PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Monday, September 14

5.30 – 7.00 pm  
*Pre-Registration*  
*River Ballroom*  
Meeting participants are welcome to pick up their materials during pre-registration.

7.00 pm  
*Viewing and Discussion of the “The Hunting Ground”*  
*River Ballroom*  
Meeting participants are invited to watch, “The Hunting Ground,” a recent documentary about sexual assault on our nation’s college campuses. Appetizers and refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, September 15

8.00 – 8.30 am  
*Registration and Networking Breakfast*  
*Deschutes*  
Join your legislative colleagues for a full breakfast.

8.30 – 8.45 am  
*Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of WICHE and the Legislative Advisory Committee*  
*River Ballroom*  
*Speaker:*  
David Longanecker, President, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

8.45 – 9.00 am  
*The 2015 Legislative Sessions: Recovering Smartly - Not the Same Old, Same Old*  
*River Ballroom*  
After several years of budgetary challenges, most states in the WICHE region are finally experiencing some limited financial recovery. With this newfound relief in most states, legislatures in the West have been busy targeting their resources to a variety of needs that had been neglected in recent years. While not universally true in every state, legislators demonstrated how to recover smartly. This session will present the highlights and trends from this year, and during the subsequent facilitated discussion, LAC members will share their perspectives and shed light on what might be anticipated next year.

*Moderator:*  
Demarée Michelau, Director of Policy Analysis, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

*Speaker:*  
Carl Krueger, Project Coordinator, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*
Tuesday, September 15 (continued)

9.00 – 9.45 am
River Ballroom
Facilitated Discussion - The 2015 Legislative Sessions: Recovering Smartly - Not the Same Old, Same Old

Facilitator:
Demarée Michelau, Director of Policy Analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

9.45 – 10.00 am
Break

10.00 – 10.30 am
River Ballroom
Informing Policy Decisions: Trends in State Higher Education Funding
Often a challenging and politically charged process, state legislators must determine the level at which a state funds its public higher education institutions. These decisions are balanced with other state priorities that must be taken into account and ultimately they have important consequences for students. This session is designed to broaden awareness about how states have been tackling the challenges before them by reviewing national and regional trends and the current status of state funding for higher education.

Moderator:
Brian Prescott, Director of Policy Research, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speaker:
Andrew Carlson, Senior Policy Analyst, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association

10.30 – 11.00 am
River Ballroom
Facilitated Discussion - Informing Policy Decisions: Trends in State Higher Education Finance

Facilitator:
Brian Prescott, Director of Policy Research, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speaker:
Andrew Carlson, Senior Policy Analyst, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Tuesday, September 15 (continued)

11.00 – 11.45 am  Making College Affordable: Legislative Strategies in the West
River Ballroom

College tuition has been steadily rising in recent years prompting policy leaders, candidates, students, and others to call for major reforms in how we financially support students. Learn about some of the reasons for the increased costs of higher education and strategies for making college more affordable.

Moderator:
David Longanecker, President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speaker:
Donna Desrochers, Principal Researcher, American Institutes for Research

Respondents:
Senator Dean Mortimer, Idaho
Senator Richard Devlin, Oregon
Representative Mark Sanford, North Dakota
Senator Debbie Smith, Nevada

11.45 – 12.15 pm  Facilitated Discussion - Making College Affordable: Legislative Strategies in the West
River Ballroom

Moderator:
David Longanecker, President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speaker:
Donna Desrochers, Principal Researcher, American Institutes for Research

Respondents:
Senator Dean Mortimer, Idaho
Senator Richard Devlin, Oregon
Representative Mark Sanford, North Dakota
Senator Debbie Smith, Nevada

12.15 – 1.15 pm  Networking Lunch

Deschutes
Tuesday, September 15 (continued)

1.15 – 2.00 pm
River Ballroom

Safer Spaces: Combating Sexual Assault on College Campuses

Reports of sexual assault on college campuses have dominated headlines recently, bringing to light the troubling prevalence of these crimes, as well as institutions’ difficulty in effectively responding to this complex issue. This session will address the issues surrounding campus sexual assault from the federal, state, and institutional perspectives.

Moderator:
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Washington

Speakers:
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Washington
Paul Francis, Executive Director, Washington State Council of Presidents
Tim Sell, Senior Attorney, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education

2.00 – 2.30 pm
River Ballroom

Facilitated Discussion - Safer Spaces: Combating Sexual Assault on College Campuses

Facilitator:
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Washington

Speakers:
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Washington
Paul Francis, Executive Director, Washington State Council of Presidents
Tim Sell, Senior Attorney, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education

2.30 – 2.45 pm

Break

2.45 – 3.30 pm
River Ballroom

Understanding the Maze of Higher Education Accreditation

Quality in higher education is often discussed yet arguably not clearly understood. Ensuring quality requires the involvement of the “triad” of accrediting agencies, the federal government, and the states, and while the roles of the federal and state governments are somewhat clear, accreditation processes remain murky and are not always well understood. This session will provide an overview of how accreditation is designed to work, how it actually works, how it can be improved, and the role that state legislators can and should play in accreditation and quality assurance.

Moderator:
Demarée Michelau, Director of Policy Analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speakers:
Peter Ewell, Vice President, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems
Mary Ellen Petrisko, President, WASC Senior College and University Commission
Tuesday, September 15 (continued)

3.30 – 4.00 pm  
Facilitated Discussion - Understanding the Maze of Higher Education Accreditation

*River Ballroom*

*Facilitator:*
Demarée Michelau, Director of Policy Analysis, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

*Speakers:*
Peter Ewell, Vice President, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems
Mary Ellen Petrisko, President, *WASC Senior College and University Commission*

4.00 – 4.45 pm  
Interstate Collaborative Efforts in the WICHE Region

*River Ballroom*

*Speakers:*
David Longanecker, President, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*
Demarée Michelau, Director of Policy Analysis, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*
Jere Mock, Vice President, Programs and Services, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*
Brian Prescott, Director of Policy Research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

6.00 pm  
Networking Dinner

*TBD*

Please meet in the hotel lobby at 6.00 pm. The group will walk the short distance from the hotel to the restaurant.

Wednesday, September 16

8.00 – 8.30 am  
Networking Breakfast

*Deschutes*

Join your legislative colleagues for a full breakfast.

8.30 – 9.00 am  
The Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act: What You Need to Know

*River Ballroom*

While the Higher Education Act isn’t likely to be reauthorized by the end of the year, congressional lawmakers are having the important conversations about the next round of legislation. Some of the issues receiving early attention include competency-based education, data transparency and consumer information, and accreditation. This session will provide an update on the current status and provide a glimpse into what may evolve in the coming months.

*Speaker:*
David Longanecker, President, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*
### Wednesday, September 16 (continued)

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<td>Facilitated Discussion: The Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act: What You Need to Know</td>
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<td>Speaker: David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education</td>
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| 9.45 – 10.15 am | Serving Military and Veteran Students in Higher Education           | River Ballroom | While thousands of military and veterans students attend our nation’s college campuses, higher education does not consistently meet their needs with respect to academic or student support services. This session will initiate a discussion about the needs of these students, provide examples of how a campus effectively serves them, and discuss how state legislators can support them.  
*Moderator:* Senator Kris Hansen, Montana  
*Speakers:* Phillip Morris, Director, Office of Veteran and Military Student Affairs, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs |
| 10.15 – 10.45 am | Facilitated Discussion - Serving Military and Veteran Students in Higher Education | River Ballroom |  
*Facilitator:* Senator Kris Hansen, Montana  
*Speakers:* Phillip Morris, Director, Office of Veteran and Military Student Affairs, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs |
| 10.45 – 11.45 am | The 2016 Legislative Sessions: What’s on the Agenda?               | River Ballroom | The final session of the LAC annual meeting will focus on issues that are likely to emerge in the 2016 legislative sessions. Members will have the opportunity to present ideas to each other, raise questions, and share insights about the issues they plan to address next year.  
*Facilitator:* Demarée Michelau, Director of Policy Analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education |
| 11.45 am      | Closing Remarks and Adjournment                                     | River Ballroom |  
*Speaker:* David Longanecker, President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education |
| 12.00 pm      | Optional Networking Lunch                                           |                |                                                                                                                                         |
2015 LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
(*Indicates LAC member is also a WICHE Commissioner)

ALASKA
Representative Paul Seaton [APPOINTED 2015]
Senator Gary Stevens [APPOINTED 2015]

ARIZONA
Representative Jeff Dial [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Robert Meza [APPOINTED 2013]

CALIFORNIA
Assemblymember Jose Medina [APPOINTED 2015]
Senator Carol Liu [APPOINTED 2015]

COLORADO
Senator Owen Hill [APPOINTED 2015]
Representative Dave Young [APPOINTED 2013]

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero [APPOINTED 2014]
*Senator Jude Hofschneider [APPOINTED 2015]
VACANCY

HAWAII
Representative Isaac Choy [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Brian Taniguchi [APPOINTED 2013]

IDAHO
*Representative Wendy Horman [APPOINTED 2014]
Senator Dean Mortimer [APPOINTED 2015]
Representative Donna Pence [APPOINTED 2015]

MONTANA
Senator Kris Hansen [APPOINTED 2015]
Representative Nate McConnell [APPOINTED 2015]

NEVADA
Senator Joseph Hardy [APPOINTED 2015]
Senator Debbie Smith [APPOINTED 2015]

NEW MEXICO
Representative Larry Larrañaga [APPOINTED 2015]
*Senator Mark Moores [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator John Sapien [APPOINTED 2015]

NORTH DAKOTA
*Senator Ray Holmberg [APPOINTED 2008]
Representative Bob Martinson [APPOINTED 2015]
Representative Mark Sanford [APPOINTED 2015]

OREGON
Senator Michael Dembrow [APPOINTED 2015]
Senator Richard Devlin [APPOINTED 2015]

SOUTH DAKOTA
Representative Dan Dryden [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Bruce Rampelberg [APPOINTED 2013]

UTAH
Representative Keith Grover [APPOINTED 2015]
Senator Peter Knudson [APPOINTED 2006]*
Senator Stephen Urquhart [APPOINTED 2015]

WASHINGTON
Senator Barbara Bailey [APPOINTED 2015]
*Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles [APPOINTED 2005]
Representative Gerry Pollet [APPOINTED 2015]

WYOMING
Senator Paul Barnard [APPOINTED 2015]
*Representative Samuel Krone [APPOINTED 2011]
Representative Robert McKim [APPOINTED 2015]