Message from the Chair

There is no doubt that the challenges facing higher education are many and complex. The Alliance was formed out of the recognition that these issues are bigger than any one campus or system. The changes we face in economic restructuring, technological innovation, attainment rates, and workforce alignment, as well as in defining quality and success, all speak to a sense of urgency. The Alliance was formed around this sense of urgency, along with the belief that this moment also presents us with an opportunity. The Alliance invites you to this unprecedented gathering of focused and talented academic innovators and change agents. We are dedicated to clarity, solution-oriented engagement, and sharing strategies and tools. In addition, we are seeking ways to join forces when appropriate (grants, policies, research, and more) to bring a better educational landscape into being. Given the challenges facing all of us, there is comfort in seeing the caliber of academic leaders that have come together in this organization. We welcome you to this agenda of clarifying issues and plotting solutions.

Peter Quigley, Alliance Chair
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs,
University of Hawaii Community Colleges

Who should attend

In attendance you will find colleagues from the WICHE region eager to share the lessons they’ve learned from tackling a host of institutional and academic challenges, including the ones you’re facing.

- Provosts, vice presidents and directors of academic affairs at community colleges and technical schools
- Chief executive officers and chief academic officers of related systems and statewide agencies.
- Institutional staff with expertise in the program topic areas, accompanying those above at their invitation.

About the Alliance

The Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (known as the Alliance) was founded by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) in 2010. The Alliance’s members are the chief academic officers of the community colleges and technical schools along with their associated system and state agencies located in the 15 WICHE states. Through the Alliance, these top academic leaders share perspectives on current issues, work together on regional projects that are beyond the scope of a single institution or state, and contribute resources and expertise to build a stronger future for higher education in the West.

Alliance Executive Committee

| ALASKA – Bernice Joseph            | IDAHO – Jeff Fox                      | OREGON – Camille Preus                |
|                                   | University of Alaska, Fairbanks       | Oregon Board of Education              |
| ARIZONA – Maria Harper-Marinick   | MONTANA – John Cech                   | SOUTH DAKOTA – Michael Cartney         |
| Maricopa Community Colleges       | Montana University System             | Lake Area Technical Institute          |
| CALIFORNIA – Barry Russell        | NEVADA – Mike McFarlane               | UTAH – Chris Picard                    |
| California Community Colleges     | Great Basin College                   | Salt Lake Community College            |
| COLORADO – Geri Anderson          | NEW MEXICO – Ron Liss                 | WASHINGTON – Jan Yoshiwara             |
| Colorado Community College System | Santa Fe Community College            | Washington State Board for Community   |
| HAWAII – Peter Quigley            | NORTH DAKOTA – Wanda Meyer            | and Technical Colleges                 |
| University of Hawaii System       | Williston State College               | WYOMING – Marlene Tignor               |
|                                   |                                      | Laramie County Community College       |
Schedule At A Glance

Please note that this is a preliminary program and subject to change. See the complete program and watch for updates at www.wiche.edu/waccal.

Tuesday, April 17

Hyatt Regency Phoenix

Pre-Meeting Activities for Alliance Members

Prior to the official start of the meeting, the Alliance is offering attendees two optional activities. Attendees must register in advance for the activity of their choice. Both are subject to cancellation if minimum registration levels are not met by March 30.

9:30 am - noon – Tour of Rio Salado’s Sustainable Food Systems Program (additional fee applies)

Join us for a 45-minute tour of the Sustainable Food Systems Program at Rio Salado College. The tour begins in the student cultivated Garden @ Rio where seasonal vegetables, composting and a small aquaponics project comingle in the Arizona sun. We then head to the Café @ Rio to discuss the hands on cooking classes, internship and the other classes that prepare our students to drive a more sustainable workforce after they complete their studies. Then we’ll have lunch in the program’s café. Bon appétit!

1:00 - 4:30 pm – Making $s and Sense: Tips and Trends in Successful Grant Writing

Competition for grant funding among higher education institutions has never been keener. At the same time, several new grant programs at the federal level have expanded the opportunities for community colleges to secure funding. What does it take to win one of these grants? Learn about some new grant writing tips and trends. And find out how to tell the compelling story that will land your next proposal in the winners’ circle.

This workshop, sponsored by the Colorado Community College System, is open to Alliance members on a complimentary basis. Advance registration required. Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Workshop Leader: Lisa Cirincione, JVA Consulting

Meeting Program

9:00 am - noon – Executive Committee Meeting (executive committee members only)
3:00 - 4:30 pm – Registration Open
5:00 - 6:30 pm – Welcome Reception for New Members
6:30 pm – Topic dinners hosted by Executive Committee at local restaurants. Participants are responsible for the cost of their dinners.

Topics

- New Faculty: Opportunity for Change – Marlene Tignor, Laramie County Community College
- Dual Credit and Concurrent Enrollment – Geri Anderson, Colorado Community College System
- State Funding & Open Access – Maria Harper-Marinick, Maricopa Community College
- Involving More Effective Legislators – Camille Preus, Oregon Board of Education
- Articulating the Interface: Work Experience, Non Credit, and Credit – Barbara Grover, Salt Lake Community College

Wednesday, April 18

Hyatt Regency Phoenix

7:00 - 8:00 am – Breakfast Buffet
8:00 - 8:15 am – Welcome from the Chair
8:15 - 9:30 am – The Role of Community Colleges in the Nation’s Broad Agenda of Change
9:30 - 11:15 am – The Creative Presidents’ View: Driving Change to Meet Tomorrow’s Reality
11:15 am - 12:30 pm – The Disruptive Innovators’ View: The Best Way to Predict the Future is to Create It
12:30 - 1:45 pm – Luncheon/On Board the Transfer Express: Promising Practices by Community Colleges
1:45 - 3:00 pm – Innovative Practices: Setting the New Agenda
3:00 - 4:15 pm – The Accreditors’ View: Ensuring Quality in an Era of Dynamic Change
4:15 - 4:45 pm – Alliance Business Meeting
4:45 - 5:00 pm – Wrap Up and Adjournment of Alliance’s 2012 Annual Meeting
Program Sessions and Speakers

The Role of Community Colleges in the Nation’s Broad Agenda of Change
If every crisis brings new opportunities, what is the silver lining in the economic downturn for higher education institutions? For most community colleges, enrollments are skyrocketing and resources are plummeting. At the same time, the focus on student outcomes and accountability also highlight the need for comprehensive institutional and instructional transformations. Yet, this speaker is very optimistic about the future of community colleges and sees promising practices that can be scaled to the benefit of all stakeholders. Find out why and how your institution can play an important role in this era of the new normal.
Keith Bird, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce

The Creative Presidents’ View: Driving Change to Meet Tomorrow’s Reality
Three dynamic community college presidents will talk about the changes they are making in their institutions today to meet tomorrow’s challenges head on. What are their biggest fears and greatest hopes? How do they inspire others to follow their lead into this uncertain future?
Chris Bustamante, Rio Salado Community College
Nancy McCallin, Colorado Community College System
Cindy Miles, Grossmont/Cuyamaca District

The Disruptive Innovators’ View: The Best Way to Predict the Future Is to Create It
Can we reduce the cost and the time to graduation for students by outsourcing instruction, focusing on outcomes, or offering college credit to secondary students? These speakers will tell you how they are partnering with community colleges to do so.
Burck Smith, Straighterline
Kenneth Sorber, Western Governors University
William R. Torres Conley, Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center

Luncheon: On Board the Transfer Express: Promising Practices by Community Colleges
Today more students are beginning their college experience at a two-year college and then transferring to a four-year institution to finish their degree. For some, this is easy. For others, it is a nightmare. Seamless transfer pathways are essential to keeping costs down for students, institutions, and states and to keep students engaged in working toward their goals. Which institutions are most successful in transferring students and articulating their courses to degree programs? What are some of their promising practices? What role does policy play in encouraging and discouraging transfer and articulation?
Demaree Michelau, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Innovative Practices: Setting the New Agenda – Rotating Roundtable Discussions
Choose three topics of interest below. Every 15 minutes a bell will ring and attendees will move to a new topic.

▶ Today’s Classroom: Four Generations of Students
For the first time in history, the US has four generations in the workforce and in the classroom. As post-secondary education changes and evolves to handle the “digital natives”, education must also understand and accommodate the different perspectives, cultures and interaction of the Matures, Baby Boomers, Gen Xers, and Millennials in the classroom... and in the workforce.
Mike Cartney, Lake Area Technical Institute

▶ Wage Outcome Report in Colorado
Studies show that a community college education leads to positive economic gains. To determine the actual wage outcomes for students, the Colorado Community College System compared before and after wages of students who left community college and did not transfer to another institution. Participants will learn about the study and plans to expand the work in Colorado.
Geri Anderson, Colorado Community College System
Adjunct Academy: Focusing on Quality

Designed by faculty to improve the quality of instruction, the Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) Adjunct Academy pairs cohorts of adjunct instructors with full-time faculty mentors, and provides a combination of on-line and live training on pedagogy, classroom management, SLOA and e-Portfolios. Participants will learn about the challenges and successes of SLCC’s initial implementation.

Barbara Grover, Salt Lake Community College

Prioritizing Programs: Making the Important Decisions

With limited resources and continuing needs, how do you decide which current programs need additional resources in order to strengthen them, which programs need to be shelved, and how do you position your institution for the future with new programs that will draw students and funding. Resources are all inclusive – faculty, space, funding, etc.

Marlene Tignor, Laramie County Community College

Performance Based Funding

Just a year ago performance-based funding was an interesting but marginal policy lever in states’ change arsenal. Today, it is deployed in many states and some of the approaches are restructuring base budgets not simply layering extra money on top as a bonus. This restructuring of higher education funding mechanisms is poised to revolutionize the academic scene.

Peter Quigley, University of Hawaii Community Colleges

Telling the Community College Story

This session will highlight Montana’s efforts to rebrand its state two-year and community college system. Learn how the state worked to target communications to effectively engage constituent groups and increase their awareness of the comprehensive two-year college education mission and vision in Montana.

John Cech, Montana University System

Predictive Analytics: What We Can Learn From Them

Rio Salado College, with over 42,000 online students, has developed its data mining predictive models to predict student success by the eighth day of class with 70% accuracy. Like the sophisticated systems used by Netflix or Amazon.com, these “learner analytics” are possible by capturing and utilizing the large amounts of actionable information on student behaviors and performance from multiple data sources. These predictive models create new possibilities for student engagement, personalization, and interventions for student success and completion.

Vernon Smith, Rio Salado Community College

The Accreditors’ View: Ensuring Quality in an Era of Dynamic Change

Declining state support, increased global competition, and the rising use of technology are forcing dramatic changes in the way higher education institutions operate. Accrediting agencies, charged with being the watchdog for quality across the postsecondary enterprise, are changing the way they operate too. Is there synergy in these changes? Do the accrediting agencies have new expectations for institutions? Are more changes in the offing?

Lynn Priddy, The Higher Learning Commission

Mike Rota, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges

TBD, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
Registration Information

All attendees must register in advance for the Alliance 2012 Annual Meeting. The cost of participating in pre-meeting optional activities is not included in the registration fee, but is an additional fee for all participants. The official program’s registration fee is waived for non-member speakers and for each Alliance member’s official representative. All others must pay the appropriate fees listed below.


Registration Schedule

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<th>Early-Bird Registration</th>
<th>Regular Registration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Up to March 2, 2012</td>
<td>March 3-30, 2012</td>
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<td>Pre-Meeting Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>▶ Rio Salado Tour – includes lunch</td>
<td>$25 per person</td>
<td>$50 per person</td>
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<td>▶ Funding Workshop – <em>space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis for Alliance member registrants</em></td>
<td>Complimentary</td>
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<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alliance Member Attendees</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Official Representatives &amp; Speakers</td>
<td>Fee waived</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff accompanying official representative</td>
<td>$395 per person</td>
<td>$495 per person</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Member Attendees</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>(Join today and have your official representative’s registration fee waived plus become eligible for the post-meeting special offer!)</em></td>
<td>$495 per person</td>
<td>$595 per person</td>
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<td>Post-Meeting Special Offer</td>
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<td>Special offer: Invitation to attend the Western Academic Leadership Forum’s Annual Meeting <em>(see highlights on page 7)</em></td>
<td>Complimentary for Alliance members only – must pre-register!</td>
<td>Complimentary for Alliance members only – must pre-register!</td>
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Accommodations

The Hyatt Regency Phoenix is located in the heart of downtown Phoenix, AZ. Please make your room reservations by asking for the WICHE discounted rate of $159.00 (plus applicable taxes). The cut-off date for the discounted rate is March 24, 2012, unless the block fills earlier. Room costs are the responsibility of the meeting attendees.

Hyatt Regency Phoenix
122 North Second Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004
Tel: 602-252-1234    Fax: 602-254-9472

To make online reservations: https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=6504432.
Airport Information

The Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is served by most major airlines. It is approximately 4 miles from the Hyatt Regency Phoenix. Information about transportation options from the airport to the hotel are available on our website: www.wiche.edu/waccal

Local Attractions

Phoenix is a world-class destination because of its natural beauty, sunny skies, manicured golf courses and sports and cultural attractions. The city’s extensive desert preserve system offers visitors easy access to the Sonoran Desert and its surprising biological diversity. The Phoenix Points of Pride highlight many of the city’s most unique attractions, and city-run facilities such as Pueblo Grande Museum and Heritage and Science Park offer visitors a chance to learn about the Valley’s native heritage and history.

Post-Meeting Special Offer for Alliance Members

This year the Western Academic Leadership Forum, whose members are the chief academic officers from the four-year institutions and their related system and state agencies in the WICHE states, invites Alliance members to participate in a portion of their annual meeting which follows immediately in the same hotel. Alliance members may attend the Forum’s Wednesday night dinner and all sessions on Thursday on a complimentary basis, provided they attend the Alliance meeting and register for this special offer in advance. Only Alliance members may participate. Highlights of the Forum’s meeting include:

Wednesday – Reception and Dinner (5:30 - 8:30 pm)

Keynote – The New American University: Facing the Future Now
Dr. Michael Crow, President, Arizona State University

Thursday – All Sessions (7:30 am - 5:30 pm)

Breakfast Briefing: Common Core State Standards – Update on Higher Education's Role with Allison Jones, Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, and Jaci King, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Using Shared Governance to Help Faculty Promote College Completion with Jose Cruz, The Education Trust

Nurturing an Exchange of Views about Educational Objectives, Learning and Strategies with Norman Jones, Utah State University; Norma Ming, Nexus Research Center; David Paris, New Leadership Alliance for Learning and Accountability; and Michael Tanner, Association of Public Land-Grant Universities

Luncheon/Federal Decisions: Implications for States and Institutions
Terry Hartle, American Council on Education

What Constitutes a Quality Degree & Its Purpose with Paul Gaston, Kent State University; Rosemary Nassif, U.S. Department of Education; Tom Sugar, Complete College America; and Paul Thayer, Colorado State University

Conversation with the Author: The Innovative University – Changing the DNA of Higher Education from the Inside Out with Henry Eyring, Brigham Young University-Idaho

Tour: Walter Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communication
Membership in the Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders

Join your Colleagues now and take advantage of the special meeting offer on page 7!

The Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders is open to new, eligible members. Members are public and private community colleges and technical schools and their associated system offices, and state governing and coordinating boards in the WICHE states. The member representatives are the chief academic officers of the institutions or organizations.

Benefits of membership

- An active listserv for instant access to advice from your colleagues across the region
- Opportunity to participate in regional initiatives addressing common areas of interest
- Complimentary registration for your institution’s or organization’s official representative at the Alliance annual meeting
- Discounted registration fees for members of your staff with expertise in the topics covered at the meeting
- Opportunity to serve on the Alliance Executive Committee if selected as the state representative

Dues Schedule

The membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. The dues schedule is set by the Executive Committee.

Community colleges and technical schools under 5,000 headcount: $500
Community colleges and technical schools with 5,001+ headcount: $750
System offices and statewide governing and coordinating board offices: $1,200

Volume Discount: The Alliance offers a 25% volume discount when a system or state agency joins with all eligible public institutions in the system or state and pays via one invoice.

Apply today!

www.wiche.edu/alliance/membership

For further information, please contact:
Patricia (Pat) Shea, director, Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders
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303.541.0302 • pshea@wiche.edu

www.wiche.edu/alliance