Non-Traditional No More:
The Finance Picture
Financing higher ed ... HOW!

The flow of funds

- **Economy**
  - Tax revenues

- **State and Local Government**
  - Student aid
  - Appropriations/grants

- **Students**
  - Income
  - Student aid (restricted)
  - Scholarships & waivers

- **Institutions**
  - Tuition
  - Gifts
  - Research & other grants (restricted)

- **Federal Government**

- **Donors Foundations Corporations**

Source: NCHEMS
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Source: NCHEMS
Appropriation leads
Tuition follows
Financial Aid fills in

General approach

Desired approach

Policies in sync
ATFA

Appropriations, tuition, and financial aid policies working intentionally together
What makes good finance (ATFA) policy

• Resource allocations reinforce the State’s priorities
• Resource allocations make higher ed affordable
  – To students, and
  – To state
• Resources sustain (and may even enhance) institutional capacity
• Resource allocations are fair
  – Shared contributions reflect shared benefit
• Resource policies are transparent
  – Legislators and Governor understand them
  – Citizens understand them
  – Providing institutions understand them
Project Goal

Non-traditional No More: Colorado Policy Solutions for Adult Learners will help Colorado take advantage of its readiness to stimulate systematic and purposeful discussion, identify barriers, and craft changes to policy and practice in post-secondary education that will increase the adult learners’ access to high education, persistence, and degree completion.
Definitions

• Non-traditional Students

• Adult Students

• Ready Adults
  – Baccalaureate*
  – Associates*
  – Graduate
GAP I: Skimpy funding starves financial aid and access policies

“Constrained and insufficient financial resources to provide adequate financial aid and address policy issues”
Gap II: When it comes to finances, we don’t play well together

“Intra-institution and inter-institution academic policy, and politics at both the state and federal levels in solving the financial issues often have competing vision/mission”
Gap III: No special funding for adult learners

“Lack of funding source that targets and/or addresses needs of non traditional adult learner”
Gap IV: Current student support funding efforts exacerbate issues for adults

“Current funding sources to support students, e.g., College Opportunity Fund, raise particular challenges for nontraditional adult learner and create difficulties for student support services and communication efforts”
GAP V: Lack of Capacity

“Lack of capacity to address issues and coordinate policy responses”
Bringing It All Together

• Data needs
• Prioritizing Policy Change Needed
• Prioritizing Financial Resource Needs and Possibilities