



WICHE & HAWAI'I

Partnering for Six Decades

WICHE



ACCESS • COLLABORATION • INNOVATION

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) is a 16-member commission working to boost access to higher education for students in the West and, as importantly, to ensure their success. Hawai'i has been a member of WICHE since 1959.

Benefits to Hawai'i

- ▶ Tens of thousands of students from Hawai'i have attended undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs in other Western states through WICHE's Student Access Programs, saving millions of dollars, thanks to reduced tuition rates. In just one of the programs, the Western Undergraduate Exchange, Hawai'i students and their families have saved \$271 million since 1988 when the program was founded.
- ▶ Hawai'i has received funding to be part of numerous WICHE policy initiatives, including those focused on financing and financial aid, workforce policy, and other areas.
- ▶ Hawai'i has participated in WICHE initiatives related to distance education, workforce development, and behavioral health.

Doing the Math: Hawai'i's Return on Investment

- ▶ In 2018-19 Hawai'i, its institutions, and its students saved **\$24.9 million** through WICHE and spent \$153,000 for membership in the commission, yielding a **16,289 percent return on investment**.
- ▶ In the last five years, Hawai'i students' savings from WUE alone have totaled **\$96.3 million**.

WICHE's Student Access & Related Programs

Hawai'i is active in all three WICHE **Student Access Programs**: the Western Undergraduate Exchange, the Professional Student Exchange Program, and the Western Regional Graduate Program. In 2018-19 Hawai'i's students and families saved **\$24.9 million** in tuition. Hawai'i saved money, too, through not having to establish and maintain costly programs in a number of areas, including some in healthcare.

Western Undergraduate Exchange. Hawai'i students have enrolled in undergraduate programs on the mainland through the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) since 1988. In 2018-19, 2,467 students from Hawai'i were enrolled in out-

of-state programs at reduced rates (150 percent of resident tuition), saving \$23.4 million in tuition and fees – the average student savings amounted to \$9,500. In the last 10 years, students have saved **\$161.6 million**.

Hawai'i benefits from WUE in another way: by receiving students from out of state. Hawai'i's institutions can choose how many out-of-state slots to offer and in which areas, allowing them to make the best use of their resources by accepting students in underenrolled programs. There's a workforce benefit for the state, too, as students often stay in Hawai'i after graduating. In 2018-19 Hawai'i received 2,683 students through WUE.

Professional Student Exchange Program. Hawai'i has sent **1,319 students** to professional programs through the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), with students studying in a host of critical fields, including dentistry, occupational therapy, optometry, physical therapy, and veterinary medicine. Historically, some 65 percent of PSEP students return to Hawai'i to pursue their professional careers. In addition, in 2018-19 the state received three students and \$73,275 in support fees from other Western states.

Western Regional Graduate Program. Hawai'i's postgraduates also enroll in graduate programs through the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP), which offers access to more than 700 high-quality programs at some 60 institutions in all WICHE states. WRGP programs run the gamut, but emerging social, environmental, resource-management, and healthcare fields are particular strengths, as are innovative interdisciplinary programs. In 2018-19 Hawai'i sent 28 students to out-of-state institutions, receiving 59.

Interstate Passport[®] is a program that facilitates block transfer of lower-division general education based on learning outcomes and proficiency criteria. It includes learning outcomes for nine knowledge and skill areas developed by faculty at institutions in multiple states as well as an academic progress tracking system for Passport transfer students designed by registrars and institutional researchers. The goal of the Interstate Passport is to eliminate transfer students' unnecessary repetition of learning previously achieved.

WICHE’s Added Value

Hawai’i gains added value from WICHE’s programs in policy, workforce development, technology, mental health, and other areas.

WICHE’s 9th edition of Knocking at the College Door high school graduate projections, released in December 2016 (and updated in September 2017 with additional data), describes how the nation and many states have entered a decade of stabilization in the number of high school graduates through about 2025—with substantial contraction in the number of White high school graduates and rapid increases of non-White populations—before entering a period of fewer high school graduates related to a recent “baby bust.” The WICHE region will generally track the national trend, but less so based on trends with White youth and more due to a projected 20 percent increase of Hispanic high school graduates through 2024 and then decrease by about the same amount between 2025 and 2032.

There is an abundance of information on knocking.wiche.edu, including projections of high school graduates for Alaska and a state profile, which indicates that:

- ▶ Hawai’i is projected to produce 14,600 high school graduates per year, on average, between school years 2012 and 2032. Hawai’i will produce about 12% more high graduates by 2026, before they decline in number about 5% by 2032.
- ▶ The number of Hispanic public high school graduates in Hawai’i is projected to more than triple, from about 500 in 2012 to 1,900 in 2032. White and Asian/Pacific Islander graduates will be relatively steady in number throughout the projected years, with minor increases out through 2026.

Policy & Workforce Development. Hawai’i has participated in projects supporting better-informed decision-making at the state level. WICHE initiatives have been sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Lumina Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Helmsley Charitable Trusts, the Ford Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and others. In addition, WICHE policy experts often visit the state to present or consult on a number of vital issues, including the state’s workforce needs and balancing the financial aid

Figure 1. Hawai’i Savings and Revenues through WICHE Programs in 2018

Student Savings	
WUE	\$23,425,582
PSEP	\$1,066,834
WRGP	\$429,380
Total Student Savings	\$24,921,796
Revenue to HI Institutions (PSEP)	
TOTAL	\$24,995,071



“My home state of Hawai’i does not offer an industrial design program, but thanks to WICHE’s Western Undergraduate Exchange, I now have the opportunity to pursue my dream of becoming an industrial designer. I am now enrolled at Metro State and get to experience life in Colorado.”

– Curren, Hawai’i resident,
Metropolitan State University of Denver,
Industrial Design

portfolio between grants, loans, and scholarships, as well as between merit- and need-based aid. In January 2015, the University of Hawai’i Board of Regents sought to explore and analyze the current structure of the University of Hawai’i system. Specifically, they wanted to address whether the Board of Regents should reconsider the 2001 separation of roles of the president of the University of Hawai’i system and the chancellor of the University of Hawai’i at Manoa or seek other changes in the management and leadership structure of the system in order to better serve the state and its citizens. To accomplish this, the Board of Regents engaged WICHE to lead a research effort that included reviewing historical documentation; reviewing relevant literature and research; and conducting interviews with past and present stakeholders, national experts on leadership and governance, and leaders in other state higher education systems similar to that of Hawai’i.

Hawai’i was one of four original states chosen to participate in the Gates-funded Facilitating Development of a Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange pilot project (the others were Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). The project attempts to enable a more comprehensive regional view of the creation of human capital and its flow among multiple states by exchanging data across K-12 education, postsecondary education, and the workforce. Hawai’i is receiving customized technical assistance, including a Hawai’i-specific report, to aid the state in its examination of the data governance in place for each of those sectors, how data governance might be improved, and how the state can advance its efforts in developing its statewide longitudinal data system to meet state needs and fulfill commitments it made to the federal government as part of its successful Race to the Top application. The success of that pilot led Gates to fund a second phase in which the MLDE project will expand to other states.

In FY 2017 and continuing into FY 2018, WICHE conducted an analysis of University of Hawai’i graduates who work in other states, and an analysis of Hawai’i high school students who go to universities in other states and their work patterns.

Regional Academic Leadership Initiatives. The University of Hawai’i System, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, and University of Hawai’i-West O’ahu are members of the **Western Academic Leadership Forum** (the Forum). Their official representatives are the chief academic leaders of the four-year institutions and their related system and state agencies, who address regional higher education issues, and engage in resource-sharing. The **Western Alliance for Community College Academic Leaders** (the 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. Hawai'i Community College, Honolulu Community College, Kapiolani Community College, Kauai Community College, Leeward Community College, University of Hawai'i Maui College, University of Hawai'i System, and Windward Community College are members.

Technology. Several Hawai'i colleges and universities are active participants in the **WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET)**, the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education. WCET is widely recognized as one of the most informative, reliable, and forward-thinking organizations regarding the role of technology and innovation in higher education. Our growing membership includes more than 350 institutions, state and system-wide higher education agencies, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in nearly all U.S. states and many Canadian provinces. WCET members have access to trusted information on emerging trends, policies, and exemplars of successful learning technology innovation in practice. Key WCET activities include an annual meeting, leadership summits, national webcasts, and email list-based discussions among members. Major topics of interest to the WCET membership include student success, managing e-learning, faculty success, emerging technologies, and evolving policy issues. In 2016, the University of Hawai'i System won the WCET Outstanding Work (WOW) award, which recognizes effective and innovative uses of technology to address specific needs in higher education for their initiative: Scaling Integration of Data Analytics and Tools to Transform Decision-Making for Student Success.

Behavioral Health. WICHE has been very active in Hawai'i, focusing on issues of behavioral health workforce development and providing technical assistance to state agencies involved in behavioral health services.



“WICHE’s PSEP played a significant role in my journey to becoming a veterinarian. The State of Hawai'i does not have a veterinary program, so in addition to the stress of applications, I was worried about the financial costs and the lower ratio of out-of-state students who are accepted. CSU’s student financial adviser, Chad Jones, had wise words

for us: Dream big, but with your eyes wide open. When I got the news that I was going to be supported through WICHE, I breathed a huge sigh of relief! I am so grateful that this program exists because it provided me with the support I needed to overcome these hurdles.”

– Norine, Hawai'i resident,
Colorado State University,

College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

- ▶ The Behavioral Health Program continues to assist the state of Hawai'i in the development and operation of an ultimately accredited psychology internship consortium. A primary goal of the internship program is the establishment of a pipeline to build Hawai'i's behavioral health workforce. Three Hawai'i state agencies – the Department of Education, Department of Health, and Department of Public Safety – provide funding to support WICHE's ongoing development and operations of the Hawai'i Internship Program.
- ▶ The Hawai'i Department of Education contracts with WICHE to provide marketing, recruitment, screening, and referral services for behavioral health professionals to fill public school vacancies across the Hawai'ian Islands.
- ▶ The Behavioral Health Program is currently conducting a study of the Children's and Adolescent Mental Health Division's quality and performance improvement program and processes.
- ▶ The Hawai'i Early Intervention Services (EIS) program contracted with WICHE to conduct an independent rate study to obtain comparative data about reimbursement rates and salaries paid by other states providing early intervention services. EIS contract service providers have experienced lengthy vacancies and gaps in service provisions which the providers and EIS believe may be due to State or Hawai'i salaries being low in comparison to salaries paid by other Hawai'i providers for similar services.

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). SARA is a voluntary, nationwide initiative of states that makes distance education courses more accessible to students across state lines and makes it easier for states to regulate and institutions to participate in interstate distance education. The effort initially was funded by \$3.2 million in grants from Lumina Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and is now supported by fees paid by institutions. The initiative is administered by the country's four regional higher education compacts – the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) – and overseen by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). States and institutions that choose to participate agree to operate under common standards and procedures, providing a more uniform and less costly regulatory environment for institutions, more focused oversight responsibilities for states, and better resolution of student complaints. Hawai'i is among the WICHE states that are members of W-SARA in this reciprocal relationship.

Other Initiatives. The **Master Property Program (MPP)**, helps institutions reduce their insurance premiums and improve their coverage. Created by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) and expanded to the WICHE region in 2004, the MPP includes more than 160 campuses with total insured values of over \$93.4 billion. WICHE is also partnering with MHEC to offer **MHECare**, a health program providing vetted, competitively priced medical benefits for students.

“WICHE’s Professional Student Access Program (PSEP) is something that I highly recommend for all students who are interested in careers for which a program of study is not available in their home states. Being from Hawai’i, I always dreaded moving out-of-state for school due to the high costs of nonresident tuition and travel. However, thanks to WICHE, I not only get to pursue my goal of becoming a physical therapist, but I get to do it at an affordable price. I’m so grateful for this awesome opportunity and I can’t wait to see what the future holds.”

– Mac, Hawai’i resident,
University of Nevada Las Vegas,
Doctor of Physical Therapy

Underwritten by UnitedHealthcare StudentResources, MHECare offers a variety of plans. In a third collaboration with MHEC, WICHE extends the benefits of **MHECtech** to colleges and universities in the West, enabling them to purchase off competitively bid purchasing agreements to reduce costs on a range of hardware and software products and services.

Hawai’i & WICHE’s Leadership

The **WICHE Commission**, with three commissioners from each state, molds the organization’s mission and set its priorities. Hawai’i’s commissioners are David Lassner, president, University of Hawai’i System, and interim chancellor, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, Honolulu; Carol Mon Lee, attorney, and retired associate dean, University of Hawai’i Richardson School of Law, Honolulu; and Colleen Sathre, vice president emeritus, planning and policy, University of Hawai’i, Honolulu.



David Lassner



Carol Mon Lee



Colleen Sathre

WICHE also seeks assistance and advice from policymakers, educators, administrators, and legislators. WICHE’s **Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC)**, composed of legislator-members from each state—including Rep. Angus McKelvey and Sen. Kaiali’i Kahele—has been crucial in this regard. The LAC works to keep the commission’s Executive Committee and staff current on significant legislative issues related to higher education, provides input on WICHE initiatives, and advises staff on a host of issues. WICHE staff also serve the LAC by informing members about emerging policy issues in the West.

WICHE Commission & Staff

The WICHE Commission includes three gubernatorial selected representatives from each member: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai’i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, the U.S. Pacific territories and freely associated states, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Members work collaboratively to provide educational access and excellence for all citizens.

WICHE and its staff are headquartered in Boulder, Colo., 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:

Demarée Michelau, president

Michael Abbiatti, vice president for educational technologies and executive director, WCET

Patrick Lane, vice president, policy analysis and research

Jere Mock, vice president, programs and services

Dennis Mohatt, vice president, behavioral health

How can I find out more about WICHE?

Visit our website at wiche.edu or contact 303.541.0200.

February 2019



Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

3035 Center Green Drive, Suite 200 Boulder, Colorado 80301-2204

wiche.edu