WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee
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COP is a voluntary association of Washington’s six public baccalaureate degree granting college and universities. We strive to be a common voice for the public baccalaureate sector and the most respected and trusted resource for decision makers on issues affecting public higher education. We foster coordination and collaboration among the public baccalaureates as well as with myriad other educational partners.
Recent College & University Efforts

- Establishment of campus wide committees and task forces on campus sexual violence that includes multiple stakeholders.

- Greater investments in campus-based student support services (victim advocacy, medical care, counseling) as well as referrals to community resources.

- More integrated case management.

- Improved Cleary Act reporting.

- Updated student conduct codes and institutional policies to address sexual harassment and sexual misconduct.

- Required training to first-year students, returning students, and faculty and staff using various established education and training modules. Includes focus on bystander intervention.
In May 2014, Washington’s six public baccalaureate presidents decided to organize our state’s first ever conference on sexual assault prevention and response.

Staff from COP organized the event alongside colleagues from the public and private four and two-year colleges and universities.

Held in October 2014 on the University of Washington campus in Seattle, the conference brought together leaders from more than 50 public and private colleges and universities, community leaders and advocates, and policymakers.

One of our featured speakers was Joint Base Lewis-McChord Major General Kenneth Dahl, who spoke about efforts by the military to combat sexual violence.

14 total breakout session topics include: bystander intervention, engaging men, state level issues, engaging faculty, assessment and climates, and students speak out.
Washington State Higher Education Conference on
Sexual Assault Prevention & Response

- All conference materials available at:
Senate Bill 5719 (2015)

- Task force includes 14 members: 1 from each of the public baccalaureates, 1 each from SBCTC, COP, WSAC, Office of the Attorney General, Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, the Independent Colleges of Washington, and a nonprofit representative (King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence).

- Task force has already met twice and will continue meeting monthly over the next 15 months across the state. Will also include numerous subgroups.

- Topics discussed thus far: 1) general prevention efforts and targeted efforts to specific populations; 2) memoranda of understanding with local law enforcement; 3) campus climate assessments; 4) understanding current regulatory environment.

- Reports and recommendations due to policymakers in December 2015 and 2016.
Meetings are open to the public. All meeting materials are available online at: http://councilofpresidents.org/safewacampus.html.
Lessons Learned

- The current spotlight on this issue provides an opportunity to significantly move the needle in combating the issue of sexual violence on college campuses.

- Change cannot happen within the academy without strong, vocal support from boards, presidents, provosts, and other core leadership.

- The student voice must be represented in these discussions to ensure effective prevention strategies are designed and to build and maintain a culture of openness.
Lessons Learned

- Federal, state, higher education, and local and community leaders must partner together in an honest, transparent manner to most appropriately and effectively address this issue.

- One of the major challenges for colleges and universities is limited resources. However, that in and of itself does not impede improvement and progress.

- Colleges and university leaders can learn a great deal by talking with their colleagues at other schools as well as other cultural institutions that have been addressing sexual violence issues (e.g. – the military, athletics, etc.)