Plenary Session III:
What’s Up at WICHE? An Early Glimpse at Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates

Good demographic data is an essential building block to effective policymaking and practice in educational institutions, never more so than when the nation and the West are experiencing significant shifts in racial/ethnic composition. The changes that are currently underway present important challenges to and opportunities for higher education practitioners and policymakers. For more than 30 years, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education has produced Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates, the most comprehensive set of demographic data on future college enrollment demand. Leading up to the release of the next edition, planned for this winter, staff conducted a thorough review of the underlying methodological approach WICHE has traditionally used and also explored options to increase the reach and utility of the projections series to the wide and varied audience it serves. Staff will discuss these efforts and unveil preliminary projections during this session.

Speaker: Brian Prescott, director of policy research, WICHE

Biographical Information on the Speaker

Brian T. Prescott is the director of policy research in the Policy Analysis and Research unit at 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 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.