



# WICHE NewsCap



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- ▶ **Eleven institutions in Hawai'i, Utah, and Wyoming to begin awarding Interstate Passport this fall.**
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- ▶ **Aspiring chief academic officers from WICHE states begin yearlong professional development program.**
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## Outreach by WICHE's new president begins during his first month.

In a recent letter sent to hundreds of WICHE constituents throughout the West, WICHE President Joe Garcia noted that his predecessor David Longanecker's June retirement provides an opportunity for the WICHE Commissioners and staff to focus on how the organization can further increase its value to each of its member states. "As we plan for the future you can trust that we will continue our work on important higher education policy issues as well as delivering programs that broaden student access and spur institutional collaborations and effectiveness," Garcia wrote.

His letter highlighted two examples of WICHE's efforts to broaden higher education access and inform policymakers and key higher education leaders about important demographic changes affecting postsecondary education, including the planned early December release of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates*. The report will highlight the unprecedented demographic changes occurring in the pool of young people who may move from high school on to college and university campuses.

"Given the growing racial and ethnic diversity of our youth and our society's economic stratification, *Knocking* will provide additional context for policymakers and academe to respond to growing educational inequities," Garcia continued. "Secondly, we're pleased to report that WICHE's Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), the largest regional tuition reciprocity program of its kind in the U.S., benefited some 35,600 residents of Western states this academic year. With our increased focus on college affordability, it is important to note that WUE enabled those students and their families to save a collective \$308.8 million on tuition. In the months ahead, I will be reaching out to stakeholders in the WICHE region to better understand the issues and challenges our constituents face, and provide an update on our current workplan and priorities. I welcome opportunities to hear from you on how WICHE can be of greater help in advancing higher education in your state and in the West."



## ▶ Formal rollout of Interstate Passport to start in three Western states.



A group of 11 colleges and universities in three states (Hawai'i, Utah, and Wyoming) this fall may begin awarding the new [Interstate Passport](#) – culminating five years of work focused on helping students transfer across state lines without losing credit for what they learn in lower-division courses. Another set of institutions (in Hawai'i, Oregon, North Dakota, and South Dakota) is on track to apply for participation in the Interstate Passport Network this fall in order to award it in spring 2017.

The Passport is undergirded by a framework of learning outcomes and proficiency criteria – in nine knowledge and skill areas – developed collaboratively by a network of two- and four-year institutions in seven Western states, led by WICHE and supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Lumina Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The effort is aimed at improving graduation rates, shortening time to degree, and saving students money.

Faculty members at participating institutions create a "[passport block](#)," a list of courses and other experiences

that satisfy the learning outcomes in the nine areas. Students who complete those courses with a minimum grade of C or its equivalent can transfer to another participating college without having to repeat lower-division coursework that corresponds to that institution's Passport block. The academic progress of Passport students will be monitored, analyzed, and made public in annual reports.

Colleges and universities throughout the country are invited to join the Passport Network. [Click here for application information.](#)

► **WICHE's new online seminars provide an in-depth review of the groundbreaking Interstate Passport.** To enlarge understanding of and interest in the Interstate Passport, WICHE recently launched a [series of webinars](#), supported by a \$2.99 million First in the World grant awarded in Oct 2015 by the U.S. Department of Education (the grant also supports several other facets of the initiative).

The first webinar, on June 21, provided a useful overview of the history, key components, and goals of the Interstate Passport. A second session, in July, focused on the role and responsibilities of registrars and institutional researchers at institutions participating in the Interstate Passport Network. Upcoming webinars include:

- "Interstate Passport: The Role of Transfer-Level Proficiency in the New Framework," on Aug. 24, presented by Terry Underwood, emeritus professor of curriculum and instruction at California State University-Sacramento.
- "Focusing on Student Mobility and Transfer: A National View," on Sept. 29, with Doug Shapiro, executive research director of the National Student Clearinghouse.

Over the next two years additional webinars will be scheduled for faculty members, registrars, institutional researchers, academic advisors, marketing representatives, and admissions directors.

► **Matt Freeman and Jim Hansen reappointed to WICHE Commission; Vernon Smith, Michelle Weise elected to WCET leadership.**

Idaho Gov. Butch Otter has reappointed Matt Freeman, executive director of the Office of the State Board of Education, as WICHE Commissioner. And in South Dakota, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has reappointed Jim Hansen to a four-year term on the WICHE Commission. Hansen, whose long career in education ranged from high school math teacher to state superintendent of schools, served 18 years on the South Dakota Board of Regents before retiring in 2013.



Recently elected to serve on [WCET's Executive Council](#), beginning in October, were Vernon Smith, vice provost for distributed learning at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif., and Michelle Weise, executive director of Southern New Hampshire University's Sandbox Collaborative, a research lab focused on strategy and innovation.



► **Register now for WCET's Annual Meeting in October in Minneapolis.**

WCET, the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education, will bring together innovative thinkers and pragmatic solutions during its 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, to be held Oct. 12-14 at the Marriott City Center in Minneapolis.



The three-day event will feature a keynote address by Jaime Casap, chief education evangelist at Google, and sessions on topics ranging from new and emerging technologies, accessibility, and data analytics, to the recruitment and training of adjunct teaching faculty, and conducting research in distance education. [Click here](#) for registration and program information.

► **Second year of WICHE's professional development program for aspiring chief academic officers now underway.**

A cohort of 15 postsecondary vice provosts, deans and other academic leaders from 12 states gathered in Boulder recently for the start of a year-long program designed to develop the leadership skills and functional knowledge needed to move to the next level at four-year institutions in the WICHE region. The [Western Academic Leadership Academy](#) consists of an initial three-day seminar followed by webinars, listserv conversations, faculty mentoring, and a culminating session at the annual spring meeting of the Western Academic Leadership Forum, which launched the program in 2015. Academy participants must hold a position of dean or higher at a Forum-member institution or organization and be nominated by their chief academic leader. For additional information, contact Pat Shea, WICHE's director of academic initiatives, at [pshea@wiche.edu](mailto:pshea@wiche.edu).

► **Key theme of upcoming WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee meeting: using data to inform state policy.** The annual meeting of WICHE's [Legislative Advisory Committee](#), an invitation-only event, is scheduled for Sept. 20-21 in Albuquerque. This year's theme is "Better Data, Better Decisions."

The meeting, which kicks off with opening remarks by WICHE President Joe Garcia, will include presentations and facilitated discussions on a range of topics, including highlights of the 2016 legislative sessions, and a preview

of issues likely to emerge in next year's sessions; using cross-state data to answer policy questions; dual and concurrent enrollment; and distance education. Also on the agenda: a review of the latest research on the efficacy of performance funding.

► **WICHE leaders spotlight college affordability, adult learners at national meeting.** WICHE President Joe Garcia was a featured plenary speaker on June 30 at the Education Commission of the States' 2016 National Forum on Education Policy in Washington, DC. He joined Lumina Foundation's Strategy Director Zakiya Smith and Teresa Lubbers, who heads the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, in an in-depth discussion of college affordability. In another session, Demarée Michelau, WICHE's director of policy analysis, made a presentation on the [Adult College Completion Network \(ACCN\)](#), a Lumina Foundation-supported initiative that unites diverse groups working to increase college completion among adults with some postsecondary credit but no degree.

► **WCET slates two-day workshop for state authorization managers.** Institutions offering distance education programs outside their home states need to understand and comply with regulations for serving students across state lines. WCET's [State Authorization Network \(SAN\)](#) provides updates on state and federal regulatory information, and helps members learn from one another about best practices and changes in approval processes.

Registration is now open for a [SAN compliance workshop](#), to be held Nov. 2-3 in Cleveland, Ohio, for professionals who manage state authorization, regulations, and federal updates at their institutions – particularly those who are relatively new to the role of authorization compliance officer.

