2025-2026 Student Technology Fee (STF) Proposal

Introduction: Technology Should Work—Not Stand in Your Way

You're hustling to submit an assignment before the deadline, and suddenly—the WIFI ghosts you. Panic mode sets in. Later, you walk into class, ready to learn, but the projector refuses to cooperate. The professor fumbles with cables, students start checking their phones, and valuable learning and teaching time slips away. Frustrating, right? These moments don't just throw off your day but your education. And let's be honest, sometimes it feels like technology is playing against you rather than for you.

CSU Pueblo Technology isn't just a convenience—it's your academic lifeline. It powers everything from research projects to late-night study sessions and even those spontaneous group chats where assignments finally make sense. From slide decks, apps, and campus events to internship applications and virtual classes, reliable tech is non-negotiable. That's where the Student Technology Fee (STF) steps in to assist. It ensures that the tech you depend on works—so you can focus on learning, not troubleshooting. To keep CSU Pueblo's tech ecosystem strong, we propose a **$2.90 increase**, bringing the STF to **$10 per credit hour**. This investment means fewer glitches, smoother connections, and a campus where technology just works. And most importantly, it ensures fewer technology-induced meltdowns today and into the future. 😅

Your Technology Team

The Division of Information Technology (DoIT) is the digital backbone of CSU's Pueblo, Fort Collins, and Spur campuses and the CSU System Office. DoIT powers the essential infrastructure that keeps CSU running from high-speed networks to secure data systems. Whether supporting groundbreaking research, ensuring seamless classroom connectivity, or defending against cybersecurity threats, DoIT delivers enterprise-level technology services that enable teaching, learning, and innovation. At CSU Pueblo, the Student Technology Fee directly funds investments at the Pueblo campus, providing students with reliable access to cutting-edge tools, secure digital environments, and the technology they need to succeed.

Proposed Fee Overview

Connectivity
- Fast WIFI, expanded bandwidth, and secure data storage.

Essential academic tools
- Access to Blackboard, Banner, Microsoft 365, and licensed software.

Multimedia classrooms
- Audio/Visual (AV) and interactive learning technology.
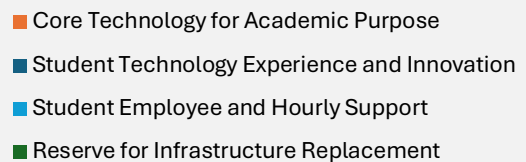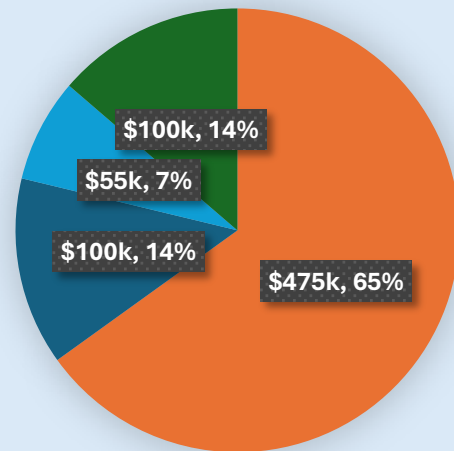- Virtual classroom equipment

Tech support and student jobs
- Hands-on IT experience and campus support.

Modern labs
- Physical and cloud-based virtual learning lab environments.

Innovation and growth
- Emerging tech, tutoring, and future-ready skills.

Pie chart data:
- $475k, 65% — Core Technology for Academic Purpose
- $100k, 14% — Student Technology Experience and Innovation
- $55k, 7% — Student Employee and Hourly Support
- $100k, 14% — Reserve for Infrastructure Replacement

Current Budget Overview FY2024 (2024-2025)

The Division of IT has worked diligently to maintain affordability in the STF by managing all funding sources responsibly and intentionally while ensuring quality technology services. Past and current efforts to maximize resources across funding sources include:

- Aligning the Education & General (E&G) budget spending to fund consolidated systems and platforms.
- Sunsetting outdated services misaligned with campus goals.
- Strategically aligning staff across divisions and campuses for more effective IT support.

In FY2024-2025, the STF funded roughly 20% of CSU Pueblo's IT spending. A major success was the investment and ongoing campus-wide WIFI system upgrade (completion slated for June 2025), using a $490,000 rollover fund to address long-standing student needs directly. The regular STF budget, however, continues to face rising costs to support core academic technology.

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	WHAT IT COVERED
Core Technology for Academic Purpose	$398,016.00	Blackboard, Banner, multimedia classrooms, software licensing, and WIFI system replacement
Learning Experience and Innovation	$100,000.00	Lab upgrades, one-time innovation projects, virtual lab, devices, software, and printing
Salaries (FTE + Hourly)	$46,300.00	Student IT employee support staff
Total Expenses	**$544,300.00**	
Rollover	$490,000	Spent on WIFI system replacement system installation June 2025
Reserve Funds	$15,921.54	Maintained for emergency tech needs or unexpected costs

FY2024 (2024-2025) Investments in Tech that Works When You Need It

Over the past year, we tackled significant pain points to keep tech running smoothly:

- **Campus-Wide WIFI upgrade project ($540,000)** – Developing faster, stronger, and more extensive expanded CSU Pueblo WIFI network
- **Blackboard LMS ($117,000)** – Keeping coursework, grades, and communication tools updated and supported.
- **AV Classrooms ($40,000)** – Upgraded projectors, sound, and virtual tools for better learning.
- **Virtual Apps and Labs ($40,000)** – Virtualized lab platform for accessing specialized software needed in many majors and enhanced engineering, health, and LINC lab environments.

These aren't just numbers—they're real improvements making student life more manageable and reducing pain points. And as technology evolves, we must keep pushing forward, ensuring CSU Pueblo stays connected, innovative, and ready for what's next.

Future Budget Use: Investing in Sustainability

We need to maintain current spending to ensure long-term financial stability and student success. The FY2025-2026 proposal prioritizes the use of the fund increase in two key areas:

- **AV Multimedia and Classroom Upgrades** – Ensuring cutting-edge learning environments for in-person and virtual students. With over 150 classrooms requiring upgrades every 5-7 years at roughly $20,000 per space, we must proactively fund 2-3 full classroom replacements each year.
- **Infrastructure Reserve for Replacement** – Planning for future replacements of large-scale technology systems, such as WIFI and AV multimedia, ensures uninterrupted services when equipment reaches end-of-life. Our recent rollover proved how well the concept worked and enabled us to move forward with a significant improvement we'd otherwise not have been able to accomplish.

Proposed Budget FY2026 (2025-2026)

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	WHAT IT COVERS
STF Funds FY25-26	**$730,000.00**	*$10 per credit hour @73,000 credit hours*
FTE Salary + Fringe	$14,000.00	*¼ Part time hourly agent (after hours)*
Student Employee and Hourly	$41,000.00	*Student employees*
Total Salary	**$55,000.00**	
Core Technology for Academic Purpose	$475,000.00	*Student registration (Banner), Learning Management System (Blackboard), AV Classrooms, IT Infrastructure, Connectivity, lab devices, and Campus WIFI*
Learning Experience and Innovation	$100,000.00	*Campus software licenses (Minitab), virtual labs (Apporto), checkout and lab devices, printing, LINC resources, and more*
Infrastructure Reserve	$100,000.00	*Reserved budget for 5 year plan to upgrade connectivity infrastructure and AV*
Sub Totals	**$675,000.00**	
Total	**$730,000.00**	
FY25 Rollover Balance	$0.00	*Rollover from prior year*
STF Savings	$15,921.00	*Emergency savings*
Infrastructure Reserve	$100,000	*Reserved for Core Technology replacement in next 5 years*
Total Savings and Reserves	***$115,921.00***	

Measuring Success

System performance metrics
- Monitoring uptime and performance of LMS, Banner, and campus WIFI.
- We have teams that work on core systems within 30 minutes and work to restore within 4 hours in most cases

Satisfaction and feedback
- Collecting surveys on technology satisfaction through our IT ticketing system and identifying areas for improvement.

Support and experience
- Tracking student technology employment numbers and professional development outcomes.

Innovation collaborations
- Assessing the success of funded projects, labs, and new technology initiatives in the LINC.

Peer Institution Comparisons

CSU Pueblo's tech fee remains below average compared to similar universities

UNIVERSITY	FEE	DETAILS
University of Nebraska Kearny	$11.00	Proposed to raise to $15 per credit hour
Minnesota State University Moorhead	$12.00	per credit hour
Murray State University	$100.00	per credit hour (students taking 5 or more credit hours)
Northern Michigan University	$423.00	resident undergrads 12-16 credit hours per semester (university fee that includes technology)
Sam Houston State University	$34.00	per credit hour
University of Central Arkansas	$20.50	per credit hour
University of Central Missouri	$93.00	flat rate 9+ hours
University of Northern Colorado	$13.94	per credit hour
University of Northern Iowa	$162.00	per semester

Proposal for FY2026 (2025-2026) Fee Increase

Why the increase is needed.

Rising technology costs
- Licensing fees for Blackboard, Banner, and other core technology continue to increase.

Aging infrastructure
- WIFI, network systems, and other core systems must be maintained and upgraded regularly to meet student demand for faster, more reliable access and services.

Future sustainability
- A reserve fund ensures critical technology upgrades without financial strain on future budgets.

Investment in academic spaces
- Expanding and maintaining AV multimedia classrooms enhances in-person and online learning experiences.

Proposed Fee Adjustment

To align with the current spending and increased needs, the STF proposes a $2.90 increase and selects Option 1 as the most viable path forward in FY2026 (2025-2026).

	CURRENT FEE	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
Rate	$7.10	$10.00	$11.00	$12.00
Increase per credit hour	---	*$2.90*	*$3.90*	*$4.90*
Example: 15 credit hours	$106.50	$150.00	$165.00	$180.00
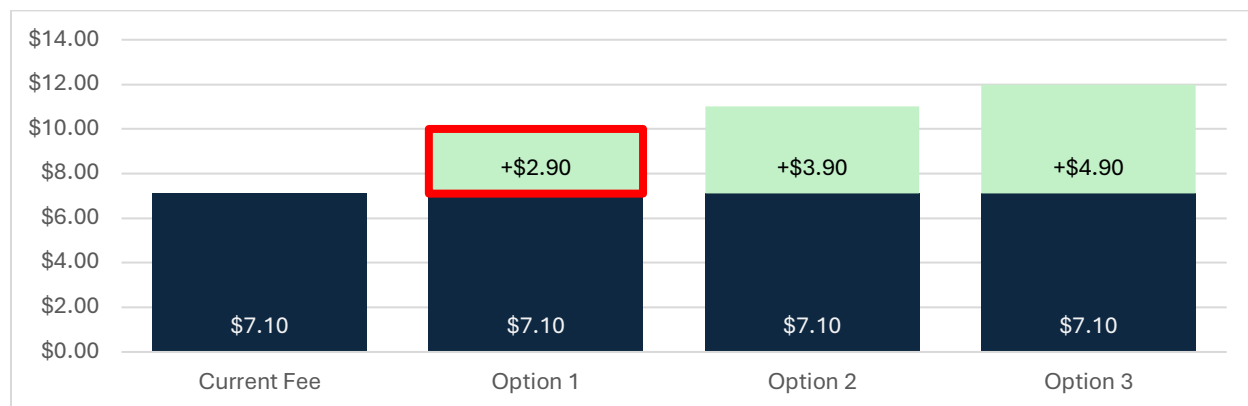
Final Thoughts: Powering Student Success in a Digital World

The Student Technology Fee invests in today's students and those who will follow in your footsteps. Thanks to past students' foresight and contributions, we could leverage rollover funds to make lasting improvements—enhancing connectivity, classroom technology, and overall student experience. Just as previous generations made decisions that benefit you today, now is our opportunity to ensure that future students inherit sustainable and solid technology infrastructure.

By planning, we can ensure CSU Pueblo remains prepared for emerging challenges like AI advancements, cybersecurity, WIFI enhancements, and digital learning spaces. While we don't know precisely how technology will evolve, we do know that staying proactive is key to keeping our systems reliable and adaptable to future needs.

By making thoughtful, forward-looking decisions now, we ensure that future students can rely on the same seamless technology experiences that support their education today. CSU Pueblo remains committed to keeping technology a tool for success rather than a barrier. Let's continue building a campus where seamless connectivity and classrooms are engaging and technology empowers every student to thrive. 🚀

Student Technology Fee Committee

- Shaylan Wilson (student)
- Rhode Gachette (student)
- Jarec Henderson (student)
- Jeanmarie Emmanuel (student)
- Rhonda Manzanares (faculty/staff)
- Patrick Radigan (faculty)
- Margie Massey (faculty)
- Ashley Minnich, Educational Technologist, CSU Pueblo (staff)
- Adam Pocius, Executive Director, IT CSU Pueblo; CSU System IT Client Services (chair)