

Monday, November 7, 2005

8.00 - 9.15 am

Millennium Room

Executive Committee Meeting

Executive Committee Members:

Diane Barrans (AK), chair

David Nething (ND), vice chair

Don Carlson (WA), immediate past chair

Marshall Lind (AK)

Joel Sideman (AZ)

Robert Moore (CA)

Bill Byers (CO)

Roberta Richards (HI)

Gary Stivers (ID)

Sheila Stearns (MT)

Carl Shaff (NV)

Patricia Sullivan (NM)

Richard Kunkel (ND)

Camille Preus-Braly (OR)

Tad Perry (SD)

Rich Kendell (UT)

James Sulton (WA)

Klaus Hanson (WY)

Regular Session (open to everyone)



Executive Committee conference call meeting
minutes of September 30, 2005

1-3

Information Items:

Mental Health Program report

1-9

Review the meeting schedule for the November
commission meeting (located in this agenda book,
just before the tabs begin)

Other Business

Executive Session (for WICHE commissioners only)

Information Item:

Informal review of the executive director's performance and
travels during calendar year 2005

1-11

Other*

*Please note: Article III of Bylaws states:

Section 7. Executive Sessions

Executive sessions of the commission may be held at the discretion of the chair or at the request of any three commissioners present and voting. The executive director shall be present at all executive sessions. The chair, with the approval of a majority of the commissioners present and voting, may invite other individuals to attend.

Section 8. Special Executive Sessions

Special executive sessions, limited to the members of the commission, shall be held only to consider the appointment, salary, or tenure of the executive director.

9.15 - 9.30 am

Break

ACTION ITEM

Executive Committee Conference Call Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2005

Committee Members Attending

Diane Barrans (AK), chair
Dave Nething (ND), vice chair

Marshall Lind (AK)
Louise Lynch for Joel Sideman (AZ)
Bill Byers (CO)
Roberta Richards (HI)
Cindy Younkin for Sheila Stearns (MT)
Jane Nichols for Carl Shaff (NV)
Patricia Sullivan (NM)
Richard Kunkel (ND)
Bob Burns for Tad Perry (SD)
Richard Kendell (UT)
James Sulton (WA)
Klaus Hanson (WY)

Staff Attending

David Longanecker, executive director
Cheryl Blanco
Jere Mock
Marla Williams

Committee Members Unable to Attend

Don Carlson (WA), immediate past chair
Robert Moore (CA)
Gary Stivers (ID)
Camille Preus-Braly (OR)

Chair Barrans called the meeting to order.

Action Item

Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Conference Call Meeting of August 26, 2005

COMMISSIONERS SULTON/BYERS (M/S) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MEETING OF AUGUST 26, 2005. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hanson asked about the reference to Sarbanes-Oxley in the Audit Committee's report. David Longanecker said Sarbanes-Oxley is the name of a federal law that prescribes procedures for the way public organizations and corporations conduct audits. Sarbanes-Oxley recommends that public entities establish audit committees whose members are knowledgeable about their finances. The law does not pertain to nonprofit entities, but it is anticipated that it will in the future. Anticipation that this requirement will extend to nonprofits was a factor in deciding to establish WICHE's Audit Committee.

Action Item

The State Scholars Network: CONNECTING to College and Work

David Longanecker reported that he had, just prior to the start of today's Executive Committee conference call, received a telephone call from the Department of Education stating that if the WICHE Commission approved the action to allow WICHE to take over the State Scholars Initiative, WICHE would be awarded the two-year contract. As reported during the Executive Committee's conference call meeting in August, the staff had just become aware of this program at that time; WICHE had been encouraged to respond to the expedited RFP (request for proposal) issued by the Department of Education. The RFP was necessitated by the seated program manager's unexpected resignation, following an

inspector general's audit. With only 10 days to write a detailed response to the RFP, Jere Mock and her staff wrote the successful grant proposal.

As described in the attached action item, this is a national program in which only three WICHE states currently participate. If approved, this would not be the first national program administered by WICHE (the Lumina grant is national in scope). Over the next two years, the State Scholars Initiative will expand to include up to 12 new states. The action item estimates administrative costs at \$784,000 in year one, and \$787,000 in year two. However, the Department of Education asked WICHE to trim the budget back to approximately \$600,000 for each year of the two-year award. This amount will allow WICHE to hire three new staff to manage the program: a full-time program director, a full-time program coordinator, and a .80 FTE administrative coordinator. In addition, it will allow WICHE to increase the FTE of three current staff in the communications area. The indirect cost recovery for WICHE was reduced from 15 percent to the department's typical 8 percent, which results in indirect cost recovery of approximately \$50,000 for WICHE for each year of the two-year award. Commissioner Nichols said this program seems like a natural fit for WICHE.

Commissioner Lind asked how the states were using the \$300,000 in grant funds they receive under this program. Jere Mock said it varies in each state. Some states use the funds to encourage high school students to complete a rigorous curriculum and for outreach efforts; others use the funds for grants to students. Each state program has direct involvement of a statewide business/educational association, such as the Arizona Business and Education Coalition, Indiana's Education Roundtable, and the Texas Business and Education Coalition. Under WICHE's management, the states will be encouraged to work on policies that would address issues such as linking high school graduation requirements with college admission requirements. The programs will continue to vary in each state.

Vice Chair Nothing asked if this program would in any way negatively impact WICHE or its mission and objectives. Longanecker said he sees this program as an opportunity for WICHE. It will allow WICHE not only to add three new staff positions but also to sustain three current positions. WICHE will be able to impact the program by gearing it to better match its mission and objectives in the area of student access, making it more diverse in its student representation, and insuring that Western states are aware of this program and have an opportunity to compete for funding when new states are added to the program.

Commissioner Kendell asked about the eight to 12 new state partnerships slated for new funding. Mock said this number was also trimmed when the budget was trimmed back. The program is currently slated to gain six new states each year for a total of 12 new states over the two-year program period.

Longanecker reported that earlier in the week the action item was distributed to the commission with an urgent request that the commissioners respond to him immediately with any concerns. If Longanecker received more than a few concerns about WICHE's involvement in the program, plans were to call an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee because he needed to know if he would have to turn down the grant award, if it was offered to WICHE. Commissioner Hanson said in Wyoming a concern was expressed about WICHE seeking funding for a national project. He said since WICHE responded to an RFP and was encouraged by the Department of Education to take on this project, he felt any concern in this regard would be eliminated. Longanecker reported that staff did not receive any negative written comments in response to his e-mail inquiry about WICHE taking over the management of this program. To the contrary, he received many good wishes for WICHE's successful selection as the program's manager.

COMMISSIONERS NOTHING/NICHOLS (M/S) APPROVAL TO SEEK, RECEIVE, AND EXPEND FUNDS TO SUPPORT WICHE'S OPERATION OF "CONNECTING TO COLLEGE AND WORK: THE STATE SCHOLARS NETWORK." The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Nothing asked staff to prepare an announcement for distribution to the commission announcing WICHE's successful award of the grant and to identify the resulting benefits to WICHE and its member states.

Information Item
Schedule for the November Commission Meeting

David Longanecker said he made the adjustments to the meeting schedule that the Executive Committee requested during the August conference call. Rather than eliminating any of the optional policy discussions shown on the draft schedule presented in August, he had all of the policy discussions included.

Vice Chair Nething questioned the sequencing of the open/closed Executive Committee sessions and suggested it might be better to have the closed session before the open session. It was decided that Longanecker, Barrans, and Nething would determine the best way to sequence the Executive Committee's open and closed sessions during a future conference call among the three of them.

Other Business

Commissioner Nichols asked if there was any news on California's dues payment. Longanecker said he has requested that the University of California and the California State University systems be invoiced for both the current dues and the dues in arrears. He said the California State University system seems to be willing to pay both the current and past dues. Longanecker remains optimistic that California will eventually be current in its member dues.

The meeting adjourned.

ACTION ITEM

The State Scholars Network: **CONNECTING** to College and Work



Memorandum

DATE: September 26, 2005

TO: WICHE commissioners

FROM: David A. Longanecker

RE: State Scholars Program

The action item that follows describes a \$4.8 million grant proposal that we submitted earlier this month to the Department of Education. WICHE had little advance notice of this federal competition to select one nonprofit organization to administer the national State Scholars Initiative (SSI). The SSI is a network of state-level business education partnerships (up to 27 state efforts will be supported over the two-year grant) to motivate high school students to enroll in and complete rigorous academic courses. We submitted a proposal that outlined our vision and qualifications for a WICHE-driven “CONNECTING to College and Work: The State Scholars Network.” You need to understand that this is a national program, and its focus is on motivating students to take more challenging courses in high school. We believe this project supports WICHE’s mission to expand access to postsecondary education; it also advances our efforts to strengthen the academic preparation of high school students and better align high school graduation requirements with college admission standards. Further, we would ensure that Western states have equitable opportunities to compete for the state stipends (up to \$300,000 per state) as new states are brought into the initiative.

We understand that the Department of Education plans to award a grant to one nonprofit organization or agency by next Friday, September 30. If WICHE is fortunate enough to be selected to administer the grant, we need your endorsement. Our next Executive Committee teleconference is set for 2:00 p.m. Mountain Time on Friday, September 30, and we will give you more details about our response to the federal competition during the call. **As stated in the e-mail message sent along with this material, if you have concerns about WICHE serving as the grantee for this program, we need to hear from you before Friday, and as soon as possible. Please contact me or Jere Mock with your concerns.**

Dave Longanecker: dlonganecker@wiche.edu 303.541.0201
 Jere Mock: jmock@wiche.edu or 303.541.0222

ACTION ITEM

CONNECTING to College and Work: The State Scholars Network

Summary

Staff requests approval to seek, receive, and expend funds to support a project that will build on and expand the national State Scholars Initiative (SSI), funded by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). The SSI encourages and motivates high school students to enroll in and complete rigorous courses of study that will enhance their opportunities for success

in postsecondary education and the workforce. If federal funds are received, WICHE's "CONNECTING to College and Work: The State Scholars Network" will support 14 existing state-level business/education partnerships and expand the program to up to 12 additional states over a two-year period, beginning in October 2005 and extending through September 2007.

Background

The U.S. Department of Education in mid-August 2005 announced a national, \$4.8 million competition seeking a nonprofit organization or agency to take over the administration of the State Scholars Initiative, which was based over the past three years at the Center for State Scholars (CSS) in Texas. In June 2005, the CSS board notified the DOE that the center would cease operating at the end of September, following an audit by the DOE inspector general that identified significant accounting and administrative problems under the previously awarded \$9.8 million grant. During the August 26 WICHE Executive Committee teleconference, David Longanecker said he was considering whether WICHE should apply for the grant, noting that the submission would need to occur prior to the September 30 Executive Committee teleconference. Subsequently, Jere Mock, director of Programs and Services, and her staff, along with two consultants, developed and submitted a proposal to DOE on September 7, seeking \$4.77 million in federal funds. The department expects to announce and award the federal grant by September 30, 2005.

Relationship to WICHE Mission

The project directly supports WICHE's mission to promote innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions in order to expand educational access and excellence for all citizens of the West. The project is national in scope but will allow WICHE to ensure that Western states have equitable opportunities to receive state-level grants that will foster increased enrollments in postsecondary education. The policy emphasis of the project will promote improved linkages between high school graduation and postsecondary admissions requirements, as well as greater opportunities for students to participate in accelerated-learning opportunities while in high school, so that they are better prepared for college. The project will enhance and expand WICHE's current efforts in these important areas of our workplan.

Project Description

If WICHE is selected to serve as the umbrella organization for the SSI, we will work with multiple states to better prepare their students academically for postsecondary education. Anticipated student outcomes include increased student success in rigorous courses of study during high school and increased enrollment in colleges and universities, as well as additional vocational and technical education and training after high school for students who are not college-bound. WICHE will provide technical assistance, monitoring, oversight, and cost reimbursement to the SSI-funded state business/education partnerships operating in 14 states: Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Washington.

Each of the state-level partnerships has received up to \$300,000 in federal funds to implement a variety of approaches that encourage students to pursue a course of study that includes four credits of English, three credits of math (algebra I and II, geometry), three credits of lab science (biology, chemistry, physics), 3.5 credits of social studies (chosen from U.S. and world history, geography, economics, and government), and two credits of a language other than English. All of the initiatives recruit businesspeople to make classroom visits and work with teachers and counselors to promote completion of the State Scholars course of study.

WICHE will also implement a request for proposal (RFP) process to select eight to 12 new state partnerships to participate in the SSI initiative. To help states develop effective implementation plans, WICHE will provide model guidelines as part of the RFP process and technical assistance, as requested, for partnerships as they develop proposals. Once the new SSI states are selected, WICHE will provide technical assistance, monitoring, oversight, and cost reimbursement to the new state partners.

The state partnerships will have opportunities to share best practices via national and regional forums, teleconferences, a web-based CONNECTING resource center, and listservs. Additionally, WICHE will help the state partners coordinate and leverage their resources with related initiatives in their states, such as MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement), GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), and College in the High School (dual-credit) programs.

State policymakers – education agency leaders, legislators, school district administrators, professional associations, and leaders of other education and policy organizations – will be engaged to better align rigorous coursework in high school

with high school graduation requirements. We will promote the alignment of high school graduation requirements with college admission requirements. Statewide strategy summits will provide venues to disseminate information on current research findings, recognize best business/education partnership practices, acknowledge the important contributions made by program volunteers, and celebrate the academic successes of participating students.

WICHE will staff the project with a full-time program director who has substantial professional experience in managing projects that are national in scope and focused on education and business constituents. A full-time program coordinator and a part-time administrative coordinator also will be assigned to this effort. The WICHE Commission will provide oversight, along with an appointed advisory council, whose members will be drawn from a national network of education, legislative, and business experts.

Additionally, WICHE will contract with two independent, third-party evaluators to conduct annual evaluations of the agency’s management of the project and to provide evaluation of the state-level education/business partnerships. Evaluators will also work with WICHE to develop data needed for federal performance measures, and WICHE will provide quarterly, annual, and final reports which summarize the program’s operational and financial accomplishments.

Staff and Fiscal Impact

This initiative will be supported primarily by federal funds. Staff estimate the project’s administrative costs will total some \$784,400 in year one and \$787,000 in year two; \$3.2 million will be awarded to the state-level business/education partnerships selected through the RFP process. The amount requested from the Department of Education totals \$4.77 million and will cover administrative and indirect costs and provide funding for eight to 12 state grants.

Fiscal Impact

Grant Activities	Internal Chargebacks	Indirect Costs	Total Grant Request
\$1,233,648	\$132,788	\$204,965	\$1,571,400
\$3,200,000	(state grants)		\$4,771,400

Staff Impact (annualized FTE)

Staff	Grant Funded	Contributed	Total
Existing Staff	.85 FTE	.60 FTE	1.45 FTE
New Staff	2.90 FTE	--	--
Total:	3.75 FTE	.60 FTE	4.35 FTE

Action Requested

Approval to seek, receive, and expend funds to support WICHE’s operation of “CONNECTING to College and Work: The State Scholars Network.”

INFORMATION ITEM

Mental Health Program Report

The WICHE Mental Health Program (MHP) celebrated its 50th anniversary during 2005, in honor of its founding in 1955. The theme for this year's celebration has been "A Half-Century of Promoting Excellence in Public Mental Health." The past year has been one of successful performance and adherence to the MHP mission of promoting improvement in public mental health systems in the WICHE West and working to ensure a high-quality public mental health workforce.

Financially, the past several years, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, have been difficult for state governments and the MHP. With state revenue shortfalls, the MHP struggled to manage the sudden decline in program revenue that followed. The MHP made difficult staff changes and developed new funding opportunities, which have resulted in the elimination of a significant negative fund balance. The program is fiscally very viable today and increasingly active in its work across the WICHE region and the nation.

The past fiscal year has been one of significant growth in the MHP, with the establishment of the WICHE Center for Rural Mental Health Research. The center is funded by the federal Office of Rural Health Policy of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), with an annual budget of \$500,000. It is a collaboration between the WICHE MHP, the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The center conducts research on informing public policy that supports evidence-based practice adoption in rural systems of care. The cooperative funding agreement with HRSA, provides an initial four year funding period. It is one of seven national rural health research centers, two of which focus on mental health.

While the WICHE Center for Rural Mental Health Research is a significant component of the MHP, it is only one part of our work. The following is a list of activities that the program is engaged in today:

- With funding from HRSA, the MHP has submitted the final prepublication draft of a book to be published by the U.S. Government Printing Office, entitled *Mental Health in Rural America: An Overview and Annotated Bibliography*.
- The MHP successfully developed and delivered a series of Rural Mental Health Grand Rounds Webcasts during 2004-2005, with funding from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). These webcasts provide rural mental health providers with access to continuing education around key topics in rural mental health practice. SAMHSA has awarded the program new and expanded funding to support the continuation of this activity in 2005-2006.
- In collaboration with Arizona and Alaska, the MHP has facilitated a dialogue between the public mental health system and higher education to improve cooperation in meeting the behavioral health workforce development needs of state and local programs. This project will expand to Nevada in 2005-2006. Funding comes from state government and the National Association for State Mental Health Program Directors.
- The Alaska Division of Behavioral Health, in collaboration with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, has engaged the MHP in a major consultation agreement to assist in the development of an outcome and performance measurement system for its behavioral health system, to ensure accountability and quality improvement. Staff member Chuck McGee is in Anchorage for one year to coordinate this project.
- In follow-up to its work on the president's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health (the MHP assisted the rural issues subcommittee and prepared the subcommittee report to the commission and president), the program has been engaged to assist in the development of the National Action Agenda for Rural Mental Health and the National Strategic Plan for Behavioral Health Workforce Development. Both of these projects will be ongoing through 2005-2006.
- The MHP facilitates the consumer satisfaction survey process for the mental health systems in Wyoming and South Dakota.
- The MHP continues the study of mental illness prevalence and unmet service need in state mental health systems, completing studies in seven WICHE states over the past several years. During 2005-2006 the program will begin a new study for Nebraska.

- These activities are the major projects of the WICHE MHP, but many other activities are ongoing as well. The program has hired Mimi Bradley, who completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the program during 2004-2005. Bradley joins Scott Adams as a senior research and technical assistance associate in the program. Fran Dong has joined the WICHE Center for Rural Mental Health Research as our programmer. We anticipate we will fill other new positions during 2005-2006. The program's participation with the postdoctoral fellowship partnership with the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center continues this year, with the placement of Candice Tate, who comes to us from Montana.

As the MHP enters the pathway to its second half century of work, it is clear the resources of the program are valued across the region and the nation. The program has found a niche in working around issues relating to rural and frontier mental health and has refocused on the area of workforce development. It is exciting to be working with the Programs and Services unit in WICHE to develop new partnerships among our university partners, such as shared social work training programs. While these new partnerships remain in the early stages of development, the promise of regional collaboration is as strong today as it was 50 years ago, when our efforts first began.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S TRAVEL

Calendar Year 2005

January

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|-------|--|------------------|
| 6 | Changing Directions: Integrating Higher Education and Financial Aid and Financing Policy – presenter | Boise, ID |
| 18 | CAEL* Meeting – participant | Chicago, IL |
| 26 | Arizona Board of Regents Feasibility and Planning Study Group – facilitator | Phoenix, AZ |
| 27–28 | ACE* CPA Advisory Committee – participant | Washington, D.C. |

February

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| 3 | National Collaborative Advisory Group – participant | Denver, CO |
| 4–5 | ACT Education Advisory Board – participant | San Antonio, TX |
| 5–6 | Associate's Program, The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education – presenter | Santa Fe, NM |
| 7 | ATAlliance Board – participant | Atlanta, GA |
| 9 | NPEC* Programmatic Subcommittee – participant (chair) | Washington, D.C. |
| 11 | Recession, Retrenchment, and Recovery: State Higher Education Funding and Student Financial Aid National Advisory Committee Meeting, a Jointly Sponsored Project (ISU/NASSGAP/SHEEO* and Lumina) – participant | Chicago, IL |
| 12 | Arizona Board of Regents Feasibility and Planning Study Group Proposal Review – facilitator | Phoenix, AZ |
| 16 | California State University Academic Council – presenter | San Francisco, CA |
| 17 | Meetings with various California legislators – participant | Sacramento, CA |
| 18–21 | NCSL's* Annual Education Finance Seminar – presenter | Napa, CA |
| 23 | Arizona Board of Regents Feasibility and Planning Study Group – facilitator | Phoenix, AZ |
| 28 | Oregon State University School of Education – participant | Corvallis, OR |

March

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| 1 | California Assembly Higher Education Committee Hearing – presenter | Sacramento, CA |
| 2 | Oregon Community Colleges Association Annual Meeting – presenter | Salem, OR |
| 4–5 | MHOC* Meeting and Conference on Building Partnerships in Rural Mental Health Workforce Development – presenter | Phoenix, AZ |
| | Meeting with the Director of the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth, Health Resources, and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – participant | Washington, D.C. |
| 16–20 | AAHE* Board of Directors and AAHE National Conference – participant | Atlanta, GA |
| 21–22 | NPEC Programmatic Subcommittee – participant (chair) – and Executive Committee – participant | Washington, D.C. |
| 26 | Colorado Institute for Leadership Training – presenter | Boulder, CO |

April

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| 7 | Arizona Board of Regents Feasibility and Planning Study Group – facilitator | Phoenix, AZ |
| 14 | Arizona Board of Regents Feasibility and Planning Study Group – facilitator | Phoenix, AZ |
| 19 | Investment in Excellence Dinner – participant | Denver, CO |
| 21–23 | NWAF* Annual Meeting – presenter | Richland, WA |

May

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| 10 | DETC* Institutions – presenter | Boulder, CO |
| 15–17 | WICHE Commission | Juneau, AK |

June

- 3 Colorado Academic Library Summit: The Changing Face of Higher Education – presenter Denver, CO
- 6 AGB* Center for Public Trusteeship and Governance Invitational – participant Washington, D.C.
- 8 The Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University Recession, Retrenchment and Recovery Project – participant
- SHEEO/NASSGAP/ISU-Lumina Project Advisory Committee – participant Chicago, IL
- 12 New Mexico Dean’s Retreat – presenter Ruidoso, NM
- 14 Western Governors University Board Meeting – attendee Breckenridge, CO
- 15 The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education Board – presenter Chicago, IL
- 20–22 Opening Opportunity or Preserving Privilege: The Ambiguous Potential of Higher Education, sponsored by The Spencer Foundation and The Macalester College Forum – participant Chicago, IL
- 24 CCHE* Database Subcommittee – presenter Denver, CO
- 26–28 Changing Directions Technical Assistance Workshop – presenter Santa Fe, NM
- 28–30 Community College Bridges to Opportunity Initiative Summer Conference – presenter Estes Park, CO

July

- 12 National Collaborative Advisory Committee – participant Denver, CO
- 12–15 ECS* National Forum on Education Policy – participant Denver, CO
- 18 Kentucky JBL Associates – presenter Lexington, KY
- 20–23 SHEEO Annual Meeting – presenter CO Springs, CO
- 23 WICHE Regional Breakfast Meeting at SHEEO Annual Meeting – participant CO Springs, CO
- 28 Extending Master’s and Ph.D. Programs in Social Work – participant Boulder, CO

August

- 8 – 9 Pennsylvania Project – participant Harrisburg, PA
- 10 NPEC Programmatic Subcommittee – participant (chair) Washington, D.C.
- 15 WICHE’s Legislative Advisory Committee – presenter Seattle, WA
- 29 Changing Directions Research Advisory Board – participant Boulder, CO
- 30/9–1 Changing Directions High-Growth States Multistate Policy Forum – participant Boulder, CO

September

- 13 WICHE Breakfast at CSG-West* Annual Meeting – presenter Portland, OR
- 15–16 ACE Improving Lives Policy Summit – presenter Los Angeles, CA
- 18–19 Kentucky Affordability Project and Trusteeship Conference – presenter Louisville, Kentucky
- 20 WCALO* State Roundtable – facilitator Denver, CO
- 22–24 Preparation for Success: Strategies Serving Rural Students, A College Board/WICHE–sponsored invitational conference – participant Jackson Hole, WYO
- 24–27 Aspen Symposium on the Future of Higher Education – participant Aspen, CO
- 29 Association for Consortia Leadership – presenter Miami, FLA
- 30 NWAf Executive Committee – participant Portland, OR

October

- 1 NWAf Executive Committee continues – participant Portland, OR
- 3 Strategic Advisory Committee of the Colleges in Colorado Consortium – participant Denver, CO
- 4 WICHE’s College Access Symposium – presenter Boulder, CO
- 6–8 ACE Annual Meeting: Educating All of One Nation: Realizing America’s Promise – Embracing Diversity, Discovery and Change – participant Phoenix, AZ
- 12–15 CONAHEC* Board of Directors and CONAHEC Annual Conference – presenter San Juan, PR
- 17–18 Accelerated Learning Options: A Study of State and Institutional Policies and Practices – participant Boulder, CO
- 19–20 ACT Annual Meeting – participant Iowa City, IA
- 20–22 Institute for State Legislators, sponsored by NCSL, NCHEMS,* NCPPHE,* and WICHE – presenter Denver, CO
- 27–28 NPEC Executive Committee – participant Washington, D.C.

November

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| 2 | Lumina Summit on College Costs: Making Opportunity Affordable – presenter | Washington, D.C. |
| 3 | TIAA-CREF Institute 2005 Conference: The New Balancing Act in the Business of Higher Education – presenter | New York, NY |
| 4–5 | WCET* Annual Meeting – presenter | San Francisco, CA |
| 8–9 | WICHE Commission Meeting – presenter | Boulder, CO |
| 16 | College of Southern Idaho Strategic Planning – presenter | Twin Falls, ID |

December

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| 1–2 | National Collaborative Advisory Committee Meeting – participant | Santa Fe, NM |
| 5–6 | Changing Directions Leadership Institute – participant | Chicago, IL |
| 6–8 | NCSL Fall Forum – participant | Chicago, IL |

* Acronyms: CAEL, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning; ACE, American Council on Education; NPEC, National Postsecondary Education Cooperative; NCSL, National Conference of State Legislatures; MHOC, Mental Health Oversight Council; ISU, Illinois State University; NASSGAP, National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs; SHEEO, State Higher Education Executive Officers; AAHE, American Association of Higher Education; NWAFF, Northwest Academic Forum; DETC, Distance Education and Training Council; CCHE, Colorado Commission on Higher Education; ECS, Education Commission of the States; CSG-West, Council of State Governments – West; WCALO, Western Consortium of Accelerated Learning Opportunities; CONAHEC, Consortium on North American Higher Education Collaboration; NCHEMS, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems; NCPPHE, National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education; WCET, a self-supporting WICHE unit with a focus on educational telecommunications in higher education, with an international membership, and an independent advisory board.