Plenary Session IV:
Postelection Discussion

The election is over and we have a president-elect (at the time this session description was written, the election had not occurred, so we could not be more definitive). What did the president-elect say he would do at the federal level with regard to higher education, what constraints and possibilities exist for him in pursuing this agenda, and what possibilities exist for change beyond what was discussed in the campaign?

WICHE President David Longanecker will lead this discussion, sharing representations and prognostications he made in presentations prior to the election and discussing some unique opportunities that the times and timing might provide, with the confluence of federal reauthorizations on the table in labor programs, elementary and secondary education programs, and higher education programs.

Speaker: David Longanecker, president, WICHE

Biographical Information on the Speaker:

David Longanecker has served as the president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education in Boulder since 1999. 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: expanding access to successful completion for students within all sectors of higher education, promoting student and institutional performance, assuring efficient and effective finance and financial aid strategies, and fostering effective use of educational technologies, all for the purpose of sustaining the nation’s strength in the world and increasing the quality of life for all Americans, particularly those who have traditionally been left out in the past. 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.