WHAT’S UP IN THE WEST:

Higher Education and Economic Development -- Yesterday, Today, & Tomorrow
A Little History

“Ain’t Misbehaving”

The Morrill Act of 1862
- First Federal Foray – All economic development
- Coincided with advent of public higher education in the West

The GI Bill
- Romantic Myth – about self-fullfilment as a reward
- Reality – Economic development
  - Protect the economy
  - Get a skilled workforce, to boot

Federal R&D
- National Security
- Global Competitiveness
More History

- The States followed suit
  - Normal schools to colleges, then Universities
  - Community College development

- In sum: This “economic development” thing is nothing new
On The One Hand – We are serving econ dev well

Some in the Northwest lead the Rest (Share of Young Adults with a College Degree)

- U.S. Average: 35%
- North Dakota: 44%
- South Dakota: 38%
- Washington: 38%
- Hawaii: 36%

Research Funding on the Rise

It Could Be Worse: Funding Cuts Less Severe in the West than Elsewhere.
On The Other. . .

Some States Lag Behind (Share of Young Adults with a College Degree)

- U.S. Average: 35%
- Nevada: 23%
- Alaska: 29%
- Idaho: 30%
- Oregon: 33%
- Wyoming: 33%
Even More Context

On the other . . . (continued)

- Disaffection with Higher Education
  - Disproportionate Cuts

- Disaffection with Public Services (or at least paying for them)
  - Tax effort down (per capita state tax expenditures down in the West by 7% from 1993 to 2003; per capita income up by 15%). Not true elsewhere.
Enough Context – What’s Up In The West Today

The Two Wests:

The Growth States:

- Nevada & Arizona in a league of their own
- Colorado and Utah not far behind
- California, Idaho, Oregon, & Washington growing a bit

The Non-growth States:

- Not so bad: Alaska, Hawaii, New Mexico
- Big Time Change: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming
What’s Up. . . (cont.)

- So what – growth can affect state level “economic development”
  
- Big Growth States
  - Workforce of the Future Rules: Nevada & Arizona
  - But Research and Technology Transfer aren’t lost in the discussion

- Moderate Growth States – A Mixed Bag
  - Washington – Access with direction & Tech transfer
  - Oregon – A Focus on Financial Aid
    - Oh yah; health and allied health, too
  - Utah – policies still evolving
    - But research heavy in the mix

- No Growth States – Substantial differences
  - South Dakota – research is it
  - North Dakota – grow your own small business folk
  - Montana – from applied research to expanded access
What’s Up. . . (cont.)

The State Policy Disconnect

What State’s Want
- High value jobs & locals to fill them
- Tech Transfer – research is just the means to the end

What State’s Do in Workforce development
- Ignore high value jobs
- Attend to low skill/low wage workforce (WEA, TANF, Voc Ed/Literacy, Etc)

Why
- That’s Where The Money Is – Fed and Philanthropy
- Triage mentality
What’s Up . . . The disconnect cont.

What State’s Do In Tech Transfer & Research

- Tinker on the Edges – ie. WTC
- Leave bulk of research up to:
  - Feds and Private Sector for Sponsored Research
  - You, the institutions, for non-sponsored research
Redefining "the Public Good"

- Demonstrated Higher Education’s "Responsiveness"
- With Workforce Development as Central
- Research & Tech Transfer More "Relevant"
- Not selling; but Doing