

Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders

Western Academic Leadership Forum

2025 Joint Annual Meeting – Call for proposals

April 23-25, 2025

Reno, Nevada

Partnerships: Stronger Together

Submission Deadline: October 31, 2024

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's (WICHE) Academic Partnerships unit is excited to invite you to join us in Reno, Nevada, from April 23-25, 2025 for the 2025 Joint Annual Meeting of the Forum and the Alliance.

WICHE's Academic Leadership Initiatives incorporate two interstate membership groups in the western region.

- **The Forum** is comprised of higher education leaders at four-year institutions.
- **The Alliance** is comprised of higher education leaders at two-year institutions.

We bring together senior academic leaders, providing direct dialogue on current issues facing individual institutions. Our highly rated in-person annual meeting and online forums lend themselves to constant idea generation around pressing issues while also facilitating professional development.

In a time where collaboration drives innovation and progress, this meeting will focus on "Partnerships: Stronger Together" and brings together higher education leaders to explore the transformative power of strategic partnerships both within and beyond our institutions. This dynamic event will explore how educational institutions can forge impactful partnerships to enhance their programs, expand research opportunities, and foster community engagement.

We invite higher education leaders, researchers, and professionals to submit proposals for presentations, workshops, and panel discussions that align with the themes and objectives of the conference with a special emphasis on actionable takeaways for attendees.

Proposals should include:

1. Title
2. A session abstract (up to 50 words, to be used in meeting materials)
3. A description of the session including how the session connects to the meeting theme (up to 250 words)
4. Please list 3-4 discussion questions that relate to your session
5. Which overarching topic does this session attempt to address:

- a. **Innovative Partnership Models:** Share partnership models that address common challenges and create mutually beneficial outcomes.
 - b. **Success Stories and Case Studies:** Present real-life scenarios and gain insights from the experiences and best practices to apply to your own institution.
 - c. **Future Trends and Opportunities:** Explore emerging trends in partnership strategies and their potential impact on higher education. Stay ahead of the curve by understanding how these trends can shape the future of academia.
 - d. **Credit Mobility/Transfer:** Provide strategies and best practices for improving credit transfer processes between institutions and how enhancing credit mobility and transfer can foster greater academic flexibility, support student achievement, and strengthen partnerships.
 - e. **Curriculum Development and Academic Programs:** Share insights into how curriculum development through strategic partnerships can create experiential learning experiences and better prepare students for success in their careers.
 - f. Other _____
6. Please select the type of session you are interested in:
- a. **Lightning Sessions (15 minutes):** Do you have a quick-fire idea, case study, or tip that you're eager to share? Our lightning sessions offer the perfect platform to showcase your expertise in just 15 minutes! These fast-paced sessions are ideal for delivering concise and impactful content that will leave participants energized, inspired, and curious about new practices.
 - b. **40-Minute Interactive Presentation/Workshop with Q&A (50 minutes):** Take center stage with a 40-minute presentation, which allows you to delve into your subject matter, engage the audience, and leave a lasting impression. From thought-provoking discussions to practical demonstrations, your presentation should offer valuable insights, actionable takeaways, and plenty of opportunities for interaction. The best sessions give attendees key takeaways to apply after the session!
 - c. **40-Minute Panel Discussions with Q&A (50 minutes):** Join forces with fellow experts for a dynamic panel discussion that explores key themes, challenges, and opportunities facing our industry. Panel discussions provide a platform for diverse perspectives, lively debates, and collaborative problem-solving, designed to inspire, inform, and engage the audience with insightful discourse.
 - d. **Problem-solving Roundtables (50 minutes):** Looking to solve a problem? Assigning a case study to your breakout sessions allows your attendees to put their heads together in small groups and focus on the solution. When you reunite as a room, you'll have many new ideas to consider. Many hands make light work, after all!
7. Please indicate if you would be interested in being assigned to a panel with other proposal submissions.
- a. Yes
 - b. No
8. Names, titles, institutional affiliation, and email addresses for session presenters (general sessions will ideally have 2-4 presenters or 1 moderator and 2-3 panelists; roundtable

discussants will have 1 presenter). Clearly designate which presenter is the main point of contact for WICHE.

9. Have a keynote or plenary speaker recommendation? Submit their name, contact information, topic of interest, and why you were inspired by them.

Criteria for Proposal Submission:

- Interactive and Practical Approach: Proposals should outline a workshop that is highly interactive and hands-on, allowing participants to actively engage with the content and apply concepts in real-time.
- Clear Learning Objectives: Clearly articulate the learning outcomes participants can expect to achieve by the end of the workshop. These objectives should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART).
- Participant Experience: Describe how participants will actively participate in the workshop, including any group activities, discussions, or exercises. Emphasize the experiential learning elements that will make the workshop engaging and memorable.
- Expertise of Presenters: Highlight the qualifications and expertise of the workshop presenters, demonstrating their ability to facilitate an engaging and impactful learning experience. Include any relevant credentials, experience, or accolades.
- Relevance to Audience: Ensure that the workshop topic is relevant and timely for our audience, which consists of professionals seeking practical skills and strategies to enhance their work in their respective fields.
- Duration and Logistics: The workshop should be designed to fit within a 3-hour time frame, with consideration given to logistics such as room setup, materials required, and any technological needs.
- Evaluation and Feedback: Outline how the workshop will be evaluated for effectiveness and participant satisfaction. Describe any feedback mechanisms that will be implemented to gather insights for future improvement.

Submit Your Proposal

Proposals should be submitted via online form -

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ac40nWvsWE2htb2r4GoLuYb9CYBrWpdOqE3vd_R8dktUOEVFNUJSNkZCOTE2NDdEQVQxRDBQUE4wQy4u

Questions, concerns, or technical issues can be addressed to Manager of Community Engagement and Development, Olivia Tufo at otufo@wiche.edu