The Role of the Higher Education Compact in Improving the Quality of American Higher Education

November 22, 2002
Chicago, Illinois
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
WICHE Mission

WICHE works with its 15 member states to expand access and excellence in higher education for all citizens of the West.

By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions, WICHE strengthens higher education’s contributions to the region’s social, economic, and civic life.

Several of our programs extend WICHE’s reach nationally and internationally.
Member States

Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
North Dakota
Oregon
South Dakota
Utah
Washington
Wyoming
History

WICHE was created by an interstate compact in 1953. It was a time when there were few professional schools in the West and intense competition for space in those schools, especially for training in medicine and other health-related areas.

A Western Compact for Higher Education was proposed in the U.S. Congress and 13 states were the original signatories. Two states, North Dakota and South Dakota, became affiliate members in the 1980s.
Governance

45-member commission (three commissioners per state).
Commissioners include:

- state higher education executive officers;
- legislators;
- college and university presidents/administrators;
- K-12, business, and community leaders.

The full WICHE Commission meets semiannually.
## Budget and Revenue Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2002</th>
<th>FY 2003</th>
<th>FY 2004</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Operating Budget:</strong></td>
<td>$5.9 million</td>
<td>$7.0 million</td>
<td>$5.9 million</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues:</strong> state dues, program affiliation and membership fees, grants and contracts, indirect costs, interest and other income</td>
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<td><strong>State dues / state:</strong></td>
<td>$99,000</td>
<td>$103,000</td>
<td>$105,000</td>
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<td><strong>General Fund Budget:</strong></td>
<td>$1.9 million</td>
<td>$2.0 million</td>
<td>$2.0 million</td>
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<td><strong>PSEP (pass through):</strong></td>
<td>$11.5 million</td>
<td>$11.3 million</td>
<td>$10.5 million</td>
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Key Constituencies

- Students and their families;
- Governors and their staff in the member states;
- Legislative leaders and legislators serving on higher education and appropriations committees/staff;
- Institutional leaders and governing board members;
- State higher education executive officers/staff;
- Leaders of other regional, national, and international education and policy organizations.
What We Do

- Direct Services
  - Student Exchange
    - PSEP – 800 students
    - WUE – 16,000 students
    - WRGP – 500 students/140 programs
  - ATAlliance
  - Networking
  - Others as needed and possible
What We Do

- Policy Analysis, Research and Information
  - Data and Information
  - Policy Analysis and Research
    - Publications
    - Regional Forums
    - State Round Tables
    - Commission Meetings
- Agenda-driven by Workplan
  - Finances
  - Access
  - Accountability
  - Quality & Innovation
  - Workforce Needs
- Periodic Evaluation of Relevance
What We Do

- Technical Assistance
  - WCET
    - MDE
    - Student Services
    - Quality Assurance
    - Consulting Services
    - EduTools
  - Mental Health
    - State Assessment
    - Cultural Competency
  - Compact for Faculty Diversity
WICHE’s Mission

The fifteen member states of the Western Commission for Higher Education work collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for all citizens of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions, WICHE strengthens higher education’s contributions to the region’s social, economic, and civic life.
WICHE works with its 15 member states to assure access and excellence in higher education for all citizens of the West. Several programs extend our reach nationally and internationally.

IMPROVING K-16 EDUCATION
-- David Longanecker

The Changing Nature of Accountability
Western Policy Forum Nov. 13-14, 2001