

August 10, 2016

Mr. Zac Graves  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration  
Denver Regional Office  
1244 Speer Blvd., Suite 431  
Denver, CO 80204

RE: Western State Colorado University  
EDA Power Grant Application

Gunnison County convened a community-wide, year-long dialogue to create a regional vision for the long term economic health of the Gunnison Valley. This dialogue and planning has now poised the Valley for action. Gunnison City Councilors have been active participants and supporters.

Four themes rose to the top. One, Economic Resiliency, includes objectives related to this grant application: (a) increase and diversity economic opportunities by nurturing and attracting entrepreneurs; and (b) support the anchor institutions which are the backbone of our economy.

Western State Colorado University is a Gunnison anchor institution. Its existing "Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship (ICE)" Program connects the business classroom to the community. Enhanced facilities to be obtained with the EDA grant will help achieve these objectives.

Situated on the WSCU campus and connected to the ICE academic program, the ICEhouse will be an incubator for collaboration among students, faculty, entrepreneurs and businesses. Hopefully it will also lure entrepreneurs from beyond the Gunnison Valley.

The Gunnison City Council unanimously approved this letter of support for the WSCU ICEhouse grant application.

Thank you for your consideration,