WICHE as a Case Study

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Access & Retention in Limited Growth States
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Increasing Participation Rates Through Regional Collaboration
Our Reasons For Being

- To Expand Access
  “WICHE works . . . to expand access and excellence in higher education for all citizens of the West.”

- To Expand The Array of Opportunities

- To Fill Excess Capacity
Our Methods

- Intentional Regionality
- WICHE’s Student Exchange Programs
  - PSEP – 800 students
  - WRGP – 500 students/120 programs
- WUE
WUE --- WOW!
Our Methods

- Intentional Regionality
  - WICHE Student Exchange
    - PSEP – 800 students
    - WRGP – 400 students
    - WUE

- Other Nifty Student Exchange Efforts
  - Interstate Reciprocity
  - Border Reciprocity
Methods continued

Other Significant Efforts

- Intercollegiate athletics
- Other special deals
- Distant Learning
Our Dilemma

- Our secondary goal (filling empty seats) often trumps our primary goal (expanding access).
- Our secondary goal (providing choice) really trumps our primary goal (expanding access).
  - Lack Financial Aid Portability
  - Presumes traditional attendance – first time/full time
- Intentional Regionality is a small part of interstate mobility
Our Opportunities

Stay the Course
- Institutionally friendly
- But, students will suffer

Become more student focused
- Seek greater interstate availability
- Provide Portable Financial Aid
- Provide Better Information

Become more state focused
- Seek greater reciprocal balance
- Pay greater attention to State’s needs
WICHE’s Mission

The fifteen member states of the Western Commission for Higher Education work collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for all citizens of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions, WICHE strengthens higher education’s contributions to the region’s social, economic, and civic life.