Getting Better All the Time?
Highlights from the 2013 Legislative Sessions

WICHE’s Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting
September 4, 2013
Overview
Overview: Money, Accountability, and Innovation

Key Themes in 2013:
• Postsecondary Finance
• Accountability/Productivity
• College Readiness
• Innovation
Overview: MOOCs, Guns, and Immigration

Keep Watching:
• Undocumented Students
• Online Education
• State Authorization
• Guns on Campus
Postsecondary Finance
Nowhere To Go But Up

FY2012 = state and local support for higher education totaled $81.2 billion, down 7 percent from 2011.

• Per student support was $5,896, steepest decline in the 25 years

Source: State Higher Education Executive Officers, 2013
Show Me the Money...

- Washington: Increased by 12%
- Oregon: 8%
- California & Colorado: 5%
• **California:** State budget includes four-year tuition freeze

• **Montana:** Approval of $30 million in funding support by the legislature in 2013 allowed two-year tuition freeze
Freeze!

- **North Dakota**: Infusion of state funding allowed state to cap tuition instead of going through with a rate increase.

- **Washington**: Enacted a tuition freeze after the legislature increased funding for higher ed, rescinding a two percent hike that received earlier approval.
Pay Forward, Pay Back

• **Oregon**: HB 2838 calls for plan that provides tuition and fees in exchange for a promise to return a percentage future salaries
  • If implemented, would essentially eliminate tuition, fees, and loans for students in the state
Need-Based Aid

• **California**: Budget establishes Middle Class Scholarship which cuts tuition costs up to 40 percent for low-income students

• **North Dakota**: SB 237 created scholarships ranging from $500 to $2,000 depending on the student's level of need
Teaching Aids

• **South Dakota:** SB 233 established the "Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship Program" which encourages high school graduates to remain in the state for college and careers

• **New Mexico:** HB 53, also known as the "Teacher Repayment Loan Act," provides for repayment of loans for teachers working in high-risk schools.
Finish in Four, Get More

• **Colorado**: Enacted a tiered approach that provides incentives for retention and completion
  • HB 1320 awards state colleges and universities a fixed amount of aid for each grade level
After eight Western states passed legislation related to outcomes-based funding during the 2011 and 2012 sessions, the trend continued into 2013.

- Driven by the Completion Agenda...
Performance Enhancing Legislation

- **Montana:** Will implement performance funding measures in exchange for increased state funding

- **North Dakota:** SB 2200 creates model which appropriates funds to institutions based on the number of credit hours completed rather than the number of students enrolled
Performance Enhancing Legislation

- **South Dakota**: SB 5 creates the “Council on Higher Education Policy Goals, Performance, and Accountability”

  - Nine Western states have now passed some form of legislation related to outcomes-based funding
College Readiness
Get Ready...

Access ➔ Persistence ➔ Completion... It all comes back to Readiness
Get Set...

• Utah
  • SB 175 streamlines higher education assessments and requires all high school juniors to take a college readiness test in order to determine their ability to succeed at the postsecondary level

• SCR 5 “expresses support” for achieving goal that 66 percent of Utah’s adults hold a postsecondary degree or certificate by 2020
Higher education continues to play a vital role in the implementation of the CCSS

• Alaska still the only Western State that has not adopted the CCSS
The Common Core State Standards

- 47 states introduced CCSS-related legislation in 2013

- Every state in the West, except Alaska, introduced and, for the most part, passed CCSS legislation
  - Failed in Arizona, Montana, and South Dakota
Undocumented Students
Undocumented Students

• Colorado
  • Passed legislation in 2006 explicitly denying in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants
  • Reversed course in 2013 by passing SB 33, commonly referred to as the "ASSET Bill"
  • Similar legislation had failed to pass six times in the past decade, including the 2012 legislative session.
Undocumented Students

• **Oregon**
  - Enacted HB 2787, the “Tuition Equity Bill,” which exempts undocumented students from paying non-resident tuition
Undocumented Students

- **Washington**
  - Already awarding in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants since 2003
  - Tried but failed to pass HB 1817 -- also known as the "Washington Dream Act" -- which proposed to award financial aid benefits to those same students (like CA & NM)
To date, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington now extend in-state tuition benefits to undocumented students.

- California and New Mexico also award financial aid benefits
Guns on Campus
## Guns on Campus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>HB 1226</td>
<td>Proposed to ban the carrying of concealed weapons on college campuses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>HB 240</td>
<td>Sought to limit the authority of the Board of Regents to restrict firearms on college campuses and allow students and the public to carry guns.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>AB 143</td>
<td>Known as the &quot;Campus Carry Bill,&quot; sought to allow concealed weapons on college campuses.</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>SB 177</td>
<td>Proposed to limit the authority of higher education institutions to regulate the possession of guns on campus.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>HB 105</td>
<td>Known as the &quot;Citizens and Students Self-Defense Act,&quot; the bill proposed to repeal laws restricting the possession of firearms on campuses for persons holding a valid concealed carry permit.</td>
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Guns on Campus

• All gun-related legislation proposed in 2013 either failed or was vetoed (MT)

• Issue is unlikely to die and will be reintroduced in subsequent sessions...
Issues to Watch
Community Colleges

• **Colorado** considered, but failed to pass, SB 165, which would have allowed community colleges in the state to grant four-year degrees in high-need fields

• **Oregon** passed HB 3341 which grants greater flexibility to community colleges in offering job-training coursework, effectively allowing them to compete with for-profit career colleges
Governance

- **North Dakota**: HCR 3047 places future of State Board of Education on the 2014 statewide ballot.
  
  - Voters will decide whether the current part-time board is replaced by full-time commission.
Online Education

• **California** introduced SB 520 -- the "California Online Student Access Incentive Grant Program“
  
  • Would have allowed the state's three postsecondary systems to develop massive open online courses, or MOOCs
State Authorization

- **Hawaii**: SB 46 requires private degree-granting postsecondary institutions operating in the state to be authorized by a newly established Postsecondary Education Authorization Program within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs no later than July 1, 2014
The New, New Normal

• 2013 witnessed the first glimmer of good news for colleges, universities, and students in more than a decade

• While the fiscal forecast in most states remain unsettled, Western states continue to meet the challenges of the “new normal” with a increasing innovation

• Higher Education will continue to face more accountability to improve efficiency, but also create new opportunities to better serve students and all state residents
State Higher Education Policy Database

Nation’s only searchable database of state-level policies and resources for all 50 states in key issue areas related to access and success in higher education.
• Accelerated Learning Options
• Adult Learners
• Articulation, Transfer, and Alignment
• Data and Accountability Systems
• Early Outreach Programs
• Equity and Diversity

• Remedial and Developmental Education
• Residency
• Student Financial Aid
• Student Retention
• Teaching Quality
• Tuition and Fees

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