

# Western Academic Leadership Academy



*Artwork by: Kit Hevron Mahoney*

July 10-12, 2019  
Boulder, Colorado

Preliminary Program

Western  
Academic  
Leadership  
Forum



The Western Academic Leadership Academy's intensive, two-and-a-half day professional development seminar kicks off a year-long process of building the leadership skills and functional knowledge of academic leaders aspiring to become chief academic officers in the West's postsecondary four-year sector.

# Western Academic Leadership Academy

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## July 10-12, 2019 - Boulder, Colorado

The Western Academic Leadership Academy (the Academy) provides a strong foundation for understanding the broader context in which a chief academic officer and an institution operate, including the intersection with governing boards and external communities. The Academy offers a particular focus on the development of practical skills within academic affairs, fiscal affairs, student affairs, and external relationships.

The program for the Academy's summer seminar, filled with small group discussion, addresses the context of academic leadership, the development of academic goals and priorities, and specific skill sets that are required of chief academic officers. This summer event is followed by opportunities for cohort members to meet with a faculty mentor as well as their cohort colleagues at national meetings or electronically throughout the year for individual consultation about career paths. The Academy culminates in a session at the Western Academic Leadership Forum annual meeting the following spring.

The Academy is sponsored by the Western Academic Leadership Forum (Forum), whose members are the chief academic leaders of the four-year institutions and associated system and state agencies in the 16-member state and U.S. Pacific Territories region of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

## Application Process

Participants must hold a position of dean or higher at a Forum-member institution or organization and be nominated by their chief academic officer. Nomination of candidates who reflect the growing diversity of the region are encouraged.

Space is limited; 17 participants will be accepted into the program for 2019.

A letter of nomination, along with a letter of interest from the candidate and a current CV, should be sent by email to Pat Shea, Director of Academic Leadership Initiatives at WICHE: pshea@wiche.edu.

**Application Due Date: February 15, 2019**

***Selection by the members of the 2019 Academy Faculty will be completed by March 15, 2019.***

## Fees, Dates, and Location

**Dates:** July 10-12, 2019

**Location:** SHEPC Learning Center, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education  
3035 Center Green Drive • Boulder, CO 80301-2204

**Cost:** The program fee is \$1,850 per attendee inclusive of all organized meals. Participants must make their own travel and hotel arrangements. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at the Residence Inn Boulder across the street from WICHE at 3030 Center Green Drive. Details about how to make room reservations at the discounted WICHE rate of \$209 per night will be included in the letter of acceptance.

# Schedule

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## Wednesday, July 10, 2019

8:30 - 9:00 am	<b>Introductions and Goals for the Day</b> Sona Andrews, Academy program and mentoring coordinator
9:00 -10:30 am	<b>Role of the Provost: How It Differs from Other Academic Leadership Roles</b> <i>All-Faculty Discussion:</i> Renny Christopher, vice chancellor for academic affairs, Washington State University – Vancouver Brian Jersky, provost and senior vice president academic affairs, California State University, Long Beach Donald Straney, vice president of academic planning and policy, University of Hawai'i System Laura Woodworth-Ney, executive vice president and provost, Idaho State University
10:30 - 10:45 am	<b>Break</b>
10:45 - 11:15 am	<b>Small Group Reflection: Finding and Filling Gaps in Your Preparation</b> Sona Andrews
11:15 am - 12:15 pm	<b>The Importance of Building Coalitions: Presidential and Cabinet Relations</b> Don Straney; Laura Woodworth-Ney
12:15 - 1:15 pm	<b>Working Lunch</b>
1:15 - 2:15 pm	<b>Managing Personnel and Legal Issues</b> Renny Christopher
2:15 - 2:45 pm	<b>Small Group Reflection and Case Studies</b>
2:45 – 3:15 pm	<b>Assorted Case Studies</b>
3:15 – 3:30 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:30 - 4:45 pm	<b>Managing External Relations and Strategic Partnerships to Advance Institutional Goals</b> Ben Boggs; Scott Marshall; Don Straney
4:45 - 5:15 pm	<b>Small Group Reflection: Communications and Media Relations</b> Sona Andrews
5:15 - 5:30 pm	<b>Wrap-up and Adjourn</b> Sona Andrews
6:30 pm	<b>Group Dinner</b>

## Thursday, July 11, 2019

8:30 – 8:45 am	<b>Reflections and Goals for the Day</b> Sona Andrews
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<b>8:45 - 9:45 am</b>	<b>Unifying the Academic Vision: Strategic Planning</b> Sona Andrews; Brian Jersky
<b>9:45 - 10:15 am</b>	<b>Small Group Reflection and Case Studies</b>
<b>10:15 - 10:30 am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:30 - 11:30 am</b>	<b>Understanding Governance and Unions in Successful Faculty Relations and Policy Development</b> Sona Andrews; Laura Woodworth-Ney
<b>11:30 - Noon</b>	<b>Small Group Reflection and Case Studies</b>
<b>Noon - 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Working Lunch</b>
<b>1:00 - 2:15 pm</b>	<b>The Provost and Student Success: Enrollment Management and Collaborating with Student Affairs</b> Renny Christopher; Don Straney; Laura Woodworth-Ney
<b>2:15 - 2:45 pm</b>	<b>Small Group Reflection and Case Studies</b>
<b>2:45 - 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3:00 - 4:15 pm</b>	<b>The Provost's Role in Finance: Policy, Budget, and Funding Formulas</b> Brian Jersky; Stacy Pearson
<b>4:15 - 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Small Group Reflection and Case Studies</b>
<b>Dinner on your own</b>	

## Friday, July 12, 2019

<b>8:30 - 8:45 am</b>	<b>Reflections and Goals for the Day</b> Sona Andrews
<b>8:45 - 10:00 am</b>	<b>Promoting Diversity and Inclusion</b> Renny Christopher; Carmen Suarez
<b>10:00 - 10:15 am</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:15 - 10:45 am</b>	<b>Small Group Reflection and Case Studies</b>
<b>10:45 - 11:45 am</b>	<b>Small Group Reflection: Your Pathway and Making Use of the Year to Come</b> Sona Andrews
<b>11:45 - Noon</b>	<b>Adjourn. <i>Box lunch to go.</i></b>

## Academy Faculty

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**Sona Karentz Andrews** has over thirty-five years of experience as a higher education university faculty member and administrator. She has held many leadership positions, including vice chancellor of the Oregon University System and provost and vice president for academic affairs at two large universities. Andrews has held faculty positions at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Boise State University and Portland State University. She has served and continues to serve on local, state, regional and national task forces and boards. She earned her undergraduate degree in geography from Worcester State College (Massachusetts) and her master's and Ph.D. degrees in geography from Arizona State University.



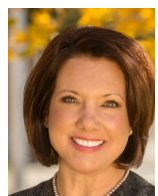
**Renny Christopher** is vice chancellor of academic affairs at Washington State University Vancouver. She was previously associate provost at California State University Channel Islands. She holds a B.A. in English from Mills College, a master's in linguistics from San Jose State University, and a Ph.D. in literature from the University of California Santa Cruz. Before she earned her Ph.D., she worked as a printing press operator, typesetter, carpenter and horse wrangler. Her teaching and research interests focus on issues of race, class, and gender in U.S. literature and culture. She was a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Barcelona, Spain, in 2000.



**Brian Jersky** is the provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at California State University, Long Beach. Jersky promotes excellence in academics, including undergraduate and graduate education, research/creative activity and international education. Previously, Jersky served as dean of Cal Poly Pomona's College of Science and dean of the School of Science at Saint Mary's College. Prior to those roles, he spent 15 years at Sonoma State University in the mathematics department. He has a bachelor's degree in mathematical statistics/economics from the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. He earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in statistics from Cornell University.



**Donald O. Straney** is vice president for academic planning and policy for the University of Hawaii System with overall responsibility for planning and intercampus coordination of academic and student affairs, institutional research and the Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education. Previously, he served as chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, dean of science at Cal Poly Pomona and assistant to the provost and department chair at Michigan State University. Straney earned his B.S. and M.S. in zoology from Michigan State and his Ph.D. in zoology from the University of California, Berkeley.



**Laura Woodworth-Ney** was named Idaho State University's executive vice president and provost in 2016. Previously, she served as ISU's provost and vice president for academic affairs and as its associate vice president for academic affairs for three years before that. Woodworth-Ney's former administrative appointments at ISU include chair of the department of history and co-director of women studies. She also served on the ISU faculty senate, both as a senator and as an elected member of the faculty senate executive committee. Woodworth-Ney, who has been at ISU since 1999, has authored more than 30 articles, book reviews, and scholarly essays, as well as three books (several co-authored). She earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Idaho, and a Ph.D. in American history and public history from Washington State University.

## Guest Speakers

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**Bennett G. Boggs** is the higher education program principal at the National Conference of State Legislatures. His professional experiences include service as nonpartisan staff to the House and Senate Education Committees of the Kentucky General Assembly, senior associate for academic affairs at the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, and President's chief of staff at Berea College, a tuition-free liberal arts work college focused on Appalachian students with limited resources. Boggs earned his B.A. from Wake Forest University (NC), an M.Ed. from The College of William & Mary in Virginia and Ph.D. in higher education policy from the University of Virginia.



**Scott Marshall** leads the academic and student affairs team at the Institute for Shipboard Education/Semester at Sea. For each voyage, its team hires, trains and evaluates 25 faculty and 30 staff members; designs and delivers 75 courses and over 200 in-country field programs; and oversees co-curricular programming, residence life and student conduct. The team collaborates with Colorado State University on curriculum management, student matriculation, registration and articulation and library and bookstore processes. Previously, Marshall was at Portland State University, most recently as vice provost for academic and fiscal planning. He holds a Ph.D. in international strategy, University of Oregon; an M.A. in international affairs, George Washington University; and a B.A. in economics, Willamette University, Oregon.



**Stacy Pearson** (MPA, CPA) is Washington State University’s vice president for finance and administration. She is responsible for the coordination of financial and administrative operations, business services, financial reporting, treasury, real estate, contracting, tax and regulatory compliance, facilities services and campus master planning, public safety, environmental health and safety and risk management. Prior to coming to WSU, Pearson served as Boise State University’s vice president for finance and administration. Pearson holds a B.A. in business administration from the University of Idaho and a master’s degree in public administration from Boise State University.



**Carmen Suarez**, until recently retired, held the post of vice president for global diversity and inclusion at Portland State University. Prior to this position, she was the founding chief diversity officer of the University of Idaho. Suarez has developed underrepresented faculty/staff/student strategic recruitment and retention plans, investigated and resolved civil rights and trauma informed complaints, monitored various dimensions of institutional equity, and overseen Title IX, ADA and AA/EEO compliance. She led diversity strategic planning dimensions for two university strategic plans, making concrete the path for institutional inclusive excellence. Suarez has a B.A. and M.A. in history and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

## About the Western Academic Leadership Forum

The **Western Academic Leadership Forum** (Forum) provides a unique avenue by which the West’s top academic leaders share perspectives on current issues to help inform their future decision making and leadership. Through the Forum, colleagues share the lessons they’ve learned from tackling challenges, and provide advice and assistance to one another based on their special expertise. They engage in planning and developing innovative regional initiatives addressing common concerns and together help build a stronger future for higher education in the West. The official representatives of the Forum’s members are the chief academic leaders at the four-year institutions and their related system and state agencies in the WICHE region.

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



## About the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

The **Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education** works collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for all citizens of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions, WICHE strengthens higher education’s contributions to the region’s social, economic, and civic life. WICHE’s 16 members include 15 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai’i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, as well as member U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States (which currently include the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam).

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



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For more information, please contact  
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