### AGENDA

**Monday, September 8**

5.30 – 6.30 pm  
*Pre-Registration*  
*Laveen A and B*  
Meeting participants are welcome to pick up their materials during pre-registration.

**Tuesday, September 9**

8.00 – 8.45 am  
*Registration and Networking Breakfast*  
*Laveen B*  
Join your legislative colleagues for a full breakfast.

8.45 – 9.00 am  
*Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of WICHE and the Legislative Advisory Committee*  
*Laveen A*  

_Speaker:_  
David Longanecker, president, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

9.00 – 9.30 am  
*The 2014 Legislative Sessions: Striking the Balance Between Affordability, Cost, and Quality*  
*Laveen A*  

_The WICHE region saw a great deal of higher education-related legislative activity in 2014, including efforts to mitigate the rising costs of higher education, ensure college affordability, increase student readiness for college and careers, and assist states and postsecondary institutions in delivering a high-quality education. This session will present the highlights and trends from this year; during the subsequent facilitated discussion, LAC members will share their perspectives and shed light on what might be expected in the future._

_Moderator:_  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

_Speaker:_  
Carl Krueger, project coordinator, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*
Tuesday, September 9 (continued)

9.30 – 10.15 am Facilitated Discussion: The 2014 Legislative Sessions: Striking the Balance Between Affordability, Cost, and Quality
Laveen A

Facilitator:
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

10.15 – 10.30 am Break

10.30 – 11.30 am Easing the Burden of State Authorization through Reciprocity
Laveen A

Intended to ease the pathway for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state, the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is an agreement among member states, districts, and territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offerings of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. SARA is overseen by a National Council and administered by the four regional education compacts. This facilitated discussion will highlight key developments of the voluntary agreement, deliver a status update of Western members, and provide an opportunity for LAC members to discuss how to best position their state to comply with federal law.

Facilitator:
John Lopez, director, W-SARA, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speakers:
Representative Jeff Dial, Arizona
Representative Dave Young, Colorado

11.30 am – 12.45 pm LUNCH - Advising WICHE: An Open Discussion
Laveen B

Over lunch, LAC members will engage in an open discussion about ways to better serve students, legislators, and other higher education stakeholders in the region through WICHE’s policy support, services, and programs.

Facilitator:
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

12.45 – 1.00 pm Break
Tuesday, September 9 (continued)

1.00 – 1.30 pm  
A Delicate Balance: The Benefits and Concerns Around Data and Student Privacy  
Laveen A

While there is a strong push for more accountability in higher education, which by nature requires the responsible collection and analysis of data, there are legitimate perspectives and concerns surrounding how those data are used. Many state legislators have recently found themselves in a position to consider questions related to these issues that they have not previously encountered. This facilitated discussion will allow members to have an open dialogue with data experts about the key ethical and practical questions regarding the use of student information and privacy.

Moderator:  
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speakers:  
Melissa Beard, data governance coordinator, Washington Education Research and Data Center  
Paige Kowalski, director, state policy and advocacy, Data Quality Campaign

1.30 – 2.00 pm  
Facilitated Discussion - A Delicate Balance: The Benefits and Concerns Around Data and Student Privacy  
Laveen A

Facilitator:  
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

2.00 – 3.00 pm  
Common Academic Standards and Assessments in K-12 Education  
Laveen A

During the 2014 legislative sessions, many state legislatures tackled a variety of issues related to the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) or other similar academic standards and assessments that in most cases will be implemented in the 2014-15 academic year. This session is an opportunity for LAC members to engage in a facilitated dialogue about what is happening with respect to the implementation of the standards and assessments, including what they mean for higher education generally and in the region.

Facilitators:  
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

3.00 – 3.15 pm  
Break
Tuesday, September 9 (continued)

3.15 – 3.45 pm  
*Laveen A*  
**States in the Driver’s Seat: Aligning Policy to Make College Affordable**

College affordability dominated the legislative agendas in the West in 2014. While WICHE offered an overarching set of guiding principles and policy proposals to leverage state aid to align policies and promote access, success, and affordability, states attempted to address the issue in a variety of ways. Learn how different states tackled these issues and join a discussion about how to make progress in aligned and systematic ways.

*Moderator:*  
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

*Speakers:*  
Senator Michael Dembrow, Oregon  
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Washington (WICHE Commissioner)

3.45 pm – 4.30 pm  
*Laveen A*  
**Facilitated Discussion - States in the Driver’s Seat: Aligning Policy to Make College Affordable**

*Facilitator:*  
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

6.00 pm  
*1130 The Restaurant*  
**Networking Reception and Dinner**

Please meet in the hotel lobby at 6.00 pm. The group will walk the short distance from the hotel to the restaurant.

Wednesday, September 10

8.00 – 8.30 am  
*Laveen B*  
**Networking Breakfast**

Join your legislative colleagues for a full breakfast.

8.30 – 9.00 am  
*Laveen A*  
**The Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act: An Update and Discussion of What May Come**

The Higher Education Act expires at the end of this year, and while it isn’t likely to be reauthorized by then, congressional lawmakers are gearing up and beginning the important conversations that will lay the groundwork for the next round of legislation. Some of the issues receiving early attention include competency-based education, how cost information and other data are provided to prospective college students, and counseling for federal student loan borrowers. This session will provide an update on the current status and provide a glimpse into what may evolve in the coming months. LAC members will also be asked to provide input on WICHE’s involvement in the reauthorization process.

*Facilitator:*  
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

*Speaker:*  
Lee Posey, committee director, National Conference of State Legislatures
Wednesday, September 10 (continued)

9.00 – 9.45 am  
Facilitated Discussion: The Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act: An Update and Discussion of What May Come

Facilitator:  
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

9.45 – 10.15 am  
Mission Creep or Meeting Demand? Allowing Community Colleges to Offer Four-year Degrees

While at least 21 states allow community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees, recently there has been increased action and discussion around this latest policy shift. In 2014, legislation passed in Colorado and in California. Proponents argue that this strategy creates an affordable way to meet workforce demands, while opponents cite concerns over mission creep. Join an engaging policy discussion with your colleagues and leaders from states that have been engaged in the debate.

Moderator:  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speakers:  
Senator Carol Liu, California  
Michael Martin, chancellor, Colorado State University System

10.15 – 11.00 am  
Mission Creep or Meeting Demand? Allowing Community Colleges to Offer Four-year Degrees

Facilitator:  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

11.00 – 11.15 am  
Break

11.15 – 11.45 am  
The 2015 Legislative Sessions: What’s on the Agenda?

The final session of the LAC annual meeting is intended to be a brainstorming session about issues that are likely to emerge in the 2015 legislative sessions. Members will have the opportunity to present ideas to each other, raise questions, and share insights about strategies for striking the balance between affordability, cost, and quality in higher education.

Facilitator:  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
Wednesday, September 10 (continued)

11.45 am  
**Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

*Laveen A*

*Speaker:*
David Longanecker, president, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

12.00 pm  
**Optional Networking Lunch**

*Mi Amigos Mexican Grill*

Please meet in the hotel lobby for an optional group lunch. The group will walk the short distance from the hotel to the restaurant.
2014 LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
>(*Indicates LAC member is also a WICHE Commissioner)

ALASKA
Representative Paul Seaton [APPOINTED 2009]
Senator Gary Stevens [APPOINTED 2013]

ARIZONA
Representative Jeff Dial [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Robert Meza [APPOINTED 2013]

CALIFORNIA
Assemblymember Das Williams [APPOINTED 2014]
Senator Carol Liu [APPOINTED 2011]

COLORADO
Representative Dave Young [APPOINTED 2013]
VACANCY

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero [APPOINTED 2014]
VACANCY

HAWAII
Representative Isaac Choy [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Brian Taniguchi [APPOINTED 2013]

IDAHO
Senator Dean Mortimer [APPOINTED 2012]
Representative Donna Pence [APPOINTED 2012]

MONTANA
Representative Kris Hansen [APPOINTED 2012]
Representative Franke Wilmer [APPOINTED 2014]*
Senator Cliff Larsen [APPOINTED 2013]

NEVADA
Assemblyman Paul Aizley [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Debbie Smith [APPOINTED 2011/2013]

NEW MEXICO
Representative Larry Larrañaga [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Mark Moores [APPOINTED 2013]*
Senator John Sapien [APPOINTED 2013]

NORTH DAKOTA
Senator Ray Holmberg [APPOINTED 2008]*
Representative Bob Martinson [APPOINTED 2008]
Representative Mark Sanford [APPOINTED 2013]

OREGON
Senator Michael Dembrow [APPOINTED 2010]
Senator Richard Devlin [APPOINTED 2010]

SOUTH DAKOTA
Representative Dan Dryden [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Bruce Rampleberg [APPOINTED 2013]

UTAH
Representative Keith Grover [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Peter Knudson [APPOINTED 2006]*
Senator Stephen Urquhart [APPOINTED 2013]

WASHINGTON
Representative Larry Haler [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles [APPOINTED 2005]*
Representative Larry Seaquist [APPOINTED 2013]*

WYOMING
Senator Paul Barnard [APPOINTED 2012]
Representative Samuel Krone [APPOINTED 2011]*
Representative Robert McKim [APPOINTED 2010]

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