



***Access
Collaboration
Innovation***

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

*Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting
Sept. 29, 2009*

WICHE Mission

WICHE works with its 15 member states to expand access and excellence in higher education for all citizens of the West.

By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions, WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to the region's social, economic, and civic life.

Several of our programs extend WICHE's reach nationally and internationally.

Member States



**Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
North Dakota
Oregon
South Dakota
Utah
Washington
Wyoming**

History

WICHE was created by an interstate compact in 1953. It was a time when there were few professional schools in the West and intense competition for space in those schools, especially for training in medicine and other health-related areas.

A Western Compact for Higher Education was proposed in the U.S. Congress; 11 states and two territories were the original signatories. Two states, North Dakota and South Dakota, became affiliate members in the 1980s.

▲ Governance

45-member commission (three members per state)

Members include:

- ▲ state higher education executive officers.
- ▲ legislators.
- ▲ college and university presidents/administrators.
- ▲ K-12, business, and community leaders.

The full WICHE Commission meets semiannually.

Its Executive Committee convenes monthly via teleconferences.

Regional Priorities

- ▶ Expanding access through student exchange and other initiatives.
- ▶ Providing policy support and regional/national data to address higher education issues.
- ▶ Promoting the effective use of educational telecommunications.
- ▶ Fostering collaborations in the West and beyond to promote innovation and resource sharing.

Key Constituencies

- ▶ Students and their families.
- ▶ Governors and their staff in the member states.
- ▶ Legislative leaders and legislators serving on higher education and appropriations committees/staff.
- ▶ Institutional leaders and governing board members.
- ▶ State higher education executive officers/staff.
- ▶ Leaders of other regional, national, and international education and policy organizations.

Organizational Structure

Programmatic Units

- Programs and Services
- Policy Analysis and Research
- WCET
- Mental Health

Support Services

- Executive Director/Administrative Services
- Communications and Public Affairs (a part of Programs and Services)

WICHE Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

HOME LOG-IN

INITIATIVES ▾ STATES ▾ NEWS ▾ RESOURCES ▾ ABOUT US ▾ WICHE DIRECTORY ▾ ASK WICHE

I AM A ...

- STUDENT OR PARENT
LEARN ABOUT AFFORDABLE COLLEGE OPTIONS.
- POLICYMAKER OR RESEARCHER
TRACK TRENDS AND LEGISLATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION.
- EDUCATOR, FACULTY MEMBER, OR ADMINISTRATOR
DELIVER EFFICIENT LEARNING SYSTEMS.
- HEALTHCARE OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAKEHOLDER
FIND SUPPORT FOR HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE.
- BUSINESS OR COMMUNITY LEADER
INVEST IN A FUTURE GENERATION OF SCHOLARS.

WICHE and its 15 member states work to improve access to higher education and ensure student success. Our student exchange programs, regional initiatives, and our research and policy work allow us to assist constituents throughout the West and beyond.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Undergraduate study out of state for less**
READ ABOUT WUE
- Higher Education: The Engine of Economic Opportunity** (WICHE Annual Report) READ
- Race Still Matters** co-authored by WICHE president, David Longanecker READ
- Explore Leadership Strategies for eLearning Success with the Experts at CatalystCAMP**
READ
- Mental Health First Aid Training** READ
- The Time is Right for the Internet Course Exchange** READ

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2009 Meeting of the Legislative Advisory Committee** September 28-29, 2009-LINK
- WCET 21st Annual Conference** October 21-24, 2009-LINK
- National Summit on Adult Learning** October 8-10, 2009-LINK

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- An Evaluation of Colorado's College Opportunity Fund and Related Policies** (May 2009)
- Unleashing Waves of Innovation: Transformative Broadband for America's Future** (April 2009)

KUDOS

- Lumina Foundation** launches *Tuning USA*, a faculty-led process to involve students and employers in linking college degrees to workplace relevance and learning objectives LINK

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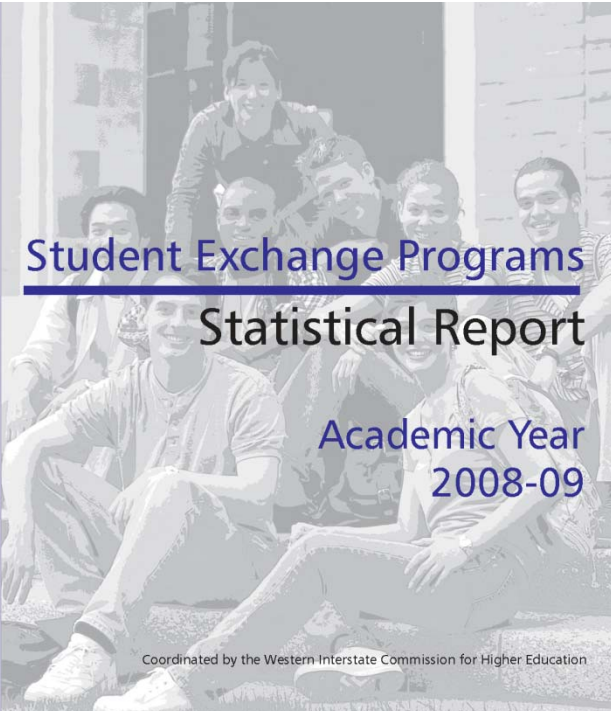
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WICHE
Access Collaboration Innovation

WICHE
Celebrating 55+ Years

WICHE Resources

ACCESS



WICHE

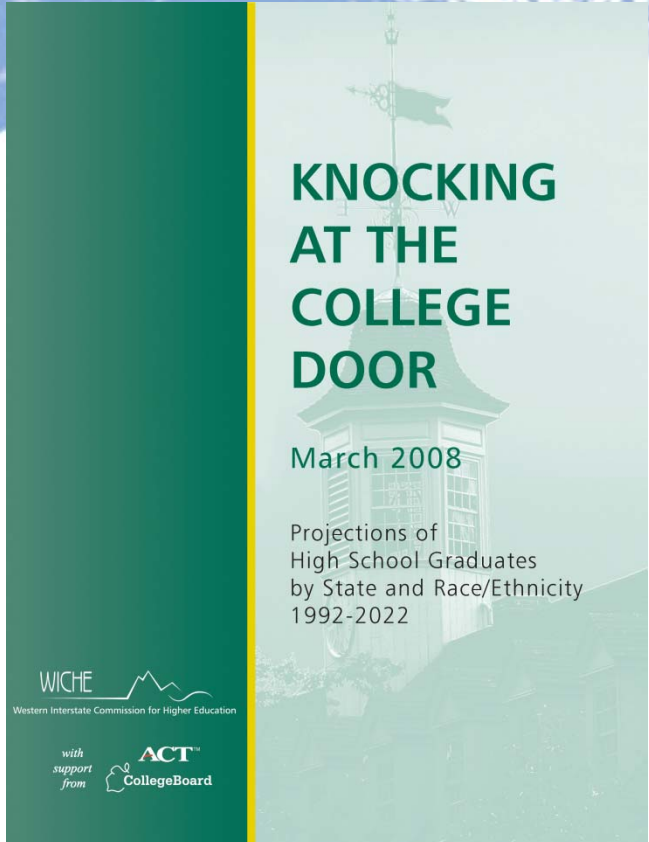
- ALASKA
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- HAWAII
- IDAHO
- MONTANA
- NEVADA
- NEW MEXICO
- NORTH DAKOTA
- OREGON
- SOUTH DAKOTA
- UTAH
- WASHINGTON
- WYOMING

www.wiche.edu/sep

Coordinated by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

**Student Exchange Programs
Statistical Report**

**Academic Year
2008-09**



**KNOCKING
AT THE
COLLEGE
DOOR**

March 2008

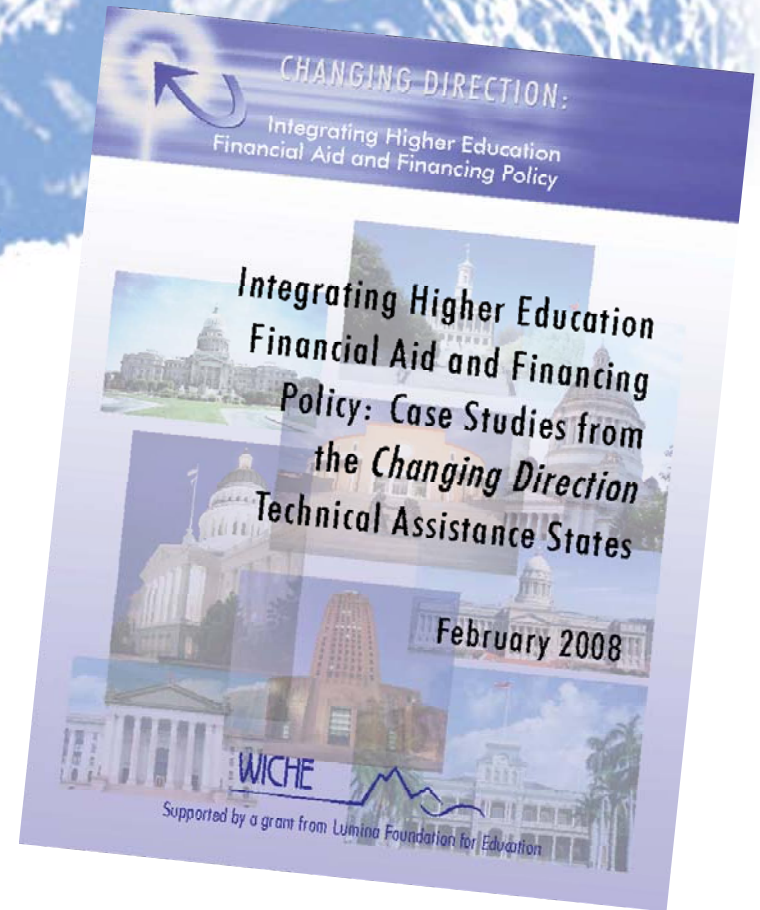
Projections of
High School Graduates
by State and Race/Ethnicity
1992-2022

WICHE
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

with support from ACT[™]
CollegeBoard

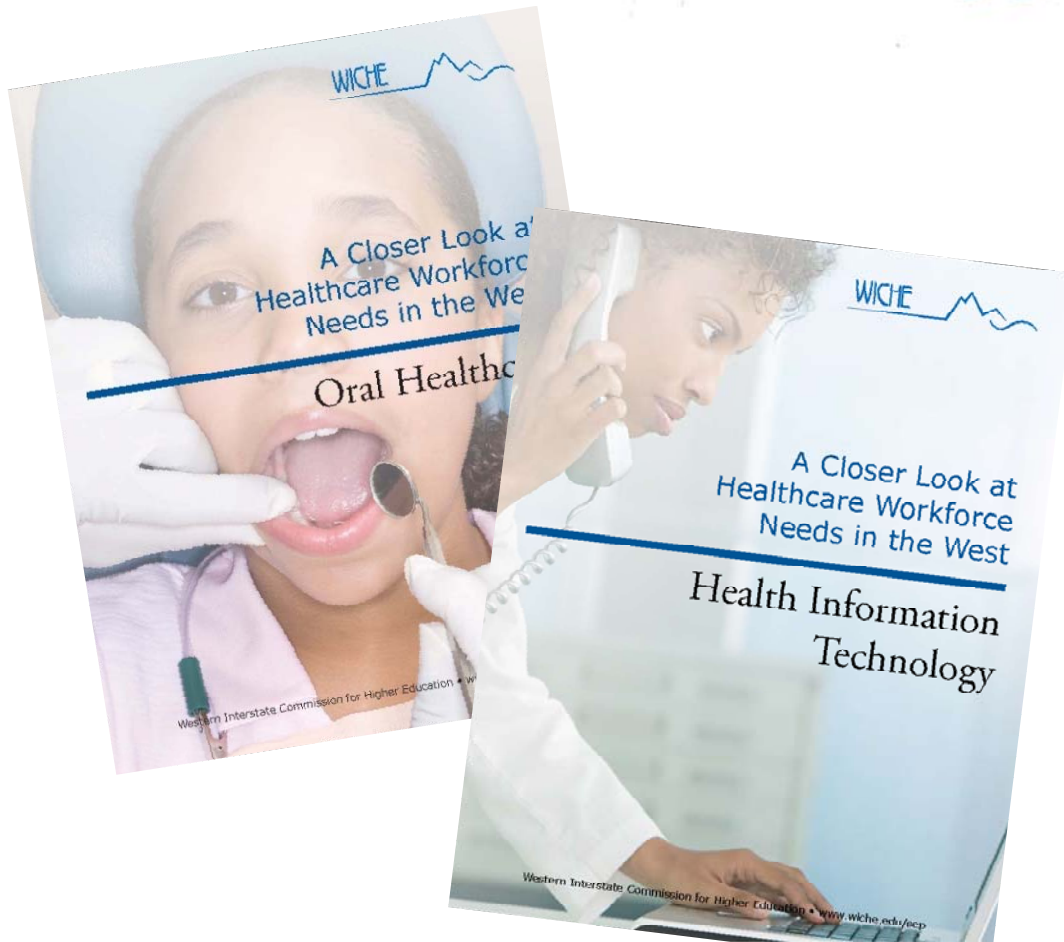
WICHE Resources

FINANCE



WICHE Resources

WORKFORCE



POLICY BRIEF



EDUCATION BEYOND THE RHETORIC: MAKING "RIGOR" SOMETHING REAL

"What, then, do we see as the basic curriculum for all students? Broadly defined, it is a study of those consequential ideas, experiences, and traditions common to all of us by virtue of our membership in the human family at a particular moment in history. These shared experiences include our use of symbols, our sense of history, our membership in groups and institutions, our relationship to nature, our need for well-being, and our growing dependence on technology. These themes...are based, in large part, on traditional academic subjects. Together they form a core curriculum that enlarges one's vision, and they are, we believe, appropriate for every student – not just the college-bound." – Ernest L. Boyer

INTRODUCTION

For this year's ninth graders, the future is simultaneously exciting and uncertain. The world these students inherit is one in which technological advances, trade laws, and economic shifts have made near ghost-towns out of the factories and plants their parents and grandparents worked in. These are technologically savvy students; they are more likely to watch a podcast than to read a book. They are also less likely to be as well-educated as their parents. And though the borders that delineate countries are more meaningful to politicians and cartographers than to them, these young people will be competing for jobs in a global economy – one in which those who learn *earn*. And importantly, one in which the young people in many other countries are becoming better educated than our young people.

In *A Nation at Risk*, the proverbial "Once upon a time" beginning for education policy discussions today, the National Commission on Excellence in Education anticipated the challenges these students face. Among

its recommendations, the commission called for a rigorous high school curriculum that would prepare students for a world that was changing fast and growing smaller each day.¹ Since then, educators and policymakers have responded by improving accountability systems, teacher education, and most importantly, student achievement.

Twenty-five years after *A Nation at Risk* was published, its most important contribution might be characterized as the foot that applied the brakes on a well-meaning though misguided trend toward benevolently low expectations for student achievement – a trend that embraced reduced rigor as the best avenue to expanding educational opportunity to all. The report raised important questions about what Americans value in our education systems and served as the impetus for a discussion about how to embed high expectations and rigorous coursework in the high school curriculum. It fostered an exploration of fundamental questions: Can all students learn? What do we want our systems of education to promote – access for all students,

Other Regional Compacts



Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)
Created in 1991. Serves 11 states. (www.mhec.org)



New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)
Created in 1955. Serves six states. (www.nebhe.org)



Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)
Created in 1948. Serves 16 states. (www.sreb.org)