Preliminary Agenda

Monday, September 8

5.00 – 6.30 pm  
TBD  
Pre-Registration  
Meeting participants can pick up their materials during pre-registration.

Tuesday, September 9

8.00 – 8.45 am  
Laveen B  
Registration and Networking Breakfast

8.45 – 9.00 am  
Laveen A  
Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of WICHE and the Legislative Advisory Committee  
Speaker:  
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

9.00 – 9.30 am  
Laveen A  
The 2014 Legislative Sessions: Striking the Balance of Affordability, Cost, and Quality  
The WICHE region saw a great deal of legislative activity in 2014, including efforts to mitigate the rising costs of higher education, ensure that college is affordable, to students be prepared to succeed in college and careers, and assist states and postsecondary institutions in delivering a high-quality education to all students. This session will present the highlights and trends from this year; during the subsequent facilitated discussion, LAC members will share their perspectives and shed light on what might be expected in the future.  
Moderator:  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education  
Speaker:  
Carl Krueger, project coordinator, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

9.30 – 10.15 am  
Laveen A  
Facilitated Discussion: The 2014 Legislative Sessions: Striking the Balance of Affordability, Cost, and Quality  
Facilitator:  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
Tuesday, September 9 (continued)

10.15 – 10.30 am  
**Break**

10.30 – 11.30 am  
**Easing the Burden of State Authorization through Reciprocity**

*Laveen A*

Intended to ease the pathway for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state, the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is an agreement among member states, districts, and territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. SARA is overseen by a National Council and administered by four regional education compacts. This facilitated discussion will highlight key developments of the voluntary agreement, provide a status update of Western members, and provide an opportunity for LAC members to discuss how to best position their state to comply with federal law.

*Facilitator:*
John Lopez, director, W-SARA, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

*Speakers:*
Representative Jeff Dial, Arizona
Representative Dave Young, Colorado

11.30 am – 1.00 pm  
**LUNCH - Advising WICHE: An Open Discussion**

*Laveen B*

*Facilitator:*
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

1.00 – 1.30 pm  
**A Delicate Balance: The Benefits and Concerns Around Data and Student Privacy**

*Laveen A*

While there is a strong push for more accountability in higher education, which by nature requires the responsible collection and analysis of data, there are legitimate perspectives and concerns surrounding how those data are used. Many state legislators have recently found themselves in a position to consider questions related to these issues that they have not previously encountered. This facilitated discussion will allow members to have an open dialogue with data experts about the key ethical and practical questions regarding the use of student information and privacy.

*Moderator:*
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

*Speakers:*
Melissa Beard, senior forecast analyst, Washington Education Research and Data Center
Paige Kowalski, director, state policy and advocacy, Data Quality Campaign (INVITED)
Tuesday, September 9 (continued)

1.30 – 2.00 pm  
**Laveen A**  
Facilitated Discussion - A Delicate Balance: The Benefits and Concerns Around Data and Student Privacy

*Facilitator:*  
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

2.00 – 3.00 pm  
**Laveen A**  
Common Academic Standards and Assessments: Working through the Myths and the Realities

During the 2014 legislative sessions, many state legislatures faced a variety of issues related to the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) or other similar academic standards and assessments that in most cases will be implemented in the 2014-15 academic year. Facing opposition from both sides of the aisle, the CCSS is riding a rocky road filled with some truth, some myth, and in many cases, uncertainty going forward. The goal of this session is to help prepare members for the 2015 legislative session armed with accurate information so they can make the most informed decisions possible.

*Facilitator:*  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

3.00 – 3.15 pm  
**Break**

3.15 – 3.45 pm  
**Laveen A**  
States in the Driver’s Seat: Aligning Policy to Make College Affordable

College affordability dominated the legislative agendas in the West in 2014. While WICHE offered an overarching set of guiding principles and policy proposals to leverage state aid to align policies and promote access, success, and affordability, states attempted to address the issue in a variety of ways.

*Moderators:*  
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

*Speakers:*  
Senator Michael Dembrow, Oregon  
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Washington and WICHE Commissioner

3.45 pm – 4.30 pm  
**Laveen A**  
Facilitated Discussion - States in the Driver’s Seat: Aligning Policy to Make College Affordable

*Facilitators:*  
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

6.00 pm  
**1130 The Restaurant**  
Networking Reception and Dinner

Please meet in the hotel lobby at 6pm. The restaurant is within walking distance.
Wednesday, September 10

8.00 – 8.30 am  Networking Breakfast  
Laveen B

8.30 – 9.00 am  The Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act: An Update and Discussion of What May Come  
Laveen A

The Higher Education Act expires at the end of this year, and while it isn't likely to be reauthorized by then, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are gearing up in Congress and beginning the important conversations. Issues including competency-based education, how cost information and other data are provided to prospective college students, and requiring more counseling for federal student loan borrowers are getting early attention. This session will provide an update on the current status and provide a glimpse into what may evolve in the coming months.

Facilitator:  
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speaker:  
Lee Posey, committee director, National Conference of State Legislatures

9.00 – 9.45 am  Facilitated Discussion: The Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act: An Update and Discussion of What May Come  
Laveen A

Facilitator:  
David Longanecker, president, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

9.45 – 10.15 am  Mission Creep or Meeting Demand? Allowing Community Colleges to Offer Four-year Degrees  
Laveen A

While at least 21 states allow community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees, recently there has been increased action and discussion around this latest policy shift. In 2014, legislation passed in Colorado, while Senate Bill 850 is currently pending in California. Proponents argue that this strategy creates an affordable way to meet workforce demands, while opponents cite concerns over mission creep. Join a policy discussion with your colleagues and leaders from states that have been engaged in the debate.

Moderator:  
Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Speakers:  
Senator Carol Liu, California  
Michael Martin, chancellor, Colorado State University System
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.15 – 11.00 am</td>
<td>Mission Creep or Meeting Demand? Allowing Community Colleges to Offer Four-year Degrees</td>
<td>Laveen A</td>
<td>Facilitator: Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, <em>Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education</em></td>
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<td>11.00 – 11.15 am</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Laveen A</td>
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<td>11.15 – 11.45 am</td>
<td>The 2015 Legislative Sessions: What’s on the Agenda?</td>
<td>Laveen A</td>
<td>The final session of the LAC annual meeting will focus on the future and be a brainstorming session about issues that are likely to emerge in the 2015 legislative sessions. Members will have the opportunity to present ideas to each other, raise questions, and share insights about strategies for striking the balance between affordability, cost, and quality in higher education. Moderator: Demarée Michelau, director of policy analysis, <em>Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education</em></td>
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<td>11.45 am</td>
<td>Closing Remarks and Adjournment</td>
<td>Laveen A</td>
<td>Speaker: David Longanecker, president, <em>Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education</em></td>
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<td>12.00 pm</td>
<td>Optional Networking Lunch</td>
<td>Mi Amigos Mexican Grill</td>
<td>Please meet in the hotel lobby for an optional group lunch. The restaurant is within walking distance.</td>
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**2014 LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
(*Indicates LAC member is also a WICHE Commissioner*)

**ALASKA**
Representative Paul Seaton [APPOINTED 2009]
Senator Gary Stevens [APPOINTED 2013]

**ARIZONA**
Representative Jeff Dial [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Robert Meza [APPOINTED 2013]

**CALIFORNIA**
Assemblymember Das Williams [APPOINTED 2014]
Senator Carol Liu [APPOINTED 2011]

**COLORADO**
Representative Dave Young [APPOINTED 2013]
VACANCY

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
Representative Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero [APPOINTED 2014]
VACANCY

**HAWAII**
Representative Isaac Choy [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Brian Taniguchi [APPOINTED 2013]

**IDAHO**
Senator Dean Mortimer [APPOINTED 2012]
Representative Donna Pence [APPOINTED 2012]

**MONTANA**
Representative Kris Hansen [APPOINTED 2012]
Representative Franke Wilmer [APPOINTED 2014]*
Senator Cliff Larsen [APPOINTED 2013]

**NEVADA**
Assemblymember Paul Aizley [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Debbie Smith [APPOINTED 2011/2013]

**NEW MEXICO**
Representative Larry Larrañaga [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Mark Moores [APPOINTED 2013]*
Senator John Sapien [APPOINTED 2013]

**NORTH DAKOTA**
Senator Ray Holmberg [APPOINTED 2008]*
Representative Bob Martinson [APPOINTED 2008]
Representative Mark Sanford [APPOINTED 2013]

**OREGON**
Senator Michael Dembrow [APPOINTED 2010]
Senator Richard Devlin [APPOINTED 2010]

**SOUTH DAKOTA**
Representative Dan Dryden [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Bruce Rampleberg [APPOINTED 2013]

**UTAH**
Representative Keith Grover [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Peter Knudson [APPOINTED 2006]*
Senator Stephen Urquhart [APPOINTED 2013]

**WASHINGTON**
Representative Larry Haler [APPOINTED 2013]
Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles [APPOINTED 2005]*
Representative Larry Seaquist [APPOINTED 2013]*

**WYOMING**
Senator Paul Barnard [APPOINTED 2012]
Representative Samuel Krone [APPOINTED 2011]*
Representative Robert McKim [APPOINTED 2010]

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