WICHE and MONTANA

The Brewing Storm
A Half Century of Collaboration

1952: WICHE founded by U.S. Congress

1952: Montana becomes a member
Our Mission

To expand educational access and excellence for all the West’s citizens

By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy

Thereby strengthening higher ed’s contributions to the region’s social, economic, and civic life.
Montana & WICHE

Commissioners

- Francis J. Kerins, president emeritus, Carroll College, Helena
- Sheila Stearns, commissioner, Montana University System, Helena
- Cindy Younkin, state representative, Bozeman

Legislative Advisory Committee Members

- Sen. Corey Stapleton, Billings
- Rep. Roy Brown, Billings
- Rep. Cindy Younkin, Bozeman
Montana & WICHE

Student Exchange Programs

Provide professional, undergraduate and graduate students with affordable access to out-of-state programs, while allowing states to fill excess capacity and avoid unnecessary duplication of programs.
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Student Exchange Programs

Professional Student Exchange (PSEP)

- 77 Montanans are enrolled in dentistry, veterinary medicine, occupational therapy, optometry, osteopathic medicine, and public health programs in other states this year.
Professional Student Exchange (PSEP)

- Today, close to 1,200 PSEP alumni are practicing in Montana, including:
  - 357 medical doctors
  - 398 vets
  - 142 dentists
  - 135 optometrists
  - 21 osteopaths
  - 75 occupational and physical therapists
  - 18 public health professionals
  - 52 dental hygienists

- About 50 percent of the state’s PSEP students return to Montana to pursue their professional careers.
Montana & WICHE

Student Exchange Programs

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

- Over 1,400 Montana students enrolled in 2002/03.
- They paid: just 150% of resident tuition.
- They saved: almost $5 million this year.
- Some 950 students from other WICHE states enrolled in Montana.
Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)

- 21 Montana graduate students went to out-of-state institutions.
- They paid: resident tuition.
- Montana received 38.
Montana & WICHE

Other WICHE Programs

- WCET (Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications)
- Policy Analysis & Research
- Programs & Services
- Mental Health Program
- Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC)
Montana’s Challenges: The Big Three

Decreasing Demand

The Change in Who You Are Serving

Constrained Finances
The 1st Challenge – Decreasing Demand

- Projected drop in postsecondary participation rate for 18- to 24-year-olds: -11% (2000-15)
- In the U.S., that figure is 13%

WHY?
What’s causing the drop?

Simple Demographics

- Extremely low population growth: less than 1% total from 2000-15 [dl, census; ecs number is 2.4]
- A high rural-urban ratio: 1:0.9 (3rd highest in the nation)
- A projected drop of 9.5% percent in higher ed’s feeder population, 17 years and under (2000-15)
- An overall drop in high school grads: 12% (2000-2012)
Policy Goal – Greater post-secondary participation

Desired increase in high school completion (2000)

- In Montana, 78.1% of 9th graders earned high school diplomas (good, but a 3% decline, 1996-2000)
- In the WICHE West – it’s 69.8%
- In the U.S. – it’s 68.1%
Policy Goal – Greater post-secondary participation

Desired increase in the share going on to college

- *Measuring Up 2002* gives a D+
- WICHE data looks better
  - Montana – 53.8%
  - WICHE West – 48%
  - U.S. – 56.1%

- **Associate degree production (per 100 H.S. grads)**
  - Montana – 13.2
  - WICHE West – 25.8
  - U.S. – 21.8

- **Baccalaureate degree production (per 100 H.S. grads)**
  - Montana – 46.9
  - WICHE West – 43.9
  - U.S. – 47.7
So What?

- World leaders in higher education attainment:
  - Canada, Finland, Ireland, Japan, Korea

- Second Tier:
  - U.S., Australia, Belgium, France, Norway, Spain, Sweden, U.K.

Source: OECD Statistics, Annex 3 – Table 2.5
Consolation: You’re not alone

- Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming are right there with you.
The 2nd Challenge –
Those we serve will be harder to serve

Increasing share of population from communities that higher education traditionally has not served well.

- Communities of Color: Will supply an slightly larger percentage of Montana’s high school grads by 2012: 11.1%
- African American high school grads will make up tk% of the total
Historic success, or lack thereof, of Native American students in higher education

- Another challenge for Montana: In 2000, Native Americans represented
  - 6.4% of the Montana population
  - 4.3% of full-time first-time freshmen
  - 2.2% of those awarded associate degrees*
  - 2.8% of those awarded bachelor’s degrees

*92% from tribal colleges
The 3rd Challenge – Limited Resources

- State appropriations make up 33.1% of funding for Montana’s baccalaureate institutions. The WICHE average: 42.9%

- Montana funds its two-year institutions at a rate of 18.9%. The WICHE average: 36.6%
State and local surplus or shortfall as a percent of baseline revenues

Source: National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)
Access is at risk

- Montana trails the West and the rest in need-based financial assistance.
- State need-based aid
  - Montana - $62
  - WICHE average - $238
  - U.S. average - $316
- The low-income student participation rate in Montana: 27.9%.
The Makings of *The Brewing Storm*

Declining demand

Increasingly difficult-to-serve clientele

Limited finances: Montana’s facing a 5.7% structural deficit
The Brewing Storm – Facing The Challenge

- The solutions for higher education lie both within and outside higher education in Montana – your revenue structure won’t support your anticipated level of public services

- Planning is essential

- Leadership makes the real difference
Interstate collaboration makes sense, if done smartly.

- Other states can help fill excess capacity (i.e., WICHE’s WUE program)
- Other states can help Montana focus its resources (i.e., WICHE’s PSEP program)