

Monday, November 7, 2005

6.00 - 7.30 pm

Reception at WICHE's Offices

6.00 - 6.15 pm

Transportation from the hotel to WICHE. The bus will depart from the main lobby entrance at 6.00 p.m. sharp. Please arrive before that time and immediately board the bus.

6.15 - 7.15 pm

Reception at WICHE's offices at the State Higher Education Policy Center.

7.15 - 7.30 pm

Transportation from WICHE back to the hotel. The bus will depart WICHE at 7.15 p.m. sharp, and will stop for individuals who wish to get off and enjoy Boulder's Pearl Street Mall, then will continue on to the Millennium Harvest House Hotel.

Evening

Dinner on your own

Background

In June, WICHE and its partner organizations – the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) and the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) organization – jointly purchased a newly renovated building in Boulder, CO, to occupy as their respective headquarters and offices. The new facility is known as the State Higher Education Policy Center (SHEPC). The purchase of this facility was made possible by the WICHE Commission's authorization and the Ford Foundation's gracious program-related investment loan of \$3 million to the three partner organizations.

Tonight, the staff are honored and delighted to have the WICHE commissioners and guests over for a brief reception and tour of the facility. The reception will be held in the SHEPC Learning Center, located on the first floor of the complex, where the NCHEMS and SHEEO offices are also located. WICHE's offices occupy the entire second floor of the complex.

The SHEPC Learning Center currently functions as a meeting room, but in the future we envision it as a unique setting where groups from five to 50 will meet in an exceptionally well-equipped facility. It will be ideal for governing boards, leadership forums, small seminars, and faculty and administrative retreats, as well as for small conferences sponsored or endorsed by one or more of the partner organizations. The learning center will incorporate the most contemporary technology and provide the best of face-to-face and virtual-learning opportunities. Real face-to-face professional development opportunities will be enhanced with the ready availability of technology-mediated instructional tools. Virtual-learning opportunities will be available for those who cannot or chose not to travel to join others in a face-to-face setting but who still want to be a part of the learning opportunity. In addition, presenters will have the best arena possible for either virtual or real presentations.

External funding is being sought to equip this facility to be an exceptional resource for higher education in the West and the partner organizations' constituents.

Approximately \$1,000,000 is needed to complete this project. \$650,000 is needed to secure the furnishings and technology – both hardware and software – to equip the center as a contemporary meeting venue, and \$350,000 is needed to defray the debt service for this portion of the facility. The staff would appreciate your recommendations about potential funding sources for equipping the SHEPC Learning Center.

Following the reception, the bus will head for the Pearl Street Mall, where it will drop off passengers who want to spend the evening exploring Boulder. Other passengers will be returned to the hotel. Guests will be on their own for dinner and the remainder of the evening (those who disembark at Pearl Street will need to arrange their own transportation back to the hotel).

We hope you will enjoy your visit.