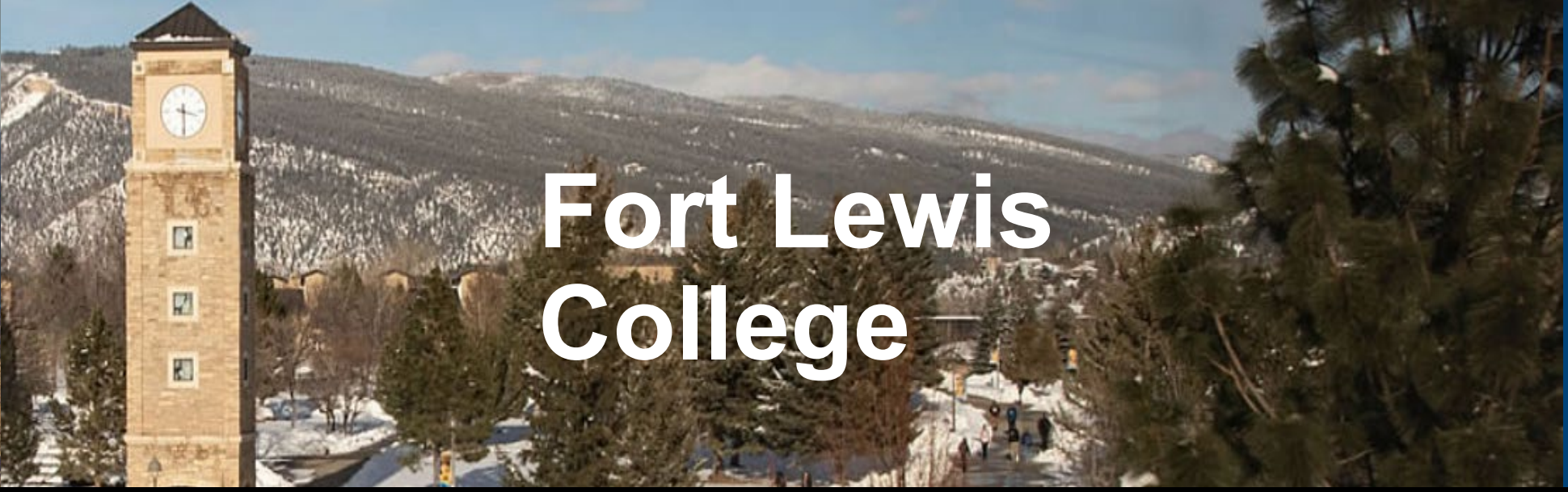


Fort Lewis College

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

Next Generation Wi-Fi

Western Colorado University

Greg Smith

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE

WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY

Fort Lewis College

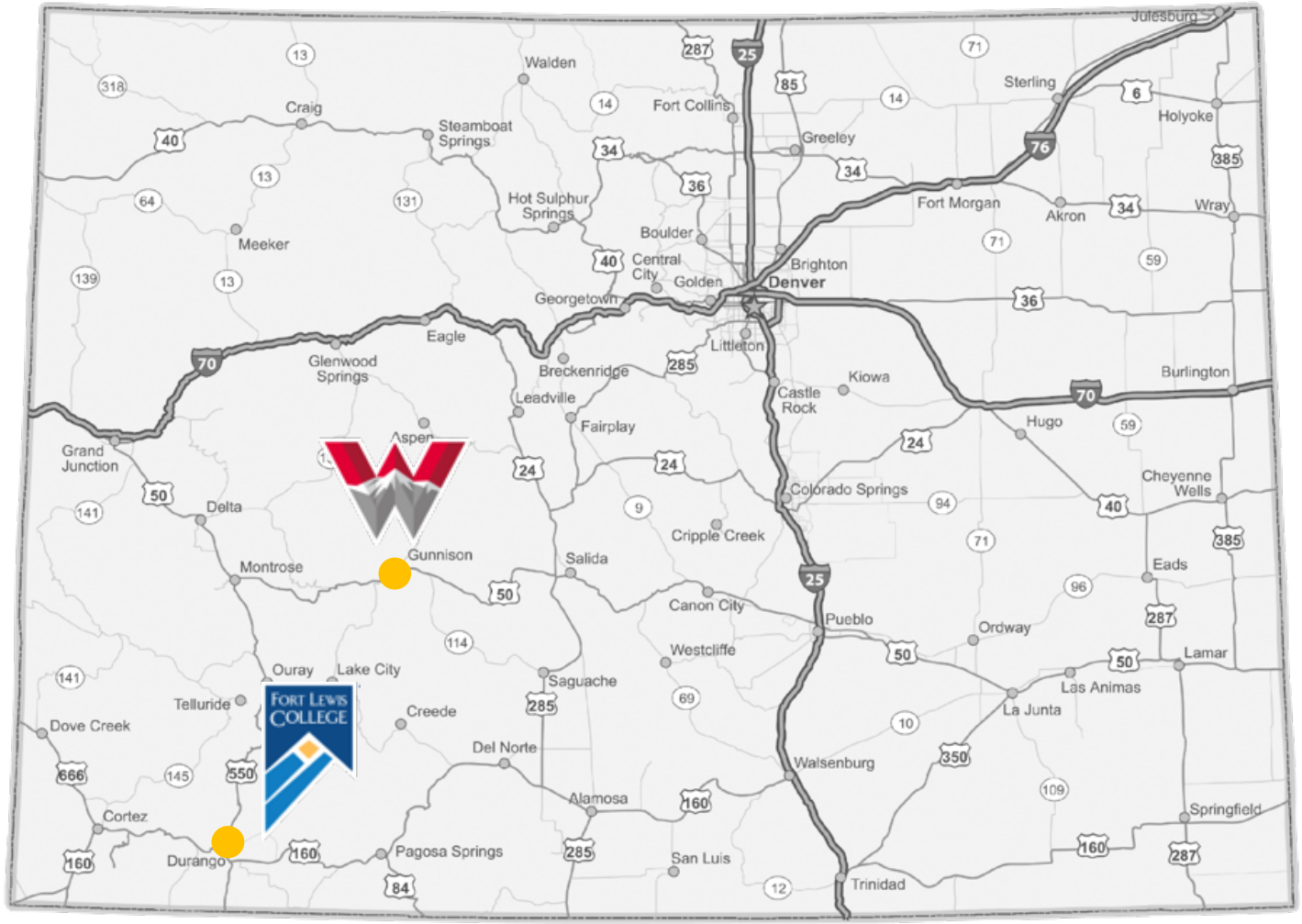
est. 1911, Durango

Faculty/Staff/Students: 3,900

Western Colorado University

est. 1901, Gunnison

Faculty/Staff/Students: 2,400



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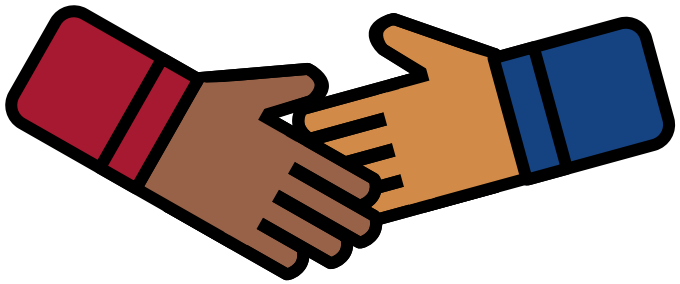
The Partnership

- **Why?**
  - Institutions of similar size and mission, facing similar challenges
  - To realize economies of scale
  - To strengthen long term collaboration
  - Serendipitous network infrastructure similarity and lifecycle
  - Continue the success of the ***Digital Transformation Initiative*** model



- **What?**
  - Designed substantially similar networks
  - Used single vendor to acquire identical hardware, software, and pricing
  - Identical training and will continue to maintain a close relationship.

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What is Next Gen Wi-Fi?

Wi-Fi 6/6e is the newest IEEE standard and is:

IEEE

Wi Fi ALLIANCE

Faster	Better
• 2.5X faster than current tech • Capable of 9.6 Gb speeds • Uses 2.4 GHz, 5 GHz, 6 GHz	• Allows for higher density and diversity of devices • Supports newest and many older devices • More efficient power management

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Benefits to Campus Constituents

- Students (current and future) need and demand reliable, ubiquitous, high performance wireless access to online resources.
- Improves access to online courses, research data, specialized software and learning management systems
- Improves performance of streaming video, collaboration platforms and digital communications
- Benefits realized by students, faculty staff, campus visitors and local community.
- Benefits realized by instruction, student life and administration
- By adopting new standard early in the lifecycle benefits are realized longer

Wireless internet is a de facto essential service

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Benefits to Cost

1. Savings from Partnership: Volume Discounts
2. Savings from Up-Front Purchasing: Inflation Avoidance

Funding Approach	Cost
Incremental Institutional Funding	$2,709,391
One Time JTC Capital Funding	$1,835,702
Total Savings:	**$873,689 or 32%**

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Benefits For Management

- Consistent infrastructure easier to maintain
- Shared partnership knowledge
- Cloud based network management
- Lower cost of ownership
- Easier and better support for the students

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Thank you.

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