



Great Education COLORADO

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Great Education Colorado is a statewide, nonpartisan, grassroots organization that is focused on improving education in Colorado through wise, increased investment in our schools, colleges and universities.

Great Education Colorado

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Dear Public Education Supporter:

On our fifth anniversary, our list of supporters is 25,000 strong and our board of directors and staff are engaged in leading Great Ed to new heights. In 2010 alone, the Great Education Colorado network grew by 80%, totaling 25,000 champions for students, representing 175 Colorado communities.

Our accomplishments from 2010 are listed in this Annual Report but what you can't see is the passion and dedication of our supporters, motivated by the potential to reverse the continued eroding of funding to public education that threatens the future of our state:

- Colorado universities and colleges have had to increase tuition by a combined 76% in the last 4 years
- Colorado's K-12 pupil to teacher ratio is 42nd in the nation
- Our state spends \$0 (yes, zero) on professional development for our teachers

Great Ed's collaborative work with the Great Futures Colorado coalition, the Colorado Civic Engagement Roundtable, the Colorado Reform Roundtable and the SOS (Save our State) coalition make us an essential voice of public education in the state of Colorado.

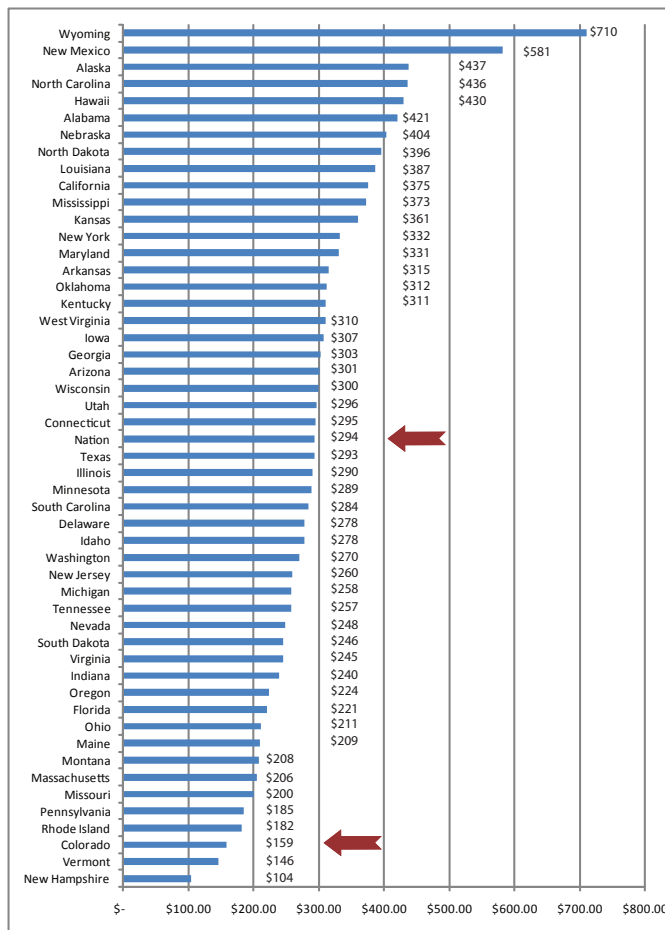
So we keep marching forward – bigger and better than ever. Our energy has never been more evident and our commitment is unyielding. Join us in celebrating what we accomplished in 2010 and more importantly, join us in 2011 to truly make a difference in the future of our children.

Sincerely,

Liane Morrison
Executive Director

Margie Adams
Board Chair

2008 State and Local Support for Higher Ed Operating Expenses Per Capita



Source: National Center for Higher Education Management Systems





Great Ed Board member Kristi Hargrove, from Crested Butte, is surrounded by legislators and Great Futures Colorado members during the DECIDE Press Conference.

OUTREACH TO THE COLORADO COMMUNITY

Building a strong coalition of champions for public education funding was one of our biggest goals for 2010 and we surpassed our own expectations. In just one short year we:

- ✓ Launched the Great Futures Colorado Campaign – a coalition of 30 community organizations who advocate together for better investment in P-20 public education
- ✓ Collected 1,200 stories and more than 2,500 petitions from citizens across the state that were delivered to state legislators in March 2010 to convey the depth of concern about further cuts to education
- ✓ Initiated two formal Great Education Colorado Chapters in Douglas and Jefferson Counties

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Great Futures Colorado coalition developed and supported a referred measure called DECIDE that would have given Colorado voters the opportunity to decide whether to allow state legislators to increase revenue for the purpose of supporting P-20 public education. While DECIDE did not win the two-thirds majorities to get on the ballot, it did generate a lot of healthy discussion and media attention across the state about how public education funding works and the restrictions that TABOR puts on our model of representative democracy.



ELECTION 2010 – THE “BAD THREE”

The appearance of three anti-tax measures on the ballot (Amendments 60 & 61 and Proposition 101, known as the “Bad Three”) posed a major challenge to our communities, and schools and colleges. Great Ed found the silver lining, converting efforts into an opportunity for education. In conjunction with our 501(c)(4) affiliate, Great Education Colorado Action, our fast-working staff and volunteers:



Great fun at the Family Festival & Tennis Open

- ✓ Were relentless leaders in defeating the “Bad Three”
- ✓ Made more than 125 presentations that informed voters about the impact of the ballot measures and gave them a snapshot of public education in Colorado
- ✓ Embarked on an ambitious postcard project that harnessed over 6,500 volunteer hours to reach an estimated 48,000

GREAT ED FUNDING

Great Education Colorado relies on the generous contributions of individuals, foundations and corporations to further its mission to advocate for a long-term, sustainable source of funding for public education.

In addition, our 2010 Family Festival and Tennis Open generated \$38,000 of our \$181,000 budget. We are small but mighty and always looking for creative ways to support our mission.

To contribute, go to www.GreatEducation.org



**GreatEducation
COLORADO**

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