Plenary Session III
Higher Education: Public Good and/or Private Benefit – Orienting the Public Investment Through State Financial Aid

Monday, May 12, 2014
3:15 – 4:30 pm
Anasazi Ballroom
Plenary Session III:
Higher Education: Public Good and/or Private Benefit –
Orienting the Public Investment Through State
Financial Aid

In a recent report, States in the Driver’s Seat: Leveraging State Aid to Align
Policies and Promote Access, Success, and Affordability, as one in a series
of concept papers to consider comprehensive financial aid reform, WICHE
argues that states can adapt a strategic framework for awarding financial aid
to address rising barriers to access and success while simultaneously bringing
appropriations, tuition policy, and financial aid investments into alignment.
That framework, known as Shared Responsibility and in effect to varying
degrees in Oregon, Idaho, and Minnesota (where it has had its lengthiest
and most successful history), identifies the key partners whose contributions
make college attendance possible and clearly expresses how much each of
them is expected to contribute. Those partners are the student, the family,
the federal government, the state, and the institution. An aspect that
differentiates Shared Responsibility from other aid distribution models and
makes it especially pertinent to our meeting’s theme is its explicit expectation
that students, as the principal beneficiaries of their education, should
make a substantial but reasonable contribution. WICHE’s paper, which was
commissioned by Lumina Foundation, also describes how states can promote
better alignment with institutional aid policies as well. During this session,
Brian Prescott, who authored the report along with David Longanecker, will
describe the Shared Responsibility framework and related proposals WICHE
put forth.

Speaker: Brian Prescott, director of policy research, WICHE

Facilitated Discussion on Higher Education: Public Good and/or
Private Benefit – Orienting the Public Investment Through State
Financial Aid

Facilitator: Mike Rush, WICHE vice chair and executive director, Idaho State
Board of Education

Biographical Information on the Speaker & Facilitator

Brian T. Prescott is the director of policy research in the Policy Analysis and
Research unit at the WICHE. He comanages the Policy Analysis and Research
unit, with primary responsibility for obtaining and analyzing education and
workforce data with public policy relevance. Author, with Peace Bransberger,
of the most recent edition of Knocking at the College Door, WICHE’s widely
used projections of high school graduates by state and race/ethnicity, he
also has experience working with states on financial aid redesign, access and
success, and data systems development. Prescott earned his Ph.D. in higher
education from the University of Virginia.

Mike Rush is the executive director of the Idaho State Board of Education,
charged with supporting a board with oversight over the majority of Idaho’s
budget. The board is responsible for governing all of Idaho’s higher education institutions and has general supervision over all public education, including the community colleges. Before becoming executive director, Rush served ten years as the administrator of the Division of Professional-Technical Education. He has also taught high school and has had faculty positions at the University of Idaho, Virginia Tech, and Penn State University. He has held adjunct faculty status at Boise State University and was director of research for the State Division of Professional-Technical Education. Rush received his master’s degree from the University of Idaho and his doctorate from Virginia Tech, with a minor in the masters of business administration program.