WICHE and NEVADA
A Half Century of Collaboration

1952: WICHE founded by U.S. Congress

1959: Nevada 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.
Commissioners
- Jane Nichols, chancellor, University and Community College System of Nevada, Reno
- Sen. Raymond D. Rawson, Las Vegas
- Carl Shaff, educational consultant, Nevada State Dept. of Education, Reno

Legislative Advisory Committee Members
- Sen. Terry Care, Las Vegas
- Assembly Member Sheila Leslie, Reno
- Sen. Ray Rawson, Las Vegas
Nevada & 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.
Nevada & WICHE

Student Exchange Programs

Professional Student Exchange (PSEP)

- 80 Nevadans are enrolled in dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, physician assistant, and pharmacy programs in other states this year.
Professional Student Exchange (PSEP)

- Today, 612 PSEP alumni are practicing in Nevada, including:
  - 32 medical doctors
  - 140 dentists
  - 80 vets
  - 71 optometrists
  - 52 occupational and physical therapists
  - 197 lawyers
  - 17 pharmacists
  - 16 physician assistants
  - 7 graduate librarians

- About 70 percent of the state’s PSEP students return to Nevada to pursue their professional careers.
Student Exchange Programs

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

- Nearly 700 Nevada students enrolled in fall 2002.

- They paid: just 150% of resident tuition.

- They saved: almost $3 million this year.

- Over 2,600 students from other WICHE states enrolled in Nevada.
Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)

- 12 Nevada graduate students went to out-of-state institutions.
- They paid: resident tuition.
- Nevada received 8.
Nevada & WICHE
Student Exchange Programs

What students say:

Marla Moore Plecha: “WICHE is a great program, sponsoring doctoral students to go out of state for doctoral degrees that aren’t offered in Nevada.”

Rick Parigini: “WICHE was integral in allowing me to attend dental school and return to Nevada to practice orthodontics. Without its support, I wouldn’t have been able to afford out-of-state tuition. I also appreciate that WICHE allowed me to repay the loan portion by providing orthodontic care to children who wouldn’t otherwise be able to afford this service.”

Ann Hines: “I knew I’d chosen the right direction when WICHE helped me. I’m living my dream as a physician assistant with the help of the WICHE program.”
Nevada & 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)
Nevada’s Exceptional Story: The Perfect Storm
The Confluence of Three Huge Waves

Rising Demand for Higher Education

The Change in Who You Are Serving

Constrained Finances
The First Wave – Rising Demand

Expected growth of 70% from 2001-2010.
Growth in 2002/03 alone: 8-9%.

WHY?
What’s pushing the wave?

1. Simple Demographics

- 61% increase in high school grads from 2001/02 to 2011/12.

- 3.6% population increase in 2001-02 alone – three times the national average. Over 75,000 new residents arrive in a single year.

- Nevada is the fastest-growing state in the nation – and has been for the last 16 years.
2. Policy Goal – Greater post-secondary participation

- Desired increase in high school completion (2000)  
  *(Measuring Up 2002: D on Preparation)*
  
  In Nevada – 66.7% of 18-24 year olds have a high school diploma (a 5.3% decline since 1990)
  In the U.S. – it’s 74.7%

- Desired increase in the share going on to college  
  *(Measuring Up 2002: C+ on Participation)*
  
  Nevada – 38.4%
  WICHE West – 48%
  U.S. – 56.1%

- Associate degree production (per 100 H.S. grads)
  
  Nevada – 15.9
  WICHE West – 25.8
  U.S. – 21.8

- Baccalaureate degree production (per 100 H.S. grads)
  
  Nevada – 33.7
  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

- Arizona, California, and Texas are there with you.
- Most of the rest of the West is right behind.
The Second Wave –
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 the majority of high school grads – 62% – by 2012 (up from 35% in ‘02)
- Projected increase in Hispanic high school grads:
  - From 19% in 2002 to 42% in 2012
Historic success, or lack thereof, of Hispanic students in higher education

- In the U.S.: 10.5% less likely to attend higher education
- A heck of a challenge for Nevada: In 2000, Hispanics represented
  - 19.7% of the Nevada population
  - 14.7% of full-time first-time freshmen
  - 7.5% of those awarded associate degrees
  - 6.7% of those awarded bachelor’s degrees
Historic success, or lack thereof, of low-income students in higher education

- In the U.S.: Participation drops from 27.5 to 23.1% (1999-2001).
- In Nevada: that number is 14.3%.

**Good news:** The Millennium Scholarship and active involvement in Advanced Placement.
The Third Wave – Limited Resources

What a difference two years make: The dawning of the millennium – the Best of Times.

- Nevada state appropriations grew by 38% between 1997/98 and 2002/03.
- Nevada support for higher education grew by 27% in that time.
- Nevadans’ per capita income increased by 15% (1996-2001).
The Third Wave – Limited Resources

*What a difference two years make:*

The new millennium + two – **the Worst of Times.**

- Nevada faces a budget deficit of $200 million for FY 2003; the governor has asked for an additional $438 million in new revenue for FY 2004.
- Nevada’s support for higher education increased 9.6% in FY 2001-02.
- If the past has been tough, the future will be tougher.
State and local surplus or shortfall as a percent of baseline revenues

Source: National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)
Nevada higher education finance policies don’t “measure up.”

Institutions will likely lack the financial wherewithal to increase capacity sufficiently to match demand.

- Can state support increase by 70%-plus?
- For every $1,000 of personal income, Nevada spends $5.50 on higher ed today – down from $7 in 1998.
- Nevada was 48th in the nation in per-capita spending for higher ed (2002).
Access is at risk

- Nevada trails the West and the rest in need-based financial assistance.
- State need-based aid
  - Nevada - $127
  - WICHE average - $238
  - U.S. average - $316
The Makings of *The Perfect Storm*

Increasing demand – 70% or more.

Increasingly difficult-to-serve clientele.

Limited finances: Nevada’s facing a 9.2% structural deficit – second-highest in the nation.
Weathering the Storm

Planning is essential: Nevada’s Master Plan is a model for other states.

The solutions for higher education lie both within and outside higher education in Nevada – your revenue structure won’t support your anticipated level of public services.
Interstate collaboration makes sense, if done smartly.

- Other states can help with unmet demand (i.e., WICHE’s WUE program)
- Other states can help Nevada focus its resources (i.e., WICHE’s PSEP program)
To Weather the Storm, or Whether Not To? That is the Question.

“Our fall 2002 enrollment demonstrates that we are extending our trend of ever-increasing enrollments at our universities and community colleges. Since 1991, we’ve increased our systemwide enrollments by more than 28,000 students.

“To put that figure in perspective, we’ve served an increase in students that is equivalent to the current student population of our largest university, UNLV. The impact of the Millennium Scholarship is unmistakable – on both students going to college and students being able to attend school on a full-time basis.

“Nevada is facing a fiscal crisis that will clearly be exacerbated by the demand by its citizens for the opportunity to go to college. Yet, it is our hope that state funding for this enrollment growth will be forthcoming so that Nevadans can have the same chance to be educated that people in surrounding states have.”

–Jane Nichols, UCCSN Chancellor

And the answer is clear.