



NewsCap

A bimonthly newsletter from the leading regional agency serving higher education throughout and beyond the American West

WICHE goes deeper on student-outcomes data

WICHE’s policy unit and WCET teamed up earlier this month to release valuable analysis and commentary on the recently released Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System dataset on Outcome Measures. This key U.S. Department of Education yardstick begins to address known limitations with official college graduation rates that have represented college outcomes for “traditional” first-time, full-time students, leaving out returning and part-time students.

WICHE INSIGHTS April 2018
Peace Bransberger, Senior Research Analyst and Colleen Falkenstern, Research Coordinator wiche.edu

Exploring IPEDS Outcome Measures in the WICHE Region

Background
The first round of data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System’s (IPEDS) newest survey component, Outcome Measures (OM), was released to the public in Fall 2017. The OM data provides a more nuanced, detailed alternative source of information about student outcomes than do the longstanding IPEDS graduation rates, and better coverage of the diverse student populations that have been historically overlooked in traditional graduation rate calculations. Importantly, the IPEDS OM survey begins to address some of the limitations of the preceding Graduation Rate (GR) component data.¹ In this brief, WICHE summarizes and describes these data so that users can become familiar with them. The sections to follow explain the differences between the long-standing GR data and these new OM data; they also illustrate the additional progression and completion information the OM data provide about public postsecondary institutions in the WICHE region (encompassing 16 states and territories in the Western United States) and their undergraduate populations.² The final section of this brief details additional changes to be incorporated in the next wave of OM data, and the Technical Glossary provides cohort and element definitions.

OM Data Cover 60 Percent More Public College Students in the West
Within the 2016 OM survey data, institutions reported the number of students who were conferred a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award for the first time at the institution (the “new,” “traditional,” and enrollment status if they did not receive one of those credentials in the same period tracked) for the cohort of degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates who started at the institution in Fall 2016.³

Key Takeaways
Recently released IPEDS Outcome Measures data begin to address known limitations with official college graduation rates. These rates have only included “traditional” college outcomes of first-time students, leaving out part-time students and many types of non-first-time students. Now that the wider diversity of students is represented, WICHE observes important and even surprising trends about student outcomes.

- A majority of public college undergraduates in the WICHE region were left out of those official graduation rate measures—including the overwhelming majority of students at public community colleges.
- Students in this first cohort who were not first-time at the tracking institution were more likely to achieve credentials than first-time students.

These and other key findings for researchers and policymakers are explored within this WICHE Insights brief.

The outcomes are reported for four student groupings:

- First-time, full-time
- First-time, part-time
- Non-first-time, full-time
- Non-first-time, part-time

Institutions reported credential and enrollment status for entering fall 2016 undergraduates at two points in time: after six years (by August 31, 2017) and after

Read this [WICHE Insights](#) brief observing important, even surprising trends on student outcomes, and the [WICHE Fact Book](#) for a new data table on undergraduate enrollment, completion, and transfer for WICHE member states. And read this [WCET Frontiers](#) commentary that lauds this evolution and demonstrates its implications.

Trove of WICHE history now online

“A striking example of Western initiative, in the relatively short period from November 1950 to June 1953,” begins the lead sentence of the inaugural March 1954 edition of *Higher Education in the West*, WICHE’s early-years newsletter. We now can read WICHE’s “origin story” and trace the early evolution of WICHE in the West

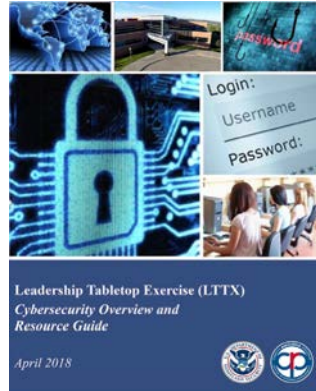


online—thanks to the Arizona Memory Project, an initiative of the Arizona State Library. [Live, and viewable here](#), are most of the 80 WICHE newsletters published between 1954 and 1990; all are available in both PDF and plain text, and indexed for search.

This now constitutes the best online archive of WICHE newsletters, which we now link to [from our NewsCap page](#). We hope they’re of service and value to anyone interested in higher education’s history in the West. We’ll roll out some interesting historical chestnuts from these newsletters in upcoming issues of NewsCap.

DHS Cybersecurity Resource Guide a key output of WICHE partnership

In the wake of February's cybersecurity Leadership Tabletop Exercise—led by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Academic Engagement in partnership with WICHE and the University of North Dakota System—a Cybersecurity Overview and Resource Guide has been produced to guide future

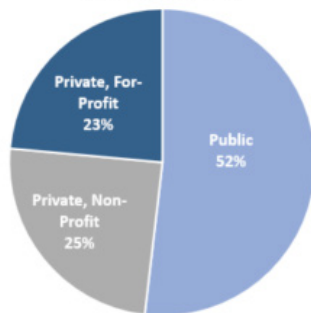


activities of this nature, the next of which may be in Colorado in the foreseeable future. This guide will be posted imminently [at this DHS page](#); also check out the brand-new [Data Protection and Privacy page](#) on the WCET website, with numerous valuable resources related to cybersecurity.

Online college-student growth not driven by for-profits, WCET shows

The number of U.S. college students enrolled exclusively in distance education courses has grown 13 percent since 2012 to more than 2.2 million students, according to a new analysis by WCET—the WICHE Cooperative for

Students Enrolled Exclusively in Distance Education Courses: Sector Data Trends 2016



Educational Technologies. By far the largest and fastest-growing providers of online-only courses are public and nonprofit private institutions—not private for-profit colleges, as is often surmised. In fact, the report notes that for-profit institutions account for a steadily shrinking share of both overall and distance-education enrollments.

WICHE Mental Health at forefront of suicide-prevention resources, veterans support

Kalispell, Mont., has been selected as the second of three sites at which WICHE's Mental Health Program will be piloting evidence-based approaches to suicide

prevention among military veterans living in rural areas. [The Together with Veterans](#) program, which helps local communities build capacity to serve veterans at risk of suicide, is already underway in Alamosa, Colo., and a third site will be selected later this year.



WICHE also recently updated and expanded its [Suicide Prevention Toolkit for Primary Care Practices](#), a nationally recognized guide for seamlessly integrating suicide assessment, intervention, and prevention into primary-care settings. [This blog post](#), co-authored by Liza Tupa of the WICHE Mental Health Program in conjunction with the national Suicide Prevention Resource Center, provides toolkit context and guidance.

Brand-new WICHE commissioner helms brand-new Idaho college

The newest member of the WICHE Commission is Rick Aman, president of the College of Eastern Idaho, which was created in spring 2017 by citizen vote. Read more here on Aman, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel with 26 years of experience in community college administration and teaching.



You may be able to save on insurance, and more!

#notaGeicoAd

In partnership with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), two WICHE programs help Western colleges and universities harness the collective purchasing power of hundreds of institutions nationwide. [The](#)



[Master Property Program](#) and [MHECtech](#) offer, respectively, comprehensive insurance coverage at below-average rates and discounts on computers, software, printers, and peripherals purchases. Contact Jere Mock, WICHE vice president of programs and services, at 303-541-0222 for more information

Poulin honored for service in technology-enabled learning

The [National University Technology Network](#) (NUTN) recently presented its annual [Nofflet Williams Service Award](#) to Russ Poulin, WCET director of policy and analysis. The annual award recognizes an individual “acknowledged to be a contributor, a mentor, a do-er, and a leader of national and international note.”



Wikipedia’s teaching and learning potential: yet to be tapped?

In a recent [WCET Frontiers post](#), open educational resources (OER) advocate TJ Bliss makes the case for teaching college students how to edit Wikipedia articles as part of their regular coursework. Wikipedia assignments help students develop their research, analytical, and writing skills, he argues—and engage them “as creators of knowledge, rather than merely consumers.”



On the road: Selected recent or upcoming WICHE-led presentations

- Joe Garcia, WICHE president, April 12 at the University of Wyoming, and the [College Board Preparáté](#) conference, April 17-18 in Los Angeles.
- Interstate Passport staff at the [American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers](#) meeting, March 25-28 in Orlando; [American Association of Community Colleges](#) convention, April 28-May 1 in Dallas; and [Association for Institutional Research](#) conference, May 29-June 1 in Orlando.
- Dennis Mohatt, WICHE vice president of behavioral health, at the Micronesian Island Forum April 24-26 in Saipan, CNMI
- Policy and Research staff on WICHE’s [Knocking at the College Door](#) report at Western, Midwestern, New England and Middle States College Board regional forums in February and March: [see presentation materials here](#).

Save the date!

- April 18-20, the [Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders](#) annual meeting in Seattle
- April 25-27, the [Western Academic Leadership Forum](#) annual meeting in Vancouver, Wash.
- May 3, the [NC-SARA National Council](#) spring meeting in Denver
- May 7-8, the spring [WICHE Commission](#) meeting in Missoula, Mont.
- June 5-6, the [WCET Leadership Summit](#) in Newport Beach, Calif.
- June 12-13, the [Back to Basics State Authorization Compliance Workshop](#) in Boulder
- Oct. 22-24, [WCET 30th Annual Meeting](#) in Portland, Ore. (Submit proposals by May 7.)

You heard it from WICHE

“We as a society have a hard time asking for help, so it’s hard enough to ask for help [without feeling] that everybody’s going to know it. Your neighbors don’t have a clue in a city if you’re going to go get some help. But everybody [in a small town] will know if your pickup truck is parked outside of the mental health provider’s office.”



– Dennis Mohatt, WICHE vice president for behavioral health, in [PBS’ Next Avenue](#).

“Institutions in places like Massachusetts and New York and Illinois are going to be really challenged to maintain enrollments There are just not going to be enough wealthy, full-paying students to go around.”




– WICHE President Joe Garcia, in a recent [Boston Globe](#) article.


“Native American, non-tribal institutions did not have a unified voice and were often overlooked in national policy forums, yet these institutions serve more than 90 percent of the American Indian and Alaskan Native students in higher education.”



– Angela Rochat, data, policy, and evaluation coordinator for WICHE’s new Native-Serving Institutions initiative, in [University Business](#) magazine.



Western Alliance of
Community College
Academic Leaders




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Changing the World or
Changing with the World

Western Alliance of
Community College Academic Leaders

Annual Meeting
April 18-20, 2018 Seattle, Washington



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Western Interstate Commission
for Higher Education




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for Higher Education


Commission Meeting

May 7-8, 2018
Missoula, Montana

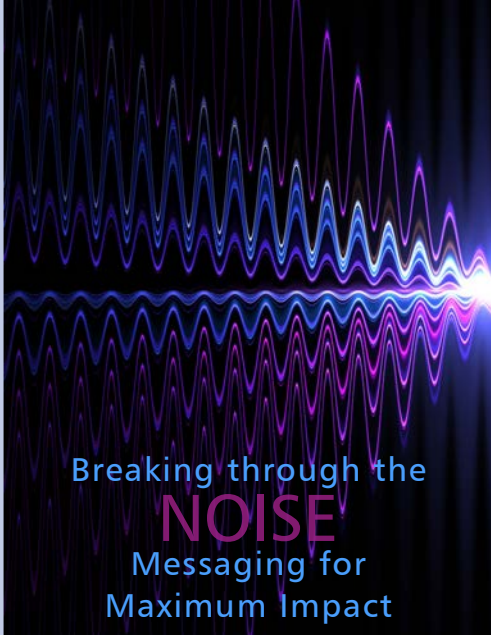


WICHE
Western Interstate Commission
for Higher Education

WICHE meetings on the horizon




Western Academic
Leadership Forum



Breaking through the
NOISE
Messaging for
Maximum Impact

Western Academic Leadership Forum

Annual Meeting
April 25-27, 2018 Vancouver, Washington



WICHE
Western Interstate Commission
for Higher Education

WCET Leadership Summit
Ensuring Ethical and Equitable Access in
Digital Learning

June 5 - 6, 2018 | Newport Beach, CA