



Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Graduate Deans

CC: Provosts and Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs  
SHEEO Academic Affairs Officers  
Interested department chairs  
WICHE Commissioners  
WICHE Certifying Officers

FROM: Jere J. Mock, Vice President of Programs & Services, WICHE  
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DATE: September 8, 2011

**SUBJECT: Call for nominations for graduate programs to join WRGP**

**Submission deadline: Tuesday, November 1, 2011**

On behalf WICHE’s Student Exchange Programs, we invite your institution to nominate distinctive and healthcare-related graduate programs for inclusion in WICHE’s Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP). Please share this invitation with colleagues in relevant colleges, schools, and departments at your university. **The submission deadline is Tuesday, November 1, 2011.** Programs that currently participate in WRGP do not need to be re-nominated.

WRGP is an exceptional educational resource for the West that allows master’s, graduate certificate, and Ph.D. students who are residents of the 15 participating WICHE states to enroll in some 250 high-quality programs at 47 participating institutions and pay resident tuition. The WICHE states are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. In fall 2010 almost 700 students enrolled through WRGP and saved an estimated \$7.2 million dollars in tuition, and each student saved an estimated average of \$10,587.

WRGP is a tuition-reciprocity arrangement similar to the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE). Students can enroll directly in the program through WRGP and are not dependent upon the approval of their home state to participate, because the student’s home state does not provide funding for each individual student. This represents a tremendous opportunity for Western states to share distinctive programs (and the faculty who teach them) and build their workforce in a variety of disciplines, particularly healthcare.

Institutions can nominate their graduate programs for participation in WRGP. To be eligible, programs that aren’t related to healthcare must be “distinctive,” meaning they must be offered at no more than four other institutions in the WICHE region (exclusive of California). Given the tremendous needs in the healthcare workforce, healthcare-related programs are not subject to the “distinctiveness” criteria, but must be of high quality.

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[www.wiche.edu](http://www.wiche.edu)

ALASKA ARIZONA CALIFORNIA COLORADO HAWAII IDAHO MONTANA NEVADA NEW MEXICO  
NORTH DAKOTA OREGON SOUTH DAKOTA UTAH WASHINGTON WYOMING

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We invite you to visit the WRGP website at [www.wiche.edu/wrpg](http://www.wiche.edu/wrpg) for a full list of participating programs. We are attaching nominations information and the WRGP application form with instructions on how to submit your program's nomination.

WICHE is particularly interested in reviewing nominations for high-need and emerging field programs, including but not limited to:

1. Professional Science Masters (PSMs)
2. Graduate certificate programs in emerging fields
3. Microtechnology and nanotechnology
4. Green building and building energy conservation
5. Emerging media and communications
6. Biotechnology and bioinformatics
7. Computer and cyber security
8. Alternative energy technology
9. Homeland security
10. Healthcare fields not offered through WICHE's PSEP (see [www.wiche.edu/psep](http://www.wiche.edu/psep))

If you have any questions about the nominations process, please contact Kay Hulstrom at [khulstrom@wiche.edu](mailto:khulstrom@wiche.edu) or 303.541.0294, or Margo Colalancia at [mcolalancia@wiche.edu](mailto:mcolalancia@wiche.edu). We look forward to receiving your program nominations for WRGP.