THE TWO-YEAR LANDSCAPE IN THE WICHE STATES

**Arizona – Kathleen Corak, vice president for Academic Affairs, Coconino Community College (audio)**
Arizona has three public universities and 10 community college districts; the districts are supported by their respective counties, the state, and tuition revenues. Some of the community college districts are multicampus, others include only a single campus. The state has severe financial pressures. Nine years ago the state provided 45 percent of funding, now the support is less than 16 percent. Tuition is still a bargain; it was $23/credit nine years ago and for FY 2011 it is at $85 a credit. Coconino College was created 19 years ago. Major emphasis is being placed on transfer initiatives.
Website: www.coconino.edu

**California – Barry Russell, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, California Community Colleges**
The state is dealing with staggering budget challenges. California has 2.9 million community college students; one in four of the nation’s community college students are enrolled in California’s community colleges. There are 112 colleges, in 72 districts in the state. Enrollments range from a low of 1,500 students at some rural campuses to 60,000 to 70,000 on several on-campus colleges. Enrollment size is a big issue in dealing with state issues. Tuition is extremely low ($26 per unit). Many citizens in the state feel education should be free and resist tuition increases. The CSU and UC systems got hit really hard last year with budget reductions and there were student protests. As tuitions are increased, the legislature tends to lower the level of state support accordingly. It is a very bleak outlook.
Website: http://www.cccco.edu/

**Colorado – Geri Anderson, assistant vice president and provost, Colorado Community College System**
Colorado has 13 public four-year schools, a community college system that includes 13 colleges, and two district colleges. The districts are funded by local property taxes and are the highest funded in the nation; the system’s funding, however, ranks 47th in the U.S. The community college system is larger than any of the four-year systems and enrollment growth at the community college campuses is larger than at all but two of the four-year institutions. The enrollment for the system is 120,000 students. As a result of the creation of the Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF), the state’s support follows the student, rather than flowing to the institutions. COF has not been funded significantly. In FY 2010, the institutions have experienced a 28 percent enrollment increase, and a $30 million dollar cost increase because of COF. The tuition is $66 per credit hour.
Website: http://www.cccs.edu/

**Hawaii – Peter Quigley, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, University of Hawaii System**
The University of Hawaii system includes seven community colleges and three baccalaureates of which one is a research university. There are 20,000 students at the research institution, 5,000 at the baccalaureates, and 30,000 in the two-year system. The community colleges have surpassed their enrollment goals which continue to soar. The campuses are not funded on a per student basis, but rather by flat funding. The community colleges have increased tuition for the past six years and they are no longer losing money on classes. The system has taken a cut in state appropriations, which is approximately 70 percent of their budget, but funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment
Act (ARRA) helped. The community colleges have received $1 million in innovation money to address remediation and attrition rates, and set strategic benchmarks. They are doing a good job meeting them. Tuition is coming up: for FY 2010 it was $79 per credit hour and next year it will be $88. There are no local community college taxes. One board provides governance for 10 campuses. There is one core general education structure; it is a great moment to be a part of the system. They have great goals to unify the general education experience. This solves the transfer problem.
Website: [http://www.hawaii.edu/offices/cc/index.html](http://www.hawaii.edu/offices/cc/index.html)

**Idaho – Jeff Fox, executive vice president and chief academic officer, College of Southern Idaho (audio)**

There are three community colleges in the state (one of the three, the College of Western Idaho, is pursuing accreditation and will soon complete its first year of operation) and a technical campus. There are four state-supported four-year institutions: Boise State University, the University of Idaho, Idaho State University and Lewis Clark State College. This year marked the first time in the state’s history that funding for education was reduced. In this context, K-12 took the biggest hit. Emphasis is being placed on concurrent enrollment/dual credit as a way to gain efficiencies. The community colleges are local option tax schools, with elected, local boards with legal ascendancy. Idaho has one state board of education that spans K-20 All public higher education institutions in Idaho generally are state-assisted rather than state-supported. In the case of College of Southern Idaho, roughly 40% of funding comes from state appropriations. The College of Southern Idaho (CSI) experienced a 20% percent reduction in state funding over last two years. CSI tuition is $100 per credit hour in FY 2010 and is going to $105. The nearest community college is $130 per credit. CSI has a good local tax base and 8,500 students. As of this year, community college enrollments are 55 percent of the state academic enrollment, and 65 percent of the state’s workforce enrollments.
Website: [http://www.accessidaho.org/education/suniv.html](http://www.accessidaho.org/education/suniv.html)

**Montana – Mary Sheehy Moe, deputy commissioner for two-year education, Montana University System; WICHE Commissioner**

There are three community college districts. Their revenue mix includes 25 percent from local levies, 50 percent from state funding, and the remainder from tuition. Five colleges of technology are affiliated with university systems, and receive 60 percent of their funding from the state. There are seven tribal colleges funded through federal funds and governed through the tribal councils. The state has 15 institutions, with 20,000 enrollments; 24 percent of the enrollments are at two-year campuses. The state ranks last in the West in dual enrollments, also last in nontraditional students who are enrolled in postsecondary education. Their primary focus now is on governance, funding, and structure, especially issues related to transfer and communicating clearly about institutional missions. For FY 2010, tuition in the community colleges is $140 per credit hour.
Website: [http://mus.edu/community_colleges.asp](http://mus.edu/community_colleges.asp)

**New Mexico – Ron Liss, vice president for academic and student affairs, Santa Fe Community College**

New Mexico has 18 community colleges: 8 are independent colleges and 10 are branch campuses of universities. The state has seven public universities. Northern New Mexico Community College became
Northern New Mexico College in 2008. The community colleges are divided into service districts. Enrollments vary at the community colleges from 500 students to 28,000. The community college system has an 85,000 headcount; there are 150,000 total enrollments in higher education. Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) enrolled 6,400 students in fall 09, this semester there are 7,000 students, with a 10 percent increase in headcount. The university branches use their board of regents for governing but also have local boards which vary. Tuition is $34 per credit hour at SFCC. Local boards set tuition, but the state reduces campus funding based on their expectation of tuition increases. (it took away 9 percent of the tuition based funding this year). The community colleges are funded through the state, local moil levy, and through tuition, and the campuses have local bonding authority for capital improvements. SFCC got 88 percent of the popular vote for a $25 million bond in 2007. Dual credit is large at some colleges; one campus has 22 percent of its credit hours come from dual enrollment with high schools. Some of the courses are taught in the schools, some on campus. SFCC is hosting a public charter school on its campus. Enrollments in the state are 40 percent white, 38 percent Hispanic, 8 percent American Indian, and 2 percent Asian. High school students with a 2.5 GPA or higher are guaranteed four years of scholarships from state lottery funds.
Website: http://www.sfcc.edu

North Dakota – Wanda Meyer, vice president of instruction, Williston State College (audio)
Williston is located in the northwest corner of North Dakota where there is a lot of oil production. The North Dakota University System has 11 public institutions. The board of higher education is located in Bismarck. The presidents report to this board. Two institutions are research universities: the University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University. Four others are four-year campuses, and five are community colleges distributed across the state. There are two private, four-year institutions and five tribal colleges. Higher education gets 70 percent of its funding through legislative appropriation, and 30 percent from tuition. For FY 2010 the community college tuition is $130.44 per credit including fees. The state uses a common course numbering system: they all have agreed on common content – this eliminates transfer issues. The Williston campus has increased enrollment, but expected the opposite because of the increased oil activity in the area. Truck drivers and oil workers can make $80,000 per year. There are four training/workforce centers in the state that try to create pathways from the centers to colleges so students get credit for their training. Williston State College has a strong financial foundation. Students can get most of their college expenses paid just by living in the area.
Website: http://ndcommunitycolleges.info/

Oregon – Camille “Cam” Preus, commissioner, Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development; WICHE Commissioner
Oregon has 24 public postsecondary institutions: seven are four-year institutions, there are three research universities and four are regionals. One regional is a technical four-year. There are 17 community colleges. Two boards provide guidance and structure; one for the 17 campuses and K-12 education; and a board of higher education provides governance for the seven four-year institutions. Local community college boards are elected and have broad purview for governance: they set tuition, determine the program mix, they do it all. The Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development gets money from the legislature, disperses it, approves programs and develops
statewide initiatives. Higher education serves 200,000 FTE statewide; the community colleges have 110,000 of those FTE, and 400,000 headcount. Portland Community College has five different locations and serves 90,000 students; it is the largest postsecondary institution in the state and is the largest grantor of high school diplomas. Funding includes 45 to 50 percent from the state, 25 percent local property tax, 25 percent from tuition; institutions can only bond for capital improvement funding. For FY 2009, the state has a $12 billion budget. Higher education lost 10 percent of its funding in FY 2009; campuses are anticipating reductions ranging from 14 to 25 percent in FY 2011-13. Oregon has a $2.2 billion shortfall now. Higher education’s enrollments are growing 17 percent now despite the budget cuts. Tuition averages $80 per credit hour except for differentiated tuitions which are higher for programs such as nursing and culinary arts and approximately $70 on the low end. The state provides a 50 percent match on capital improvements. In FY 2009, $125 million in capital construction was funded. Website: http://www.oregon.gov/CCWD/

South Dakota – Michael Cartney, vice president, Lake Area Technical Institute (audio)
The state has four technical institutes that were established by the state and authorized to award associates of applied science with the mission of providing South Dakota’s technically skilled workforce. LATI offers 25 different diploma and degree programs. South Dakota’s Board of Education that sets policy and direction as well as setting tuition ($90 per credit hour) and approving new programs. The Department of Education unifies the four technical schools and work statewide technical education issues. The local districts oversee budgets and do personnel administration. Each institute has a business advisory board, and each program has an Industry Advisory Board. South Dakota has seven land grant colleges; each tech college is associated with a land grant and has an articulation agreement with all seven of the land grants. It is a unique setup. There are 5,000 students in tech schools, and they graduate 1,700 students per year. The state provides approximately 35 percent of their funding each year; the rest is from tuition, fees and industry support. Lake Area Tech is the oldest, and it has 25 programs, with a 96 percent student placement rate six months after graduation. Because of the rural geography of South Dakota, there is a growing dependence on online and distance learning. Some 92 percent of its graduates remain in South Dakota. Website: www.lakeareatech.edu, www.mitchelltech.edu, www.wdt.edu, and www.southeasttech.edu

Utah – Joe Peterson, vice president for instruction, Salt Lake Community College
Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) is the top provider of AA degrees in the country as listed in Community College Weekly. There are three changes in the last decade in Utah that have had an impact on the system configuration. First was the conversion of three community colleges into four-year regional institutions. The second was the embedded two-year trend. Third is noncredit workforce development: 15 years ago they thought it would languish in a comprehensive setting. In 2000 Utah created Utah College of Applied Tech (UCAT) with 10 regional campuses to serve in noncredit workforce development. The community colleges have for credit career and technical education. Due to tensions between the UCAT and the other institutions, legislation took the UCAT out of the Utah system a year ago. In addition, there have been several mergers between regional campuses and the community colleges of which SLCC was a part. Therefore, its configuration is complicated. Funding is down 13
percent over the last couple of years. Forty-two percent of funding comes from tuition revenue at $186 per credit hour. Tuition structure is plateaued between 12 and 18 credits (between $1,400 and 1,500 per semester). Community college tuitions are 139 percent of a regional average according to regional data from WICHE while four-year institution tuitions are at 84 percent of the regional average. Website: http://www.utah.gov/education/colleges.html

Washington – Jan Yoshiwara, deputy executive director of education, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
Washington has 29 community colleges, 5 technical colleges, 6 public baccalaureate institutions and 12-15 private nonprofit baccalaureate institutions. The 29 community colleges are located in 30 districts (most are single college districts). Community and technical sector is the largest in higher education with 60% of undergraduate enrollments in the state. They have 480,000 unduplicated headcount or 150,000 FTEs from all funding sources. Governance is a state board for technical and community colleges and a higher education coordinating board. Funding is centralized while the governance is decentralized with the legislature appropriating the operating and capital funds. The community and technical college board sets tuition for the colleges, receives and disburses federal funds, and contracts operations with other agencies. Local community colleges have their own boards that are appointed by the governor. They do not have local taxing authority. Sixty percent of operating funds come from the state through the state board, 25 percent of budget is tuition set by state board, and 15 percent of the operating revenue is from contracts and fees. Therefore, 85 percent of funding is controlled by the state board. Mission mix: 35 percent of enrollments are academic, 45 percent are workforce, and 20 percent are a mix of basic skills, high school completion, and pre-college coursework. The technical colleges are predominately workforce education, not academic transfer. A large number of students (40 percent) who earn BA degrees have transferred from a community or technical college. Seventy-five percent of newly trained technical workers come from community and technical colleges. Because they are a centralized funding agency, they attract statewide contracts from other agencies. For example, they have a welfare program, WorkFirst (similar to TANF); their agency contracts at $25 million a year to provide training. For TANF recipients, they distribute funds to colleges. They also have a single contract with department of corrections for inmate training equaling around $10 – $11 million which is distributed to 9 or 10 colleges. Initiatives in last couple of years include authority to offer applied BA degrees in two pilot phases. Seven colleges are offering the applied BA degrees (one is a tech college). This past session legislation takes the pilot off the statute, so they have statewide authority for applied BA degrees. Website: http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/

Wyoming – Marlene Tignor, vice president of instruction, Laramie County Community College (audio)
In Wyoming the population is only about 500,000 with 7 community colleges and one four-year institution. The community colleges serve 30,000 students with a total of 50,000 in higher education statewide. Funding is 60 percent from the state and another percent contribution from the tax base in the county where the campus resides. Twenty percent of Laramie County Community College’s (LCCC) funding is from the tax base. Other counties with extraction economies receive more funding – it depends on what the industry is in the area. The economic downturn is still hitting Wyoming. Tuition for
community colleges in the state is set by the commission at $68 per hour. For FY 2011, the governor said no raises statewide so they are working with same budget as last year which involved a $2 million cut. The legislature provided funding for the new statewide strategic plan that will be overseen by the Community College Commission. The legislature is interested in concurrent and dual enrollment and wants it offered statewide. Much of Wyoming is rural and isolated: small high schools cannot offer some of the more advanced courses and are looking to community colleges to provide them through distance education. LCCC offers a lot of concurrent and dual enrollment but two of the high schools are in Cheyenne.

Website: [http://www.commission.wcc.edu/](http://www.commission.wcc.edu/)