WICHE Internet Course Exchange (WICHE ICE)

WICHE Commission Meeting

November 5, 2007

Susan Vermeer Lopez

Project Coordinator
Mission of WICHE ice

WICHE ICE creates opportunities for students to access high quality internet delivered courses and programs offered by accredited four-year and two-year institutions throughout the WICHE region.
Current WICHE ICE Member Institutions

- Bismarck State College
- Boise State University
- Central Washington University
- Eastern Washington University
- Idaho State University
- Lewis-Clark State College (ID)
- Montana State University
- Montana University System
- North Dakota University System Online
- University of Alaska Anchorage
- University of Nevada Reno
- University of Utah
- University of Wyoming

Additional institutional and system memberships are pending.
Growth in Online Learning

- Over 90 percent of public institutions offer online courses
- Most institutions are finding a large proportion of their online students are also enrolled on campus
- Access to postsecondary education is not evenly distributed across the West, online learning can help equalize access
Summary of ICE Objectives

- Respond more quickly to workforce demands through sharing online courses and programs
- Organize institutional resources to create opportunities for students throughout the region
- Support quality of courses, effective student learning, assessment and continuous improvement
- Abide by accreditation standards and best practices
- Clearly designate essential student services, applicable policies and institutional responsibilities
- Resource for academic planning
How WICHE ICE Works

- **Teaching Institution**
  - teaches an online or distance ed course
  - offers extra “seats” through WICHE ICE
  - establishes the price per seat
  - establishes academic policies for all students

- **Enrolling Institution**
  - reserves seats through WICHE ICE
  - creates a shadow course in catalog
  - registers students, collects tuition/fees, records grades and maintains transcript
  - sends $$ to teaching institution and WICHE
Benefits for Students

- Access to a wider range of courses, academic programs and faculty expertise in a variety of disciplines
- Financial aid and credit transfer are seamless
- Improved degree completion and retention
- Access to advising and financial aid at their home institution
- Overcome geographical, financial and scheduling barriers to course enrollment
- Benefit from the convenience and flexibility of online course delivery
- Increase course and program offerings in rural areas
Benefits for higher education institutions

- Expanded course and program offerings
- Expedite students’ time to degree
- Achieve cost efficiencies by avoiding or sharing the cost of new course and program development
- Share faculty in hard to staff disciplines
- Keep low growth programs viable
- Review courses from member institutions for requirements before students take them
WICHE ICE can help improve time to degree

- **General course exchange**: a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses are offered in disciplines such as Math, Science and English.

- Making these courses available to students can help them meet requirements in a timely manner, reducing time to degree.
Benefits for states and impact on workforce development

- Respond more quickly to workforce demands, especially those that arise quickly
- Collaborate on workforce issues of immediate concern, and address them through collaborative approaches
- Examples include nursing, allied health, secondary math and science teacher preparation and development, and rural social work education
WICHE ICE addresses workforce needs

- **Nursing:** Nursing Education Exchange (NEXus) in partnership with the Western Institute of Nursing
  - 4 universities share PhD level nursing courses
  - Eliminates need for schools of nursing to develop all doctoral level courses
  - Assists students with increased course options

- **Rural Social Work:** Western Consortium for Rural Social Work Education (6 institutions offering Graduate Certificate in Rural Social Work Practice)

- **Supply Chain Management:** Graduate certificate jointly delivered between Boise State University and the University of Alaska Anchorage
Additional areas of development to address workforce needs

- **Education:** Preparation and professional development for secondary science and mathematics
- **Engineering:** Graduate level courses and programs
- **Allied Health Professions:** Current potential exchanges include dental hygiene and health information technology
- **Public Health:** Master’s in Public Health online program sharing
WICHE ICE Financial Model

- Institutions and state systems pay a membership fee based on student enrollments ($2,000-$4,000 annually)
- A $20 per student, per course fee is assessed to support WICHE involvement
WICHE ICE Updates

- Registrars, Business offices, academic administrators and WICHE ICE steering board members and coordinators met to discuss implementation.
- Next goal: increase membership
For more information:
http://www.wiche.edu/prosvcs/ice/

Jere Mock, Senior Program Director, Programs and Services,
303-541-0222, jmock@wiche.edu

Donna Schaad, Senior Consultant, 309-827-7425,
dschaad@wiche.edu

Susan Vermeer Lopez, Project Coordinator, 303.541.0220,
slopez@wiche.edu
Northwest Academic Forum

Provosts and Academic Affairs officers from 32 masters and doctoral granting institutions in 10 states.

Theme for 2008 meeting:
Local to Global: Partnerships and Strategies for Improvement
Master Property Program

- Offered in collaboration with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)
- Six new institutions in the WICHE region:
  - Pima Community College (AZ)
  - Lewis & Clark College (OR)
  - Seattle Pacific University
  - Westminster College
  - Willamette University
  - University of Northern Colorado