



DIVERSE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES WITH EXPERT PERSONAL ATTENTION

Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees, Fort Lewis College offers a wide variety of majors, minors, certificates, and special academic programs. FLC is an institution with a focus on offering a transformative educational experience in a liberal arts environment with strong professional programs. Over the last decade, the College has added the following majors/degree programs: Master of Arts in Education, Adventure Education, Athletic Training, Marketing, Engineering, Environmental Studies, Native American and Indigenous Studies, Gender and Women’s Studies and Public Health.

FLC Faculty Fast Facts:

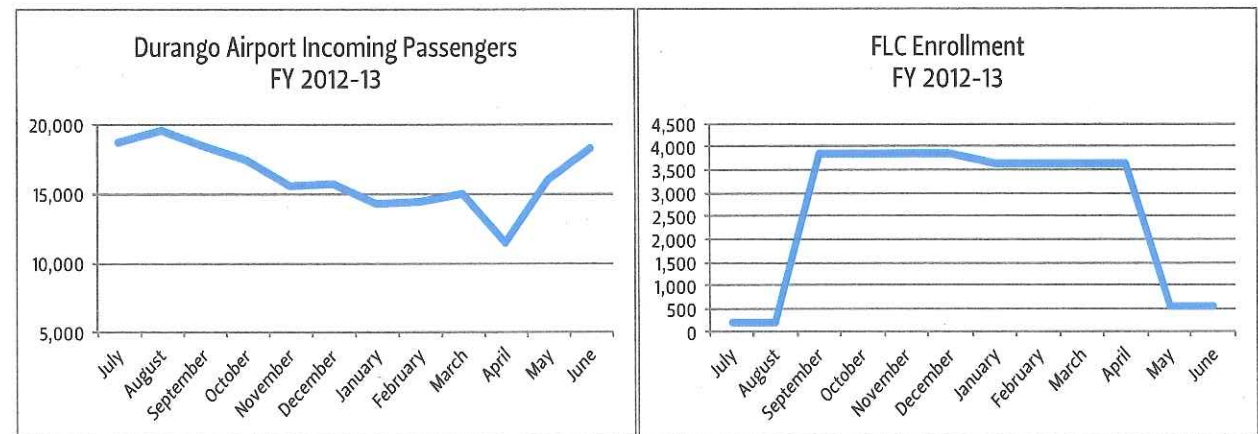
- Number of full time faculty: 167
- Number of part time faculty: 72
- Percentage of faculty who are women: 51%
- Tenured/tenure-track faculty with highest degree in discipline: 98%



FORT LEWIS COLLEGE’S ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTHWEST COLORADO

The economic impact of Fort Lewis College on southwest Colorado is substantial and diverse. Studies have shown a conservative estimate of the College’s impact on Durango and La Plata County to be in excess of \$150 million.

In addition to being the third largest employer in the region, the College offers stability to an economy heavily influenced by tourism. FLC students and employees work and spend year round, and College-hosted events bring visitors to this area continuously throughout the year.





FLC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S PROVEN EXCELLENCE

Since 1919, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB) has acted as an accrediting body for business schools worldwide. Schools earning this rigorous accreditation are considered to be among the best in the world. This honor is cast into clear focus when one considers that less than five percent of the business schools in the world achieve AACSB accreditation.

In addition to its own AACSB accreditation, the Fort Lewis College School of Business Administration holds the distinction of being the first undergraduate-only business school to be accredited by AACSB, illustrating the long history of trail blazing excellence at FLC.

COLORADO SCHOOLS WITH AACSB ACCREDITATION
Fort Lewis College
Colorado State University
Colorado State University-Pueblo
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
University of Colorado Denver
University of Denver
University of Northern Colorado
U.S. Air Force Academy

<http://www.aacsb.edu>



RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES NEAR THE TOP AMONG COLORADO REGIONALS

Fort Lewis College's graduation rates are among the highest in the state for regional institutions and the future looks promising. Particularly encouraging is a six percent increase in FLC's four-year graduation rate. The College's six-year graduation rate stands at 38 percent.

The graduation rate of Native American students has long been a challenge, though recent years have seen improvement for FLC Native American students. In fact, in just four years FLC's six-year graduation rate for Native American students grew by nearly 12 percentage points to 32 percent for the 2008 cohort. Though there is more work to be done, this improvement is encouraging given that Native American students typically come to FLC significantly less academically prepared than non-Native students.

If Native American students can earn a bachelor's degree, the positive effects are substantial. According to the National Center of Education Statistics, the 2012 unemployment rate for Native Americans with only a high school education was 16 percent. That rate fell to 5.2 percent for those with a bachelor's degree or higher, the largest improvement for any ethnic group.



KEEPING STUDENT DEBT TO A MINIMUM

Student debt is becoming an increasingly important issue that higher education must face. Fort Lewis College's tuition and fees are among the most affordable in Colorado. This is important to help those from low-income backgrounds afford a college education. FLC's most recent numbers show that approximately 47 percent of our students received need-based grants, loans, and/or work study. When looking specifically at FLC's Native American students, 88 percent have financial needs.

To help meet the needs of students, Fort Lewis College has doubled the amount it gives out in student scholarships, grants, and athletic awards over the last five years. The result of this and other efforts led to FLC's low median student-borrowing rate on the White House's College Scorecard. Perhaps most encouraging is the fact that Fort Lewis College's student loan default rate fell sharply for 2014-15 to approximately 7 percent.



A HISTORY OF TEACHING TEACHERS

Fort Lewis College maintains an active role in educating students to become highly qualified teachers to meet area demand in K-12 schools. **In fact, over 200 teachers have earned a bachelor's degree at FLC over the past five years.**

More and more elementary and secondary schools are hiring teachers to become instructional leaders or instructional coaches to help with an overall shift in education, says Richard Fulton, director of the FLC Teacher Education Department, and our Teacher Leadership program is supporting this movement to provide skills in instructional feedback, meeting facilitation, distributive leadership, student achievement analysis, assessment development, and interventions for struggling students.

In consultation with education providers, a master's degree program in teacher education leadership was launched in 2013. Many of the professionals going through this program will earn a master's degree that will lead to higher pay based on an additional professional degree. In fact teachers with master's degrees earn on average \$10,000 more annually than teachers with bachelor's degrees, providing a win for the classroom and a win for the teacher's earning power.



FLC TEAM EXCELS AT INTERCOLLEGIATE ETHICS BOWL

A team of students from Fort Lewis College competed in the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl in Boulder, CO, in November. This regional competition was the gateway to the national competition taking place in February 2015.

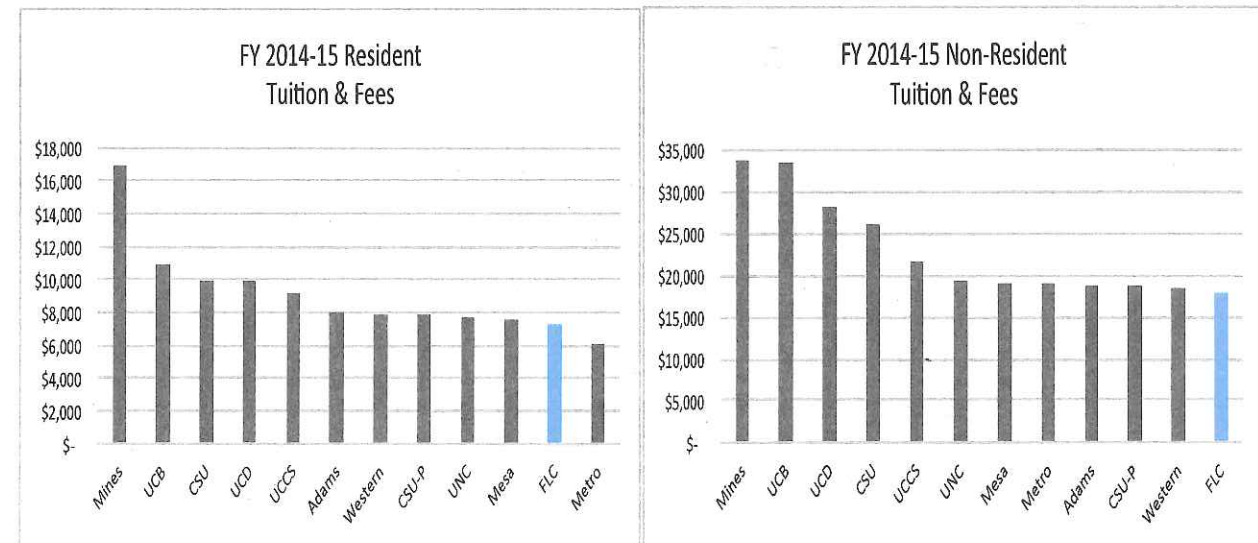
The FLC team was stellar, sweeping the first four rounds against Metropolitan State University of Denver, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, and the Air Force Academy. **Despite eventually dropping one round, the Fort Lewis College team was named, along with the University of Nebraska, as a regional winner of the competition.** The win punched the team's ticket to the national competition in California.

The students were coached by Mark Mastalski, director of the FLC Leadership Center, as well as by professors from the FLC Department of Philosophy.



AFFORDABLE TUITION AND FEES

In FY 2014-15, Fort Lewis College has the second lowest combined resident tuition and fees in the state when compared to other four-year institutions. **FLC also has the lowest non-resident tuition and fees among the same group of institutions.**

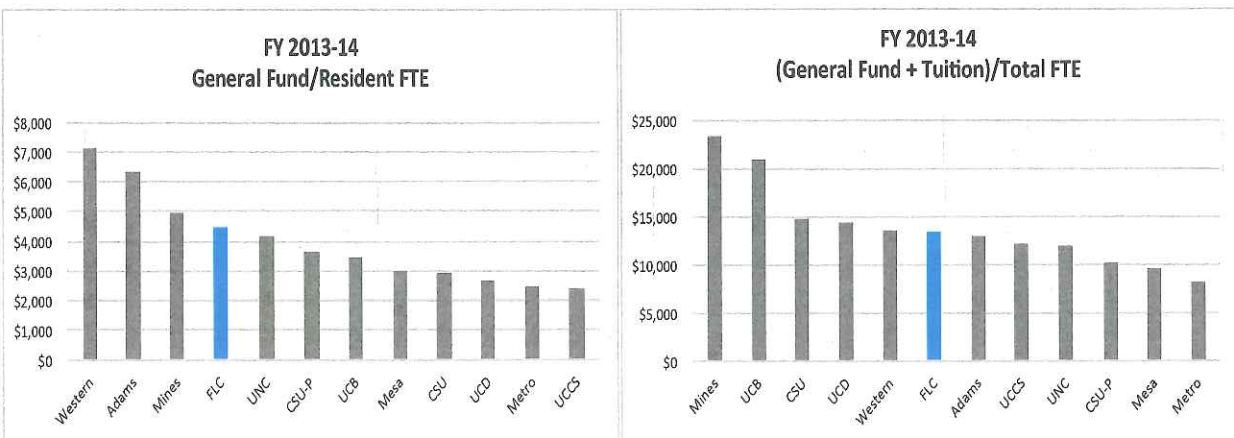




FORT LEWIS COLLEGE'S PLACE IN HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

Studies of comparative funding levels of Colorado's higher education institutions consistently show that Fort Lewis College is in the middle of the pack in terms of funding per FTE.

There exists a misperception that the FLC Native American Tuition Waiver program is somehow a windfall for Fort Lewis College. FLC's normal state funding (COF/FFS) was reduced years ago to account for the Native American appropriation. The charts below illustrate the fact that the College is not overfunded relative to other institutions in the state.



FLC CHEMISTRY STUDENT SHINES AGAINST NATION'S TOP UNIVERSITIES

Fort Lewis College student Ashlee Robison placed in the top five finishers at the American Chemical Society's Chemistry Champions Contest this summer. Her research is attempting to stem the honeybee die-offs that are happening across the globe.

Ashlee's research earned her a place among students from some of the most prestigious universities in the country. She was the only undergraduate in the top five finishers in the Chemistry Champions Contest, and the only top finisher from Colorado. She even beat out other grad students, including one from MIT, and a professor from Wingate University.

Chemistry Champions Contest Top Finishers

Jennifer Novotney, Cornell University (Graduate Student)
Alexis Shusterman, University of California at Berkeley (Graduate Student)
Geoff Dubrow, University of Minnesota (Graduate Student)
Tien Nguyen, Princeton University (Graduate Student)
Ashlee Robison, Fort Lewis College (Undergraduate Student)

Losing honeybees would be devastating to the world's food supply. A recent Yale Environment 360 report explained that approximately 25% of U.S. crops depend on honeybee pollination.



NEW FACILITIES MAKE A MAJOR IMPACT AT FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

The effect of a new building can be profound, for students, for academic programs, and for the institution as a whole. Fort Lewis College's Biology Building is proof of that.

Completed in 2010, the new building replaced facilities that were several decades old and had long since outlived their usefulness. Particularly for a science program as dependent on lab space and equipment as biology is, a new facility was desperately needed.

The impact of the new building was immediate. Bigger and better classrooms were filled with students studying one of Fort Lewis College's most popular majors. Updated infrastructure allowed state-of-the-art lab equipment to be moved in, opening the door to more opportunities for students to participate in hands-on learning and research.

The new building was also a powerful recruiting tool for Fort Lewis College and the Biology Department. After the building was completed, enrollment in biology increased 16% in only three years.



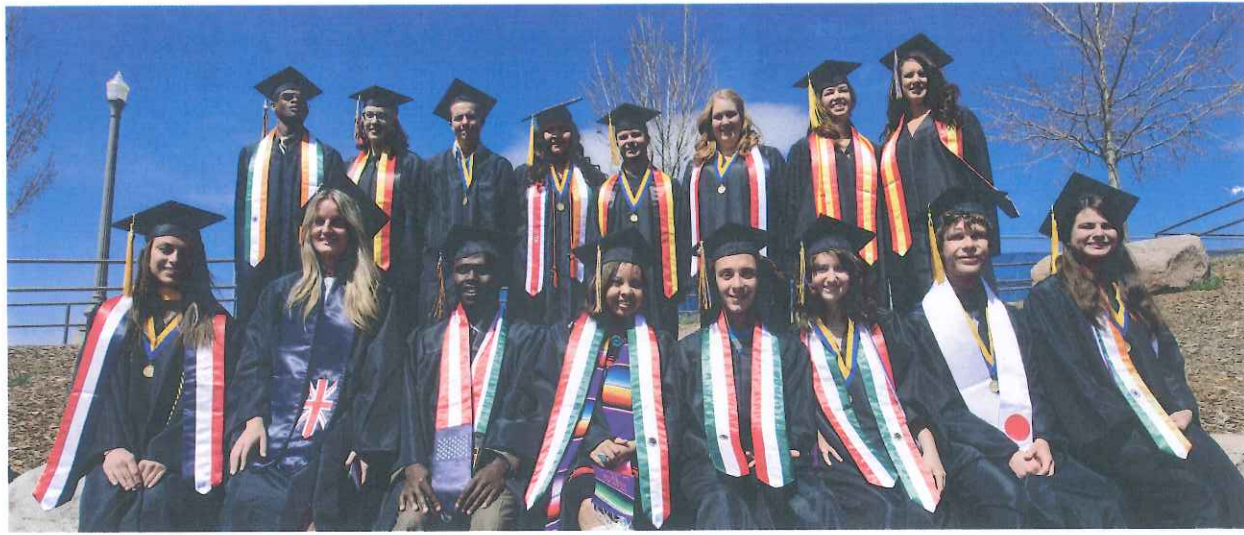
HISTORIC COMMITMENT TO NATIVE AMERICANS

Fort Lewis College was established under an agreement between the state and the federal government whereby any qualified Native American student would be admitted tuition free. This century-old commitment taken on by the state has brought Colorado and Fort Lewis College national renown as leaders in educating Native Americans. **No baccalaureate institution in the country awards more degrees to Native Americans than Fort Lewis College.** FLC is the only Native American Serving, Non-Tribal Institution in Colorado.

Update on the Native American Indian Education Act

Beginning in the new legislative year, both bills requesting federal support for the Native American Tuition Waiver program at Fort Lewis College will need to be reintroduced. The previous versions of the bills enjoyed increasing, bipartisan support with Senator Michael Bennet's bill signing on seven co-sponsors and Representative Scott Tipton's bill having 45 co-sponsors.

There is also a great deal of support among Native American groups. In their resolution supporting the federal legislation efforts, the National Congress of American Indians stated that "Fort Lewis College's Native American Tuition Waiver has enabled American Indian and Alaska Native students to access top-quality educational opportunities and academic success, which they might not otherwise been able to enjoy, and these many students have used this education provided for the betterment of their tribes and Indian Country as a whole, indeed, many of today's Indian leaders are Fort Lewis graduates, or have a Fort Lewis student or alumni in their family."



STATUTORY ROLE & 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 only for an associate of arts degree in agricultural science.

(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. (Section 23-52-101, C.R.S.)



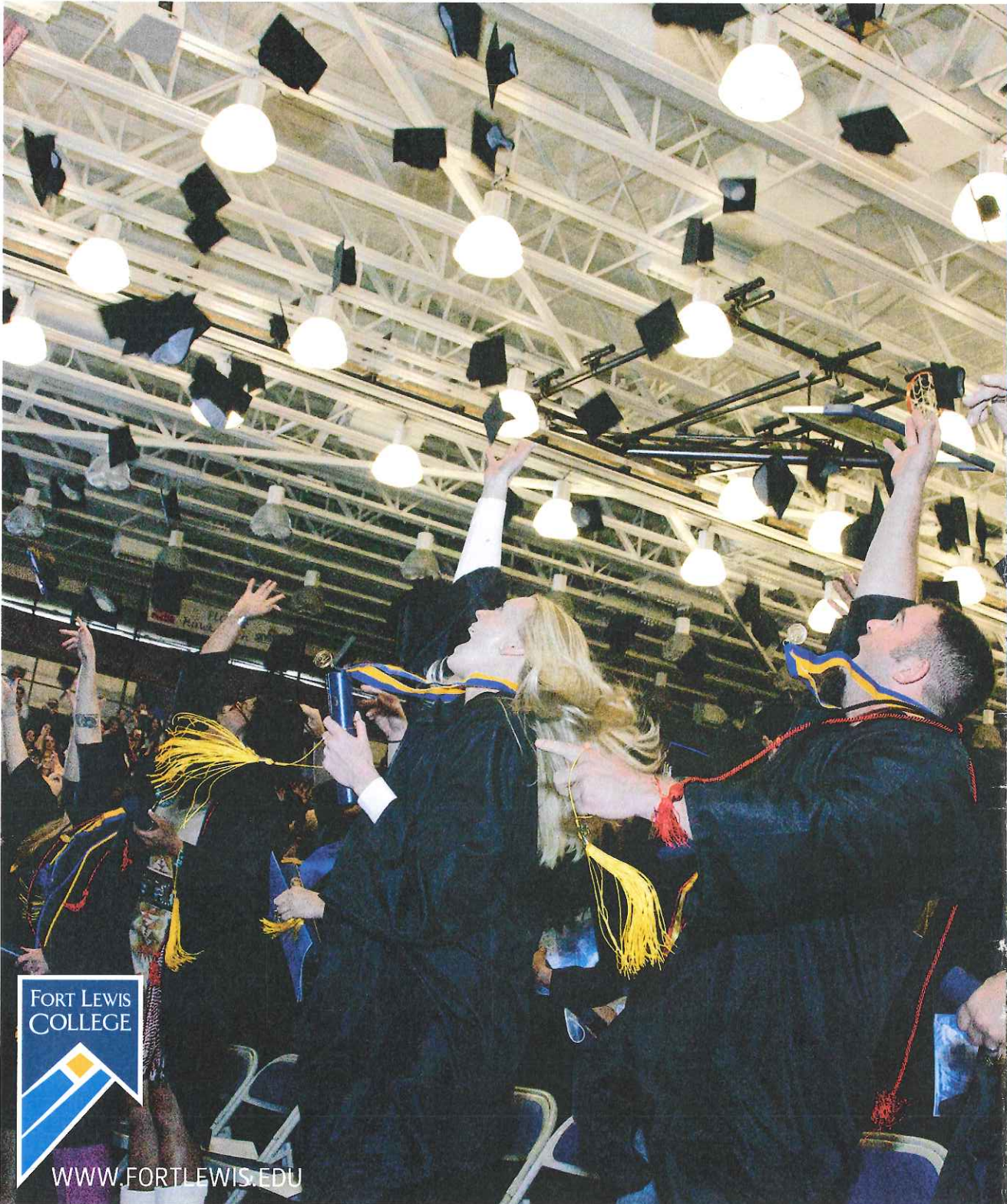
THE NEW GEOSCIENCES, PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING BUILDING

Geosciences, physics and engineering are three of Fort Lewis College's strongest programs, held back only by the old, outdated and overcrowded facilities in which they reside. **In particular, demand for the engineering program has exploded, more than doubling enrollment over the last three years. Without a new facility, the program would run out of room within just a few years.** Fortunately, Fort Lewis College received state funding this summer to begin construction on a new Geosciences, Physics and Engineering Building. Completion is scheduled for fall 2016.

The future looks bright for students studying geosciences, physics, or engineering. Civil engineering, for example, is expected to add more than 50,000 jobs in the United States over the next decade. That's nearly twice as fast as the estimated growth rate for all occupations, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The 2012 median salary for physicists and astronomers was more than \$100,000, and thousands of new jobs are expected to open up in the next ten years. Physics majors study matter, energy, and the interactions between them, and that knowledge is useful in a wide variety of growing industries, such as clean energy, aerospace, and medicine.

Being located in such a remarkable and diverse geological region, Fort Lewis College is a great place to study the geosciences. Among the careers geosciences majors can have are geoscientists and geological engineers. Both occupations had a median salary of over \$80,000 in 2012 and both are expected to grow in the future.

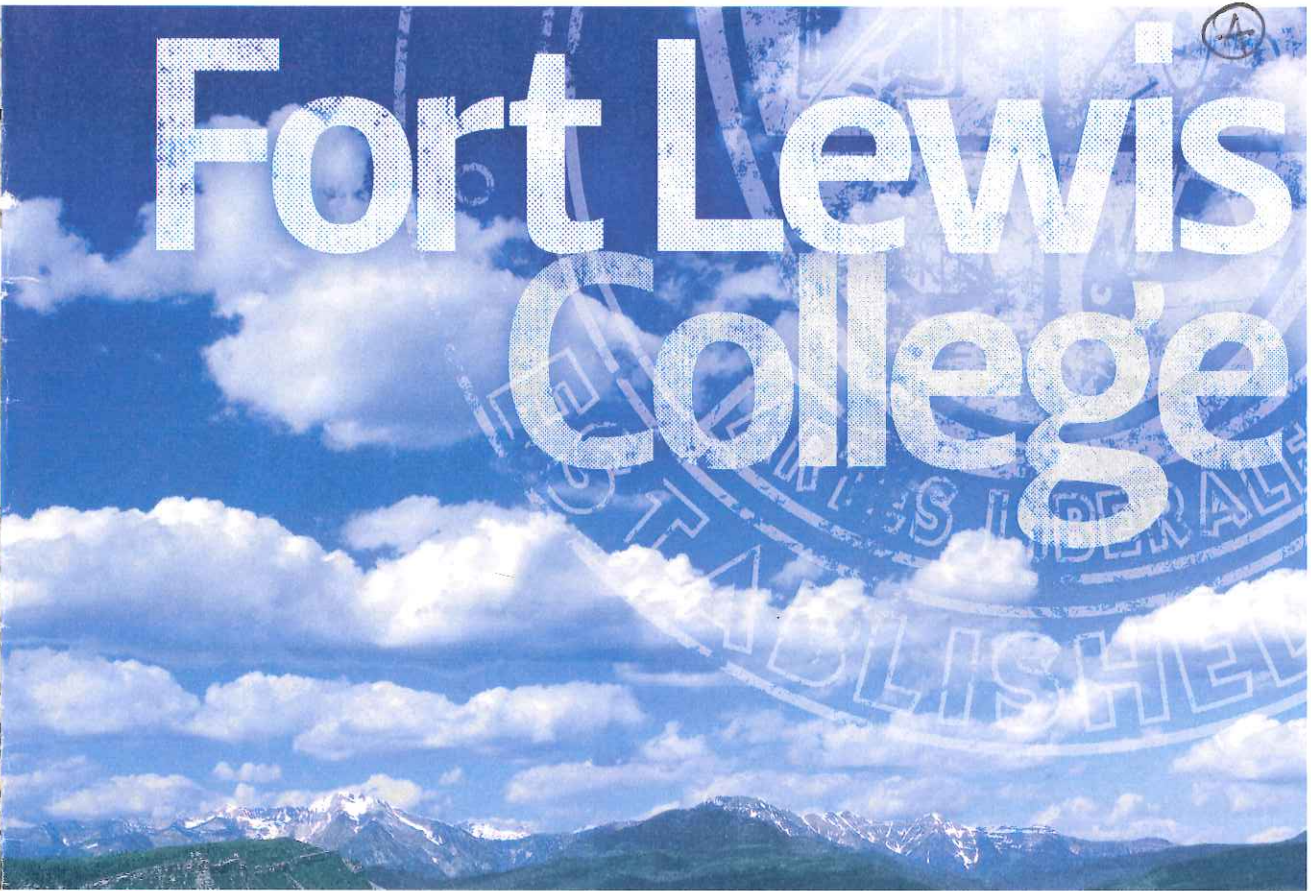


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REPORT TO THE COLORADO CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
JANUARY 2015



Attachment A