



Jay Helman

CLUB 20 Education Chairman

Jay Helman came to Western in 1989 as Assistant Professor in Kinesiology and Head Men's Basketball Coach. Three years later, in addition to his coaching and faculty responsibilities, he was named Chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Recreation. He was named Vice President for Academic Affairs in 1996 and, in February of 2002, became Western's 13th President.

His B.A. degree in English Literature is from the University of Santa Clara in California. He also earned an M.A. in Psychology from California State University at Sonoma, and a Ph.D. in Exercise and Sport Science from The Pennsylvania State University in 1988.

As Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Helman had direct responsibility for the supervision of eight academic departments, Admissions, Registrar, Academic Support Services, the Library, Computing Services, Institutional Research, Service Learning, and Extended Studies.

He has been responsible to the Office of State Colleges of Colorado for academic program reviews, grants and other assessment-related reports mandated by the State; represented the College on the board of Trustees Academic Affairs Council; made recommendations to the President on faculty tenure, promotion, and sabbatical decisions; made recommendations to the President on searches and hires for new faculty and academic staff; and served as a member of the President's Cabinet.

The Subcommittee on Education and Workforce Development includes K-12, business and community leaders as we create a forum to better understand the interrelationships of K-12 and post secondary education as well as the workforce needs in our communities. The goal is to build strength and cooperation through enhanced understanding of the complexities we all face, and to seek creative avenues for mutual support in addressing the needs of our young people and our communities.

While there is no disagreement among higher education leaders on the Western Slope about the importance or the needs of our flagship universities, there is strong sentiment that Coloradans must understand that fiscal health throughout Colorado's public higher education system merits attention. It is in that spirit that CLUB 20 has forwarded a letter to state leaders reminding them of the importance of the two-year and four-year colleges in Western Colorado and throughout the state.