Plenary Session IV
Between a Rock and a Hard Place – Reconciling Attainment Goals and Fiscal Realities

Tuesday, May 12, 2015
10:00 – 11:30 am
Columbia Ballroom
WICHE Commission Meeting

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Plenary Session IV:
Between a Rock and a Hard Place – Reconciling Attainment Goals and Fiscal Realities

Many states have established education goals. To attain those goals states will have to enroll and graduate many more students than they currently are. This session will address the costs associated with attaining those goals and the alignment of fiscal policies needed to make these costs affordable to both students and the state.

Speaker:
Dennis Jones, president, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)

10:30 - 11:30 am
Columbia Ballroom

Facilitated Discussion on Reconciling Attainment Goals and Fiscal Realities

Facilitator:
Mike Rush, WICHE chair, and executive director, Idaho State Board of Education

Biographical Information on the Speakers

Dennis P. Jones, president of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), has more than 40 years of experience in research, development, technical assistance, and administration in the field of higher education management and policymaking. A member of the NCHEMS staff since 1969, he assumed increasing levels of responsibility within that organization, becoming president in 1986. Under his leadership, and in collaboration with an extraordinarily talented staff, NCHEMS has achieved a position of preeminence as a leader in the development and promulgation of information-based approaches to policymaking in higher education. Jones is widely recognized for his work in such areas as: developing “public agendas” to guide state higher education policymaking; financing, budgeting, and resource allocation methodologies for use at both state and institutional levels; linking higher education with states’ workforce and economic development needs; and developing and using information to inform policymaking. He has written many monographs and articles on these topics; has presented his work at many regional, national, and international conferences; and has consulted with hundreds of institutions and state higher education agencies on management issues of all kinds. Jones is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and served as an administrator (in business and institutional planning) there for eight years prior to his joining the NCHEMS staff. He has served as an advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Education, Lumina Foundation, the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, and numerous other associations, policy organizations, and state agencies.
Mike Rush is the executive director of the Idaho State Board of Education, charged with supporting a board with oversight over the majority of Idaho’s budget. The Board is responsible for governing all of Idaho’s higher education institutions and has general supervision over all public education, including the community colleges. Before becoming executive director, Rush served 10 years as the administrator of the Division of Professional-Technical Education. He has also taught high school and has had faculty positions at the University of Idaho, Virginia Tech, and Penn State University. He has held adjunct faculty status at Boise State University and was director of research for the State Division of Professional-Technical Education. Rush received his master’s degree from the University of Idaho and his doctorate from Virginia Tech, with a minor in the masters of business administration program.