Western Academic Leadership Academy

The Western Academic Leadership Academy's intensive, two-and-a-half day professional development seminar kicks off a year-long process of building the leadership skills and functional knowledge of academic leaders aspiring to become chief academic officers in the West's postsecondary four-year sector.
Western Academic Leadership Academy
July 18-20, 2016 - Boulder, Colorado

The Western Academic Leadership Academy (WALA) provides a strong foundation for understanding the broader context in which a chief academic officer and an institution operate, including the intersection with governing boards and external communities. It offers a particular focus on the development of practical skills within academic affairs, fiscal affairs, student affairs, and external relationships.

The Academy’s summer seminar is followed by a series of quarterly webinar sessions that address academic priorities and experiences on participants’ home campuses. Mentors will be available for participants who would like personal consultation about their career paths. The Academy culminates in a session at the Western Academic Leadership Forum annual meeting the following spring. The program addresses the context of academic leadership, the development of academic goals and priorities, and specific skill sets that are required of chief academic officers.

The Academy is sponsored by the Western Academic Leadership Forum (Forum), whose members are the chief academic leaders of the four-year institutions and associated system and state agencies in the 16-member state and U.S. Pacific Territories region of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

Schedule at a Glance

Please note that this is a preliminary program and is subject to change.

Monday, July 18, 2016

8:30 – 9:00 am  Introductions and Goals for the Day
9:00 – 10:30 am  Role of the Provost: How It Differs from Other Academic Leadership Roles
10:30 – 10:45 am  Break
11:15 am – 12:15 pm  The Importance of Building Coalitions: Presidential and Cabinet Relations
12:15 – 1:15 pm  Lunch
1:15 – 2:30 pm  Understanding Shared Governance and Unions in Successful Faculty Relations and Policy Development
2:30 – 3:45 pm  External Relations: The Governing Board, System Office, and Legislature
3:45 – 4:00 pm  Break
4:00 – 4:45 pm  Your Pathway: Thinking, Planning, Acting
5:15 – 5:30 pm  Wrap-up and Adjourn
6:30 pm  Group Dinner
Tuesday, July 19, 2016

9:00 – 9:15 am  Reflections and Goals for the Day
9:15 – 10:15 am  The Provost’s Role with Advancement and Foundation Boards
10:15 – 10:30 am  Break
10:30 – 11:45 am  The Provost and Student Success: Improving Student Outcomes Through Actionable Data
11:45 am – 1:00 pm  Lunch
1:00 – 2:00 pm  Unifying the Academic Vision: Strategic Planning
2:00 – 2:30 pm  Small Group Reflection: Are You a Fundraiser? Could You Be? Does a Provost Need to Be?
2:30 – 2:45 pm  Break
2:45 – 4:00 pm  Promoting Diversity and Inclusion as a Provost
4:00 – 4:30 pm  Small Group Reflection: Sharing Perspectives on Diversity and Inclusion
Dinner on your own

Wednesday, July 20, 2016

9:00 – 9:15 am  Reflections and Goals for the Day
9:15 – 10:15 am  Managing and/or Collaborating: Student Affairs; Institutional Research; Enrollment Management; etc.
10:15 – 11:15 am  Policy: Budget, Finance, and Funding Formulas
11:15 – 11:45 pm  Small Group Reflection: Making Use of the Year to Come
11:45 am - 12:00 pm  Wrap-up and Adjourn - Box lunch to go
Academy Faculty

**Sona Karentz Andrews** is the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Portland State University (PSU), an urban research university with a diverse enrollment of approximately 30,000 students. Andrews completed her B.A. in geography from Worcester State College in Massachusetts and her Master's and Ph.D. in geography from Arizona State University. As well as PSU, Andrews has held faculty positions at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Boise State University. She has held leadership positions in the provost office at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; an American Council on Education Fellow; as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Boise State University; and as vice chancellor for academic strategies for the Oregon University System. She serves on the Oregon Humanities Board, is on the executive committee of the WICHE Western Academic Leadership Forum, and is a member of the WICHE State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement committee. At present, Andrews is guiding PSU through reTHINK PSU – an initiative to deliver an education that serves more students with better outcomes, while containing costs through curricular innovation, community engagement, and effective use of technology.

**Erika Beck** has served as executive vice president and provost of Nevada State College since 2010. In this role she oversees academic affairs, student affairs, information technology, institutional research, and student academic support. Prior to assuming this role, she served as the dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Nevada State and a psychology faculty member. Beck received her B.A. in psychology from University of California, San Diego, M.A. in psychology from San Diego State University, and Ph.D. in experimental psychology from University of California, San Diego.

**José Luis Cruz** is the provost and vice president for academic affairs of California State University, Fullerton. Previously, he served as vice president of higher education policy and practice of The Education Trust in Washington, D.C. where he oversaw the national Access to Success Initiative and was involved in separate efforts to regulate the for-profit college industry and to protect the federal Pell Grant Program. He is a former vice president for student affairs of the University of Puerto Rico system and served as chair of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department and dean of academic affairs at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez. Cruz earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez and master's and doctorate degrees in electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

**Risa Dickson** serves as the chief academic officer for the University of Hawai‘i System with overall responsibility for the leadership, planning, and intercampus coordination of system level academic affairs, student affairs, policy and planning, institutional research and analysis, international and strategic initiatives, and Hawai‘i P–20 Partnerships for Education. Prior to arriving at University of Hawai‘i in January, 2015, Dickson spent 24 years at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) as a faculty member and in administrative roles in every level of the institution – department, college and central levels of the university. She earned her Ph.D. in both interpersonal and organizational communication from the University of Southern California and her B.A. in communication theory from California State University, Northridge.

**Samuel (Sam) Gingerich** is serving as interim provost at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He recently retired from his position as system vice president for Academic Affairs for the South Dakota Board of Regents where he worked to develop, implement and oversee academic programming. Prior to this he served as provost at Mississippi University for Women, as interim president and provost at Mesa State College (Colorado Mesa University) and as a faculty member and administrator at Northern State University. Gingerich holds three degrees in chemistry: a Ph.D. from Montana State University, an M.S. from Cornell University, and a B.A. from Goshen College.
Jane Sherman recently retired as the vice provost for academic policy and evaluation at Washington State University (WSU), as well as the associate director for academic policy at the state of Washington’s Council of Presidents (COP). At WSU she directed institutional planning for internal and external accountability, accreditation, and assessment activities, and transfer policy, among other areas of academic policy and planning. At COP she coordinated statewide initiatives in transfer, dual credit, reverse articulation, and higher education’s response to the Common Core and Smarter Balanced Assessment, among others. Prior to her work at WSU, Sherman was the deputy director for academic affairs with the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB). She has also held administrative positions with the Washington State Office of Financial Management, Idaho State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the College of Idaho. She has held faculty positions at Idaho State University and the College of Idaho, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in counseling and education. Sherman’s educational credentials include a B.A. in history from Earlham College, an M.Ed. in counseling from Boston University, and an Ed.D. in counseling and counselor education from Idaho State University.

Paul D. Turman (Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2000) is the system vice president for Academic Affairs with the South Dakota Board of Regents which is responsible for the governance of South Dakota’s six public universities. In his position, Turman coordinates academic and research related initiatives and policies for the South Dakota Regental system. These responsibilities include oversight of new program development, system general education, workforce development, state level competitive research grants, research centers, expanding economic development opportunities, as well as the ongoing management of four areas within the Board of Regents system office: 1) Institutional Research, South Dakota Digital Library, Research and Economic Development and Scholarship Program Coordination. Before joining the South Dakota Board of Regents staff, Turman taught as an associate professor at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI), and was recognized for outstanding teaching and service at the institutional and national level. Throughout his academic career he has published 34 peer reviewed research articles at the national and regional level, as well as co-authored four books.

Laura Woodworth-Ney is provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Idaho State University. Her former administrative appointments include chair of the department of history and co-director of women studies. A prolific scholar of history and the humanities, Woodworth-Ney has authored more than 30 articles, book reviews, and scholarly essays, as well as three books (one co-authored). Woodworth-Ney is a graduate of the Bryn Mawr HERS Institute for higher education leaders, a member of the Western Academic Leadership Forum for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, and a member of the Idaho State Board of Education’s “Educate Idaho” Task Force. Woodworth-Ney is an active public speaker on the topics of culture, history, and higher education. She is currently writing a history of the culture of the irrigation movement in the arid North American West (including Canada and the United States). Woodworth-Ney earned a bachelor degree in English from the University of Idaho, and a Ph.D. in American history and public history from Washington State University.

Guest Speakers

Lesley Di Mare became president of Colorado State University–Pueblo in December, 2011. She previously served as provost and executive vice president of academic affairs and then interim president & CEO at Nevada State College. At CSU-Pueblo, Di Mare established an automatic merit scholarship program, expanded intercollegiate athletics to 22 teams, introduced aggressive enrollment initiatives to diversify the student population, and initiated the University’s first online degree programs. Di Mare earned a bachelor’s degree in theatre arts from California State University-Chico, a master’s degree in speech communication from California State University-Hayward, East Bay, and a Ph.D. in speech communication from Indiana University.
Colorado Lt. Gov. Joseph Garcia, elected in 2010 as the running mate for Gov. John Hickenlooper, has a passion for education and public service. Garcia serves in dual roles as both the lieutenant governor and as the executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Earlier, Garcia was president of Colorado State University – Pueblo and while in that role he served as co-chair of the Governor’s P-20 Education Task Force, chaired the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), and was a trustee of the Higher Learning Commission for the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. He also has served as president of Colorado’s second-largest community college, Pikes Peak Community College. In mid-June, he will become president of WICHE, succeeding David Longanecker.

Garcia’s dedication to public service began early in his career. He graduated from the University of Colorado, where he earned a business degree and served in the Navy Reserve. Subsequently, he earned a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School, and after graduation he joined the law firm of Holme, Roberts, and Owen, LLP, where he became its first Hispanic partner. Garcia was appointed by former Gov. Roy Romer to his Cabinet as the executive director of the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. He also served in the Clinton administration as the Secretary’s Rocky Mountain States Representative for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Garcia also served on the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority under two governors (Gov. Roy Romer and Gov. Bill Owens) and went on to be the chair of the board.

Keith Mahlum has served as vice president for development for the SDSU Foundation since 2008. He previously served as the associate athletic director and development director for the SDSU Athletic Department. He earned his bachelor of science degree in health, physical education and recreation/sports management from the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse in 1991. He earned his master’s in health, physical education and recreation/athletic administration from SDSU in 1993.

Laurie Stenberg Nichols is provost and vice president for academic affairs at South Dakota State University (SDSU). Previously she served as interim president at Northern State University in South Dakota; dean of the college of family and consumer sciences at SDSU where she provided leadership on initiatives including diversity, academic advisement, and strategic planning; and secondary and postsecondary posts in South Dakota, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska, and Ohio. She has secured grants to collaborate with South Dakota tribal colleges in the areas of curriculum development and articulation. She was an ACE fellow in 2006-07, a member of the board of trustees for the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, and served on the cabinet of the Great Plain’s Interactive Distance Education Alliance (IDEA). Additionally, she is past chair of the Higher Education Unit of American Association for Family & Consumer Sciences, and South Dakota Voices for Children. Nichols earned her B.S. in home economics education from SDSU, an M.Ed. in vocational and adult education from Colorado State University, and Ph.D. in family & consumer sciences education/family studies from Ohio State University.
About the Western Academic Leadership Forum

The Western Academic Leadership Forum (Forum), founded by WICHE, provides a unique venue where the West’s top academic leaders share perspectives on current issues to help inform their future decision making and leadership. Through the Forum, colleagues share the lessons they’ve learned from tackling challenges, provide advice and assistance to one another based on their special expertise. They engage in planning and developing innovative regional initiatives addressing common concerns and together help build a stronger future for higher education in the West. The official representatives of the Forum’s members are the chief academic leaders at the four-year institutions and their related system and state agencies in the WICHE region. www.wiche.edu/Forum.

About the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education works collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for all citizens of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions, WICHE strengthens higher education’s contributions to the region’s social, economic, and civic life. Our programs – Student Exchange, the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET), Policy Analysis and Research, and Mental Health – are working to find answers to some of the most critical questions facing higher education today. WICHE’s 16 members include 15 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai‘i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, as well as the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (the first of the U.S. Pacific territories and freely associated states to participate). www.wiche.edu.