WICHE and OREGON
A Half Century of Collaboration

1952: WICHE founded by U.S. Congress

1953: Oregon joins, one of our first members

WICHE sets up offices at U of Oregon
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

- Sen. Ryan Deckert, Portland
- Camille Preus-Braly, commissioner of the Oregon Dept. of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, Salem
- Diane Vines, vice chancellor for corporate and public affairs and board secretary of the Oregon University System

Legislative Advisory Committee Members

- Sen. Ryan Deckert, Portland
- Rep. Vic Backlund, Keizer
Regional Priorities

- Expanding access
- Providing policy support and data
- Promoting the effective use of educational telecommunications
- Fostering collaboration
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.
Oregon & WICHE

Student Exchange Programs

Professional Student Exchange (PSEP)

- 18 Oregonians are enrolled in physical therapy, occupational therapy, and optometry programs in other states this year.

- Oregon received 144 students, and almost $1.8 million in support fees, from other WICHE states.
Student Exchange Programs

Professional Student Exchange (PSEP)

- Today, 429 PSEP alumni are practicing in Oregon, including:
  - 20 medical doctors
  - 85 vets
  - 87 optometrists
  - 269 physical and occupational therapists
  - 31 graduate librarians

- About 65 percent of the state’s PSEP students return to Oregon to pursue their professional careers.
Oregon & WICHE

Student Exchange Programs

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

- Almost 1,200 students enrolled in fall 2002.
- They paid: just 150% of resident tuition.
- They saved: $5.6 million this year.
- Over 1,300 students from other WICHE states enrolled in Oregon.
Student Exchange Programs

Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)

- 46 Oregon graduate students went to out-of-state institutions.
- They paid: resident tuition.
- Oregon received 43.
Student Exchange Programs

What students say:

“WICHE/PSEP was a tremendous help to me for the last three years as I pursued my master of physical therapy degree from the University of Utah. The tuition assistance provided much needed financial support and enabled me to focus more on my education and professional development and less on making ends meet.”

—Amy Malone-Pruiit, MPT

“Without WICHE’s support it would have taken me two to three times as long to become a physical therapist.”

—Sarah Tonna, LPT
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)
Oregon’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 higher ed growth of about 24% over the next decade – most of it in the next 5 years.

On top of 4-6% annual growth over the last 3 years.

WHY?
What’s pushing the wave?

1. Simple Demographics

2. Policy Goal – Greater post-secondary participation

- High school grad rates are holding steady (1999-2000) \((Measuring Up 2002: C on Preparation)\)
  - Oregon – 74.8% (76.2% in ’96)
  - WICHE West – 69.8%
  - U.S. – 68.1%

- But a smaller percentage are going on to college \((Measuring Up 2002: D+)\)
  - Oregon – 46.1% (down from 52.1% in ’96)
  - WICHE West – 48%
  - U.S. – 56.1%

- **Associate degree production (per 100 H.S. grads)**
  - Oregon – 21.1%
  - WICHE West – 25.8%
  - U.S. – 21.8%

- **Baccalaureate degree production (per 100 H.S. grads)**
  - Oregon – 45.9%
  - WICHE West – 43.9%
  - U.S. – 47.7%
Consolation: You’re not alone

- California, Nevada, and Texas are in worse shape than you.
- Most of the rest of the West is right with you.
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.

- From Communities of Color: the number of high school grads will double – from 15% in 2002 to 30% in 2012.
- Projected increase in Hispanic high school grads: from 6.7% to 19%.
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 Oregon: that number is 19.1%

**Good News:** Improving performance in K-12, boosts in SAT/ACT scores, and more success with Advanced Placement.
The Third Wave – Limited Resources

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

- Oregon state budget grew by 10.4% between 1997/99 and 2001/03.
- Oregon support for higher education grew by 21.3% in that time.
- Oregonians’ personal income increased by 21.4%.
The Third Wave – Limited Resources

*What a difference two years make:*
The new millennium + two – the Worst of Times.

- Oregon faces a budget deficit of about $1 billion for FY 2001/03 and an estimated $2 billion for FY 2003/05.
- Oregon’s support for higher education declined by 10.6% in FY 2001-03.
- Higher ed’s share of the budget is shrinking: from 12.2% down to 6.9% (1987/89 – 2001/03).
- And prospects remain grim.
State and local surplus or shortfall as a percent of baseline revenues

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

Institutions lack financial capacity to increase capacity.

- State support is limited, and will likely remain so.

- Oregon was 33rd in the nation in per-capita spending for higher ed (2002).
Access is at risk

- One of the highest tuition rates in the West.
- Oregon trails the West and the rest in need-based financial assistance.
  - State need-based aid
    Oregon - $153
    WICHE average - $238
    U.S. average - $316
- And no intentional integration of the two.
The Makings of *The Perfect Storm*

Increasing demand – likely more than 24%

Increasingly difficult-to-serve clientele

Limited finances – Oregon facing a 1.3% structural deficit
Weathering the Storm

Planning is essential: *Changing Directions* – as good a planning process and effort as I have seen in the West.

The solutions for higher education lie both within and outside higher education in Oregon – your revenue structure won’t support your current 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 Oregon focus its resources (i.e., WICHE’s PSEP program)
To Weather the Storm, or Whether Not To?
That is the Question.

“Declining state support for our public universities over the last 15 years has run counter to increasing enrollments. Growing student demand, fueled by the baby boomlet and re-entrants into higher education – such as “broken bachelors” returning to complete a degree – will increase enrollment by almost 25%, reaching 100,000 students in the system within seven years.

“Add to this declining financial aid, increasing tuition, and a half-billion dollar deferred maintenance backlog, and you get a ‘perfect storm’ that will likely wreak havoc on access and opportunity in Oregon.”

Richard Jarvis, Chancellor, Oregon University System

And the answer is clear.