Plenary Session V: Where to from Here for the West? A Commission Discussion

Tuesday, May 19, 2009
10.45 am - 12.00 noon
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In this follow-up to Plenary Session IV ("Where to from Here for the U.S.?"), Paul Lingenfelter and David Longanecker will shift the focus from the nation to the West, leading WICHE commissioners in a discussion of the region’s future.

Moderators: Paul Lingenfelter, president, SHEEO; and David Longanecker, president, WICHE.

Biographical Information on the Speakers

Paul E. Lingenfelter’s work as president of SHEEO has focused on successful participation in higher education, accountability, and finance. Under his leadership SHEEO organized and staffed the National Commission on Accountability in Higher Education, which in March 2005 issued its report Accountability for Better Results: A National Imperative for Higher Education. He previously served as vice president of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, where he established and led the MacArthur Foundation Program on Human and Community Development. Earlier, Lingenfelter served as deputy director for fiscal affairs for the Illinois Board of Higher Education. He received an A.B. from Wheaton College in literature, an M.A. from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in higher education.

David A. Longanecker is the president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) in Boulder, CO. WICHE is a regional compact between 15 Western states created to assure access and excellence in higher education through collaboration and resource sharing among the higher education systems of the West. Previously, Longanecker served for six years as the assistant secretary for postsecondary education at the U.S. Department of Education. Prior to that he was the state higher education executive officer in Colorado and Minnesota. He was also the principal analyst for higher education for the Congressional Budget Office. Longanecker has served on numerous boards and commissions. He has written extensively on a range of higher education issues. His primary interests in higher education are: access, promoting student and institutional performance, teacher education, finance, the efficient use of educational technologies, and academic collaboration in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. He holds an Ed.D. from Stanford University, an M.A. in student personnel work from George Washington University, and a B.A. in sociology from Washington State University.