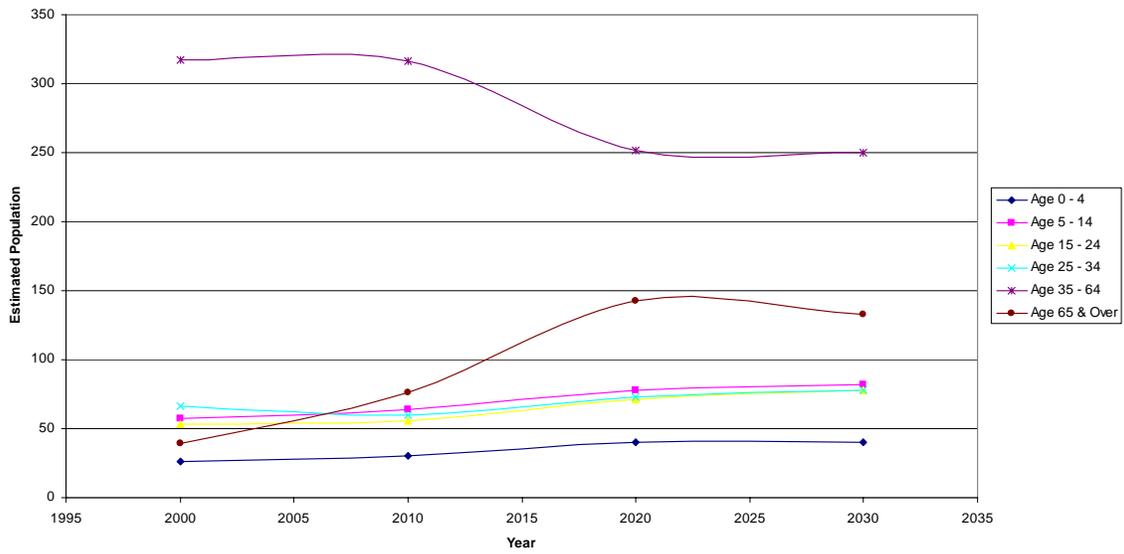
Montezuma County Population Projection by Age



Ouray County Population Projection by Age



San Juan County Population Projection by Age



San Miguel County Population Projection by Age

