AASCU’s Top Ten Higher Education State Issues:

1. Keeping College Affordable through State Investment
2. Improving Institutional Outcomes & Degree Production
3. Combating Campus Sexual Assault
4. Meeting State Economic Needs Through Higher Education
5. Aligning Secondary-Postsecondary Educational Standards
6. College Access for Undocumented and DACA Students
7. Guns on Campus
8. College Access and Success for Veterans
9. Free Community College
10. Student Loan Refinancing and Debt Assistance
Where The Year Began

- The Governors’ State of the State Messages
  - Very little about higher education
  - Very little specificity where it was mentioned

- The exceptions:
  - **Colorado**: Try and minimize the necessary cuts, unless TABOR is relaxed.
  - **Idaho (Gov. Otter)**: tuition lock and two financial aid initiatives (one for traditional students; one for non-traditional students).
  - **New Mexico (Gov. Martinez)**: major initiative proposed for improving teacher quality in partnership with Universities and creation of an internship portal, and improved transfer.
  - **Washington (Gov. Insee)**: teacher quality initiative and mental health focus.

- A smattering of other interests: STEM, career & technical training, innovation hub, seamless transitions, etc.
So, What Has Actually Happened

A Reminder

WICHE’s Five Areas of Focus

Finance
Access & Success
Workforce & Society
Technology & Innovation
Accountability
## Focus on Finance: Funding Per Student

<table>
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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>App/Stu</th>
<th>1 Yr Chg</th>
<th>Total/St</th>
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State Funding – the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly:

The Good:
- Colorado stable funding: better than it sounds
- Idaho (or not).
- Oregon – pretty good on top of great year in 2015
- Utah – 5% increase in various pockets
- Others?

The Bad: New Mexico reductions.
- The Ugly: Alaska
Focus on Finance

• Tuition Policy & Practice
  – Good news:
    » South Dakota: Pay off bonds for system, so tuition could be frozen.
    » Idaho: Expanded definition of “resident” to include adults who have moved to the state
  – Interest trumped Action
    » Promises, promises (free tuition): Arizona, Hawaii, & Washington
    » Oregon waivers for high need fields of study and Utah freeze discussions

• Financial Aid
  – Idaho: Two funding streams: shared responsibility & adult students
  – South Dakota efforts to establish “shared responsibility”
Focus on Access & Success

- Financial aid initiatives in Idaho & South Dakota
- Looking down to early college
  - Expansion of dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities in Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, and Utah, although in a variety of ways.
- Looking up: Idaho financial aid
Focus on Workforce & Society

- Colorado: Business Experiential Learning Initiative
- Utah: Incentive fund to foster stackable workforce credentials
Focus on Technology & Innovation

- Not much that is truly educational technology related
- Innovation: Same items reflected in workforce development
- Privacy and Security: Oregon, Wyoming, and Colorado tightened up on disclosure of private information
Focus on Accountability

- Expansion of SARA
  - Membership for Hawaii
  - Legislation and planned membership for Utah
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What Else?