The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education and its 16 members work collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for all citizens of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among its members and their institutions, WICHE strengthens higher education’s contributions to the region’s social, economic, and civic life. Our programs – Student Exchange, Policy Analysis and Research, WCET, and Mental Health – are working to find answers to some of the most critical questions facing higher education today. WICHE is the only organization in the West that focuses exclusively on higher education issues, from student access and success to financial aid and distance learning. The following are some of our programs, projects, and services.

**Student Exchange Program** provides students with access to a broad range of out-of-state higher education options, along with significant tuition savings. More than 32,700 students are enrolled in 2012-13 outside their home states through our Western Undergraduate Exchange (wiche.edu/wue), Professional Student Exchange Program (wiche.edu/psep), and Western Regional Graduate Program (wiche.edu/wrgp), saving $264.5 million. Learn more at individual program webpages or contact Margo Colalancia at mcolalancia@wiche.edu.

**Internet Course Exchange** is an alliance of member institutions and systems that enables students to access other two- and four-year institutions' courses while using their home campus advisory, registration, and financial aid services. Learn more at www.wiche.edu/ice or contact Pat Shea at pshea@wiche.edu.

**College Access Challenge Grant Consortium and Network** assists Western states with program implementation and administration related to CACG, a federal program that fosters partnerships among national, state, and local governments and organizations through matching grants aimed at increasing the number of low-income students prepared to succeed in postsecondary education. Learn more at www.wiche.edu/ice or contact Carl Krueger at ckrueger@wiche.edu or Patrick Lane at plane@wiche.edu.

**Adult College Completion Network** is a nationwide collaborative-learning network that shares promising strategies among institutions, organizations, state agencies, and others working to increase completion rates for adults with prior college credit. Learn more at adultcollegecompletion.org or contact Patrick Lane at plane@wiche.edu.

**Equity in Excellence**, a partnership with the Center for Urban Education at the University of Southern California, works to align the Colorado’s higher education policy measures with equity-focused actions within community colleges and four-year institutions. Learn more at wiche.edu/node/16687 or contact Demi Michelau at dmichelau@wiche.edu.

**Facilitating Development of a Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange** works to develop a pilot data exchange among several states, allowing for more comprehensive analyses of the production, stock, and flows of human capital through a regional, multistate approach. Learn more at wiche.edu/longitudinalDataExchange or contact Brian Prescott at bprescott@wiche.edu.

**Interstate Passport Initiative** focuses on forging block transfer agreements for lower-division general education, based on Essential Learning Outcomes, between 23 institutions in five partner states. Learn more at wiche.edu/passport or contact pshea@wiche.edu.
Consortium for Healthcare Education Online (CHEO) is a four-year project building off a continuing WICHE project, the North American Network of Science Labs Online (NANSLO), which enables students taking online science courses to conduct experiments by controlling real equipment in remotely located science labs over the Internet. NANSLO will develop 12 allied health experiments for CHEO and establish two new production labs serving students involved in CHEO courses in five states. Learn more at wiche.edu/newscap/16429 or wiche.edu/NANSLO or contact Sue Schmidt at sschmidt@wiche.edu.

Western Academic Leadership Forum (wiche.edu/forum) provides the West’s top academic leadership at four-year institutions and related system and state agencies with a forum for sharing information and expertise and collaborating on regional initiatives. Another WICHE initiative, the Western Alliance for Community College Academic Leaders (wiche.edu/alliance) brings academic leaders of community colleges and technical schools and systems together with state governing and coordinating boards associated with two-year institutions to exchange ideas and information, share resources and expertise, and collaborate on regional initiatives. Learn more at individual program webpages or contact Pat Shea at pshea@wiche.edu.

WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET) is a membership cooperative that accelerates the adoption of effective practices and policies to advance excellence in technology-enhanced teaching and learning in higher education. WCET provides access to peers, colleagues, common interest groups, experts, and decision makers; communications tools that enable members to stay informed about developments affecting technology-enabled teaching and learning; and information about key developments affecting e-learning providers, such as new federal rules pertaining to distance education. WCET also manages multi-institutional projects, including one focused on large-scale student data aggregation and predictive analytics to improve student outcomes. Learn more at wcet.wiche.edu or contact Ellen Wagner at ewagner@wiche.edu.

Mental Health Program (MHP) is a nucleus for researching mental health policy and a provider of technical assistance in such areas as service innovation, system reform, workforce development, program evaluation. MHP works with the public mental health systems of the West, higher education, mental health practitioners and administrators, and consumers and family members on a wide range of projects designed to improve training in mental health, expand public mental health resources, and provide research and information. Learn more at wiche.edu/mentalhealth or contact Mimi McFaul at mmcfaul@wiche.edu.

Cost-Saving Initiatives. WICHE offer a number of cost-saving programs for institutions. Master Property Program (wiche.edu/mpp) helps institutions reduce their insurance premiums and improve their coverage. MPP includes 50 member institutions with total insured values of $83.1 billion and has generated some $65.4 million in savings for the participating institutions while expanding their insurance coverage. MHECtech (wiche.edu/costsaving) saves institutions money on technology products and services. And a new program, MHECare (wiche.edu/mhecare), provides vetted, competitively priced medical benefits for students. Learn more at individual program webpages or contact Jere Mock at jmock@wiche.edu.

Publications. WICHE provides educators, policymakers, and legislators with the hard data and issues-oriented analysis that will help them shape higher education’s future. Knocking at the College Door, Tuition and Fees in Public Higher Education in the West, Benchmarks, Workforce Briefs, Policy Insights pieces and other reports keep our constituents informed. Learn more at wiche.edu/publications.

WICHE Commission & Staff
The WICHE Commission’s 16 members include representatives from 15 Western states – Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai‘i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming – and the U.S. Pacific territories and freely associated states (the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is the first to participate). Members work collaboratively to provide educational access and excellence for all citizens. WICHE and its staff are headquartered in Boulder, CO, and operate out of the State Higher Education Policy Center, which WICHE owns with the State Higher Education Executive Officers association and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. Staff leadership includes:

David Longanecker, president
Margo Colalancia, director, Student Exchange Program
Mimi McFaul, director, Mental Health Program
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis
Jere Mock, vice president, Programs and Services
Dennis Mohatt, vice president, behavioral health
Brian Prescott, director of policy research
Pat Shea, director, Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders, WICHE ICE, and Western Academic Leadership Forum
Ellen Wagner, executive director, WCET

How can I find out more about WICHE?
Visit our website at www.wiche.edu or contact President David Longanecker at 303.541.0201.

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