What’s Up at WICHE?

Monday, May 21, 2007 – 11.30 am - 12.15 pm

Continental Divide
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WICHE’s WCET, its Programs and Services unit, and its Student Exchange Program (SEP) have witnessed a number of significant developments over the last year, and there are more to come. In this session WCET’s Louis Fox, Programs and Services’ Jere Mock, and SEP’s Margo Schultz will debrief commissioners on what’s happening in their programs and what’s on the horizon.

Speakers:
Louis Fox, executive director, WCET
Jere Mock, senior program director, Programs and Services unit
Margo Schultz, program coordinator, Student Exchange Program

Biographical Information on the Speakers

Louis Fox joined WCET as its executive director in 2006. The founder of the National Internet2 K20 Initiative and a well-known researcher and advocate in the field of technology and education, he came to WCET from the University of Washington, where he served as vice provost for educational partnerships and learning technologies. As vice provost, he created a number of partnership centers that brought university resources to rural communities. He was also instrumental in the creation of the state’s Digital Learning Commons, an online educational resource for students, parents, and teachers. On the national level, Fox, executive director of the five-year-old Internet2 K20 Initiative, leads the effort to connect schools, libraries, museums, community colleges, and baccalaureate institutions to Internet2, an advanced networking consortium of U.S. universities and other organizations; over 60,000 institutions in 37 states have been connected, creating a national education grid.

Jere Mock is director of the Programs and Services unit at WICHE. She manages WICHE’s three Student Exchange Programs – the Professional Student Exchange Program, the Western Regional Graduate Program, and the Western Undergraduate Exchange – which provide a broad range of higher education options for nearly 22,000 students. She oversees the State Scholars Initiative, funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Vocational and Adult Education. She directs WICHE’s involvement in several regional initiatives, including the Northwest Academic Forum; the WICHE Internet Course Exchange; and the Master Property Program (a property insurance and risk management consortium developed by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact). In addition, Mock directs WICHE’s print and electronic communications. She has received and managed large grants for several WICHE programs, including $6.6 million for the State Scholars Initiative; $600,000 from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education for the NEON project, and $400,000 from the
Ford Foundation for the WICHE Institute on Ethnic Diversity. Previously, Mock was executive director of the Mountain Bell Foundation, which distributed $7 million annually in a seven-state region, and she held managerial positions in the Mountain Bell external affairs and public relations departments. Mock holds a bachelor’s in journalism and a master’s of public administration from the University of Colorado, as well as an M.B.A. from Regis University. She serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations.

Margo Schultz is WICHE’s Student Exchange Program coordinator, overseeing the Western Undergraduate Exchange, the Professional Student Exchange Program, and the Western Regional Graduate Program. Previous to taking this post, she served as the associate director of CONAHEC, the Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration, from 1994 to 2003. She was bestowed the Manuel T. Pacheco Award, given to an outstanding individual from Mexico, Canada, or the U.S., for her pivotal role in the development of CONAHEC as a trinational consortium. Shultz also spent seven years in Gabon, Central Africa, teaching English as a foreign language with the Peace Corps and on contract with the Gabonese Ministry of Education. She received her bachelor’s degree in business French from the University of Colorado and a master’s in international policy studies with an emphasis in intercultural communication from the Monterey Institute of International Studies.