AGENDA

Tuesday, September 3

5.00 – 6.00 pm  Early Registration
Tropicana 1 & 2

Wednesday, September 4

6.30 – 8.45 am  Networking Breakfast
Three Palms Café
Please take advantage of Embassy Suites Las Vegas’ complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast and network with your legislative colleagues.

7.45 – 8.45 am  Registration
Tropicana 1 & 2

8.45 – 9.15 am  Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of WICHE and the Legislative Advisory Committee
Tropicana 1 & 2

Speaker:
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

9.15 – 9.45 am  Highlights from the 2013 Legislative Sessions
Tropicana 1 & 2
State legislatures in the West tackled a variety of higher education-related issues during the 2013 legislative sessions, including several creative funding strategies, policies aimed at increasing degree and credential completion, and the Common Core State Standards. This session will present the highlights and trends from this year; during the subsequent facilitated discussion, LAC members will share their perspectives and shed light on what might be expected in the future.

Moderator:
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speaker:
Carl Krueger, project coordinator, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
Wednesday, September 4 (continued)

9.45 – 10.30 am  
Facilitated Discussion: Highlights from the 2013 Legislative Sessions  
_Tropicana 1 & 2_

*Facilitator:*  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

10.30 – 10.45 am  
Break

10.45 – 11.30 am  
Increasing Degree and Credential Attainment: Strategies for Meeting the Goals  
_Tropicana 1 & 2_

A variety of national degree attainment goals have been set in recent years by philanthropic organizations as well as President Obama. States have set their own targets through participation in initiatives like Complete College America and Complete to Compete, or by adopting state strategic or master plans. This flurry of goal-setting activity has prompted higher education to consider alternative strategies for meeting these marks, including increased emphasis on certificates of value, awarding credit for prior learning, and more flexible online education programs to name a few. This session will examine progress toward the goals and discuss the legislative role in how to ensure we achieve our objectives.

*Moderator:*  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

*Speakers:*  
Dewayne Matthews, vice president of policy and strategy, *Lumina Foundation*  
Dennis Jones, president, *National Center for Higher Education Management Systems*

11.30 am – 12.15 pm  
Facilitated Discussion: Increasing Degree and Credential Attainment: Strategies for Meeting the Goals  
_Tropicana 1 & 2_

*Facilitator:*  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*
Wednesday, September 4 (continued)

12.15 – 1.45 pm LUNCH: Graduate Medical Education Reform
Stardust

Rural America suffers from a shortage of physicians. At the same time, production of primary care physicians from graduate medical education (GME) residency programs is insufficient to meet current and future demand. Over lunch, learn about the GME Initiative, a voluntary grassroots collaboration of health care consumers and leaders in family medicine residency training, and their recommendations to reform the training and financing of primary care physicians to meet the nation’s future health care needs.

Facilitator:
Jere Mock, vice president, programs and services, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speakers:
Dan Burke, MD, associate vice chair for educational program development, Department of Family Medicine, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Senator Joe Hardy, MD, Nevada, and WICHE Commissioner

1.45 – 2.00 pm Break
Tropicana 1 & 2

2.00 – 2.30 pm What Do the Data Tell Us? Policy Implications of Data Efforts in the West
Tropicana 1 & 2

Having access to accurate and reliable data is essential for effective state and institutional policymaking. For example, understanding important challenges to and opportunities for higher education as a result of anticipated shifts in racial/ethnic composition in the nation and the West is crucial. As another example, spurred on in part by federal investment or grant requirements, many states around the nation are working to link their K-12, postsecondary, and workforce data in order to permit richer analyses of human capital development and to better target policies and practices. Learn firsthand about two influential data efforts at WICHE, including projections of high school graduates and a pilot data exchange initially among four states – Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Hawaii – that are providing policymakers with powerful data that are essential to making informed decisions.

Speaker:
Brian Prescott, director of policy research, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
Wednesday, September 4 (continued)

2.30 – 3.00 pm  
*Tropicana 1 & 2*  
Facilitated Discussion: What Do the Data Tell Us? Policy Implications of Data Efforts in the West  
Facilitator:  
Brian Prescott, director of policy research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

3.00 – 3.30 pm  
*Tropicana 1 & 2*  
The MOOC Revolution: Is it All that It’s Cracked Up to Be?  
MOOCs (massive open online courses) are the talk of the town. They seem to dominate discussions in higher education media, policy forums, and other sources of information. In a rapidly changing world where states and institutions are pressured to do even more with much less, many people are looking to MOOCs to solve some of the problems facing higher education. Legislation in California establishes incentive grant programs for the state’s public institutions to develop MOOC platforms to reduce the number of students waiting to take required gateway courses, and other states may be looking toward MOOCs as well for other purposes. But are they the answer? What makes them different and are they sustainable? Who do they really serve? Join in a frank discussion about what this new strategy is and what the future may hold.  
Moderator:  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*  
Speakers:  
Michael Feldstein, partner, *MindWires Consulting* and co-publisher, *e-Literate*  
Russell Poulin, deputy director, research and analysis, *WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET)*

3.30 – 4.15 pm  
*Tropicana 1 & 2*  
Facilitated Discussion: The MOOC Revolution: Is it All that It’s Cracked Up to Be?  
Facilitator:  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

6.00 pm  
Networking Dinner  
Please meet in the hotel lobby for an evening at Buca di Beppo. The restaurant is within walking distance, but transportation will be available.

Thursday, September 5

6.30 – 8.30 am  
*Three Palms Café*  
Networking Breakfast  
Please take advantage of Embassy Suites Las Vegas’ complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast and network with your legislative colleagues.
Thursday, September 5 (continued)

8.30 – 9.00 am
Tropicana 1 & 2

**Finding Common Ground for State Authorization through Reciprocity**

In Fall 2010, the U.S. Department of Education announced “program integrity rules,” which require all postsecondary institutions participating in Title IV programs to document compliance with state laws in all states where they provide instruction, not just in the states within which they had a physical presence. While the federal state authorization regulation was later vacated by the courts on a technicality, its future remains uncertain. Authorization regulations vary significantly from state to state, and this varying landscape is creating a challenging situation for institutions that have students enrolled in other states. To help address these challenges, WICHE has been working with several partner organizations to forge a national agreement that will create interstate reciprocity in the regulation of postsecondary distance education. This initiative, the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), will provide reasonable oversight of postsecondary institutions in states that voluntarily agree to participate. Learn about the steps that WICHE, the other three regional higher education compacts, and organizations and groups including the Council of State Governments and the Commission on the Regulation of Postsecondary Distance Education, are taking to roll SARA out this year. Once in place, SARA will protect state regulatory interests, safeguard student interests, and offer a consistent and more affordable way for accredited institutions to provide distance education.

**Speaker:**
David Longanecker, president, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

9.00 – 9.30 am
Tropicana 1 & 2

**Facilitated Discussion: Finding Common Ground for State Authorization through Reciprocity**

**Facilitator:**
David Longanecker, president, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

9.30 – 9.45 am
Tropicana 1 & 2

**Break**
Thursday, September 5 (continued)

Tropicana 1 & 2

In this ever-changing context, most states are looking at how they finance higher education, and the strategies under consideration are creative and interesting. One popular reform is outcomes-based funding that would in theory incentivize institutions to move beyond focusing on student access in favor of success. Another approach is known as, “Pay Forward, Pay Back,” a plan that would provide “free tuition” to students to attend a public college; in return, they would pay back the state with a percentage of their incomes after graduation. Tuition freezes have also been adopted by several states. This session will highlight these strategies and include a discussion about their benefits and potential limitations.

Moderator:
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speakers:
Representative Michael Dembrow, Oregon
Senator Ray Holmberg, North Dakota, and WICHE Commissioner
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Washington, and WICHE Commissioner

10.15 – 11.00 am Facilitated Discussion: A Moving Target: Financing Higher Education in a Changing Context
Tropicana 1 & 2

Facilitator:
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

11.00 am – 12.00 pm Advising WICHE: An Open Discussion
Tropicana 1 & 2

Using a list of the most five significant issues facing higher education today as the basis for discussion, WICHE’s president will lead a facilitated discussion about current issues, future trends, and areas where WICHE can be helpful to state legislators in the region.

Facilitator:
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

12.00 pm Closing Remarks and Adjournment
Tropicana 1 & 2

Speaker:
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

12.15 pm Optional Networking Lunch

Please meet in the hotel lobby for an optional group lunch at Bahama Breeze. The restaurant is within walking distance, but transportation will be available.
2013 LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
(*Indicates LAC member is also a WICHE Commissioner)

ALASKA
Representative Paul Seaton [APPOINTED 2009]  
Senator Gary Stevens [APPOINTED 2013]

ARIZONA
Representative Jeff Dial [APPOINTED 2013]  
Senator Robert Meza [APPOINTED 2013]

CALIFORNIA
Senator Ricardo Lara [APPOINTED 2011]  
Senator Carol Liu [APPOINTED 2011]

COLORADO
Representative Dave Young [APPOINTED 2013]  
VACANCY

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
VACANCY  
VACANCY

HAWAII
Representative Isaac Choy [APPOINTED 2013]  
Senator Brian Taniguchi [APPOINTED 2013]

IDAHO
Senator Dean Mortimer [APPOINTED 2012]  
Representative Donna Pence [APPOINTED 2012]

MONTANA
Representative Kris Hansen [APPOINTED 2012]  
VACANCY

NEVADA
Assemblymember Paul Aizley [APPOINTED 2013]  
Senator Joseph Hardy [APPOINTED 2011]*  
Senator Debbie Smith [APPOINTED 2011/2013]

NEW MEXICO
Representative Larry Larrañaga [APPOINTED 2013]  
Senator Mark Moores [APPOINTED 2013]*  
Senator John Sapien [APPOINTED 2013]

NORTH DAKOTA
Senator Ray Holmberg [APPOINTED 2008]*  
Representative Bob Martinson [APPOINTED 2008]  
VACANCY

OREGON
Representative Michael Dembrow [APPOINTED 2010]  
Senator Richard Devlin [APPOINTED 2010]

SOUTH DAKOTA
Representative Dan Dryden [APPOINTED 2013]  
Senator Bruce Rampelberg [APPOINTED 2013]

UTAH
Representative Keith Grover [APPOINTED 2013]  
Senator Peter Knudson [APPOINTED 2006]*  
Senator Stephen Urquhart [APPOINTED 2013]

WASHINGTON
Representative Larry Haler [APPOINTED 2013]  
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles [APPOINTED 2005]*  
Representative Larry Seaquist [APPOINTED 2013]*

WYOMING
Senator Paul Barnard [APPOINTED 2012]  
Representative Samuel Krone [APPOINTED 2011]*  
Representative Robert McKim [APPOINTED 2010]