Plenary Session III: What’s Up at WICHE? WCET’s Predictive Analytics Reporting Framework and the Multistate Data Exchange Project

Tuesday, November 1, 2011
9:45 - 10:45 am
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This session about activities will focus on two major WICHE projects, WCET’s Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR) Framework and the Policy Analysis and Research unit’s Multistate Data Exchange project, both of which have been supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Predictive Analytics Reporting Framework. Ellen Wagner, executive director of WCET, will present the major findings and outcomes of recently completed work on the PAR Framework. This is a major study of the ways in which data collected on students enrolled in online and technology-mediated instruction can be used to identify those pinch points that correlate positively or negatively with student success, thus allowing institutions to develop interventions to enhance the success of students and their own efficiency in better serving students.

Multistate Data Exchange. Brian Prescott, director of policy research for WICHE, will present an update on progress toward establishing an exchange of data between four WICHE states – Hawai‘i, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. This initiative will allow the four participating states to exchange data, from the entry of students into a state’s educational system through to the completion of students in any of the participating states’ educational systems and then into the workforce. With the engagement of elementary/secondary data managers, postsecondary data managers, and labor force data managers, this project has worked to develop a governance structure and a common memorandum of agreement; address myriad legal questions, including issues of protecting students’ privacy; and integrate data from quite different individual state database systems. The four states were selected because they were willing participants and have substantial migration between them (three are contiguous); in addition, they differed greatly in the extent and sophistication of their respective data systems. While all of the participants have been extremely cordial and supportive of the effort, overcoming barriers of data sharing between states have been substantial in a legal environment that isn’t generally fertile for multistate collaboration. Prescott will share the successes to date and schedule for progress into the future.

Speakers: Pearl Iboshi, director, Institutional Research and Analysis Office, University of Hawai‘i System; Hae Okimoto, director, academic technologies, University of Hawai‘i System; Brian Prescott, director of policy research, WICHE; Ellen Wagner, executive director, WCET
Biographical Information on the Speakers

Pearl Imada Iboshi is the director of the Institutional Research and Analysis Office at the University of Hawai‘i System. She provides direction to and manages the research staff of the office, which supports, enhances, and fosters the educational mission of the university by providing analyses and management information for use in planning, decision making, assessment, and policy formation. It provides leadership and direction for institutional research at the university. Before taking this position, Imada Iboshi was the interim director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and served on the Governor’s Cabinet for the State of Hawai‘i in 2010. She also served as the state economist and administrator for the Research and Economic Analysis Division of Hawai‘i’s Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. Originally from Hilo, Imada Iboshi received her undergraduate degree in economics from Grinnell College, then obtained her master’s degree in the same field from Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo and her doctorate in economics from the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa.

Hae Okimoto has been with the University of Hawai‘i System since 1988, when she was hired to lead the 10-campus system’s initial distance education endeavor using interactive television. Since then she has led the university’s migration from a commercial course management system to a systemwide open source learning and collaboration environment that’s integrated with enterprise systems to support classroom instruction, hybrid courses, distance learning, research collaborations, and social networking. Okimoto has systemwide responsibility for distance and e-learning support, including all related technologies, IT customer services, faculty development, and the multicampus student information system. As a board member of the American Association for Higher Education, she promoted the topics of educational technology and distance education in national higher education policy discussions. As a member of the NorthWest Academic Computing Consortium Board, she is a leader in e-learning-related matters. Okimoto helped to establish WCET back in 1989 and has been very active in the cooperative, serving on its conference planning committee and steering committee and, recently, as cochair of its new professional development program, “Forging the Future: The $10,000 Baccalaureate.” She is on the core team that recently received the largest grant from the Labor and Education departments to community colleges for job training and workforce development. She anticipates that lessons learned from the PAR grant can be used in the improvement of programs to support this new grant.

Brian T. Prescott is the director of policy research in the Policy Analysis and Research unit at WICHE. He comanages the unit, with primary responsibility for obtaining and analyzing education and
workforce data with public policy relevance. He is the author 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. Additionally, he manages grant- and contract-funded projects and authors occasional policy briefs, chapters, and research reports. Prescott also has experience working directly with states on issues of access, success, affordability, accountability, workforce development, and data systems development. Prior to joining WICHE in 2004, Prescott worked in the Office of State Governmental Relations at the University of Virginia, where he earned a Ph.D. in higher education. He also holds degrees from the University of Iowa and the College of William and Mary.

**Ellen Wagner** is executive director of WCET, a cooperative association of institutions, vendors, and educational stakeholders looking to advance excellence and accelerate adoption of innovative technology-enhanced teaching and learning practices and policies in higher education. She is also a partner and senior analyst for Sage Road Solutions, where she is responsible for industry intelligence and enablement services. Wagner is the former senior director of worldwide e-learning at Adobe Systems and was senior director of worldwide education solutions for Macromedia. She also served as chief learning officer and director of education for Viviance new education, a Swiss-based e-learning company with offices in 10 North American and European countries; and chief learning officer and VP of consulting services for Informania. Wagner was formerly a tenured professor and chair of the Educational Technology Program at the University of Northern Colorado and held a number of administrative posts, including director of the Western Institute for Distance Education and coordinator of campus instructional and research technologies, Academic Affairs Division. Her Ph.D. in learning psychology comes from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Her M.S. and B.A. degrees were earned at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.