Register Today!

MAINSTREAMING INNOVATION

Annual Meeting
April 23-25, 2014
Hotel Albuquerque
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Message from the Chair

I look forward to welcoming you next April to Albuquerque, New Mexico, the land of enchantment, and to the Western Academic Leadership Forum’s annual meeting. The Forum gives academic leaders and decision makers in the West opportunities to exchange ideas and information, share resources and expertise, and collaborate on regional initiatives. The theme of this year’s Annual Meeting, Mainstreaming Innovation: Competencies, Credentialing, and Completion, provides us with an outstanding opportunity to affirm our continuing commitment to quality in higher education.

As we explore innovation as a means to achieve bright futures for our students and our institutions, the Forum has assembled outstanding contributors to inform and guide our discussions. President Emerita and Distinguished Professor of Public Service at Portland State University and President Emerita of Winona State University, Dr. Judith Ramaley, will present an initial broad challenge in her keynote: How will we prepare our students to thrive in the 21st century? The following days will support in-depth discussions of competency-based initiatives, credentialing and innovations in support of student degree completion.

Your active engagement in these upcoming discussions is eagerly awaited!

Roberta Derlin, Forum Chair
Associate Provost, New Mexico State University

Who should attend

- Provosts, vice presidents and directors of academic affairs, and directors of research from public and private bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral institutions.
- Chief executive officers and chief academic officers of systems and statewide agencies.
- Other staff with expertise in the program topic areas, who are accompanying those above at their invitation.

About the Forum

The Western Academic Leadership Forum, founded by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (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, as well as engage in planning and developing innovative regional initiatives addressing common concerns. Through the Forum, you will find colleagues eager to share the lessons they’ve learned from tackling challenges like the ones you’re facing and others with special expertise who will lend you expert advice and assistance. Together, we will help build a stronger future for higher education in the West.

Forum Executive Committee

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALASKA – Richard Caulfield</th>
<th>IDAHO – Laura Woodworth-Ney</th>
<th>OREGON – Sona Andrews</th>
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<td>University of Alaska Southeast</td>
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<td>MONTANA – Neil Moisey</td>
<td>SOUTH DAKOTA – Sam Gingerich</td>
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<td>Arizona Board of Regents</td>
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<td>California State University</td>
<td>NEVADA – Erika Beck</td>
<td>UTAH – Phyllis (Teddi) Safman</td>
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<td>California Board of Regents</td>
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<td>Utah State Board of Regents</td>
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<td>Colorado State University</td>
<td>NEW MEXICO – Roberta Derlin, chair</td>
<td>WASHINGTON – Jane Sherman</td>
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<td>COLORADO – Alan Lamborn</td>
<td>New Mexico State University</td>
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<td>HAWAII – TBD</td>
<td>NORTH DAKOTA – Thomas DiLorenzo</td>
<td>WYOMING – Richard McGinity</td>
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<td>University of North Dakota</td>
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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Please note that this is a preliminary program and subject to change. See the complete program and watch for updates at www.wiche.edu/forum.

Wednesday, April 23

Hotel Albuquerque

1:00 – 4:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting
5:30 – 6:30 pm Reception
6:30 – 8:30 pm Dinner, Welcome, and Keynote – How Will We Prepare Our Students to Thrive in the 21st Century?

Thursday, April 24

8:00 – 8:45 am Breakfast
8:45 – 9:00 am Welcome and Meeting Overview
9:00 – 9:45 am Focused Discussion
9:45 – 10:45 am Competency Based Programs: First Class Degrees or Second Class Options?
10:45 – 11:00 am Break
11:00 am – noon Innovation: Faculty Style
Noon – 1:15 pm Awards Luncheon
• Academic Leaders Tool of the Year
• In the Know: Federal and Regional Update
1:15 – 1:30 pm Break
1:30 – 2:45 pm Are Competency-Centered Curricula Hastening the Irrelevance of the Credit Hour?
2:45 – 3:00 pm Break
3:00 – 3:45 pm Focused Discussion
3:45 – 5:00 pm Innovation in the Completion Arena: What’s Making a Difference?
5:00 pm Dinner on your own

Friday, April 25

Hotel Albuquerque

7:30 – 9:15 am Breakfast, Forum Update, and Point/Counterpoint
9:15 – 9:30 am Break
9:30 – 10:30 am From Side Stream to Mainstream: Learning from Innovative Structures
10:30 – 10:45 am Break
10:45 – 11:45 am Leading Innovation into the Mainstream: Reflections and New Thoughts
11:45 am – noon Meeting Wrap Up & Adjournment

ADVANCE READING MATERIAL


Colleges and universities are under pressure from the government, students, and parents to make higher education more efficient and cost-effective. Based on Southern New Hampshire University’s competency-based three-year bachelor’s degree program, this book provides a blueprint for creating, sustaining, and growing such a program at an institution of any type and size. Prof. Seidman was a member of the team that created the program at SNHU and has taught in the program since it began.


As a nation, we have embraced the “Completion Agenda” but what about the “Quality Agenda”? Read about the numerous initiatives underway to improve the quality of higher education. What are some of the implications of these efforts and what are the challenges that academic leaders should prepare to meet? Dr. Ewell is an outstanding thinker with a national and international reputation in assessment and higher education quality assurance.

Outcomes Based Education: The Wave of Implementation, by Dennis P. Jones at (web address to come) http://www.completecollege.org/pdfs/Outcomes-Based-Funding-Report-Final.pdf

There is a universal desire to increase the number of students graduated from the state’s colleges and universities. A number of states have implemented outcomes based funding programs. What can we learn from the design and implementation strategies of these efforts? This report, prepared by NCHEMS for Complete College America, summarizes the current state across the nation of performance based funding, now often called outcomes based funding. Most WICHE states, including California, are implementing or developing plans to link funding to outcomes. Dennis Jones, President of NCHEMS, is widely recognized for his work in informing public policy on higher education using quantitative data.
Program Sessions and Speakers

Pre-Meeting Activities

Wednesday, April 23

Hotel Albuquerque

1:00 - 4:30 pm  Executive Committee Meeting (executive committee members only)

5:30 - 6:30 pm  Reception

6:30 - 8:30 pm  Dinner, Welcome and Keynote – How will we prepare our students to thrive in the 21st century?
This session will explore three key questions that can inform and support the discussion of “Mainstreaming Innovation.” (1) How do you recognize a well-educated person when you meet them or see them in action? (2) Are we using our resources wisely as Peter Ewell asks “to help students develop the knowledge, skills, competencies and dispositions required to function effectively in the 21st century?” What experiences and expectations will help prepare our graduates for the 21st century and how will we know if our students are well-prepared? (3) What are the most common public criticisms and concerns about higher education today and how can we respond effectively to these criticisms? Where is the grain of truth in public opinion about us and how can we add the meaning of an education (“quality”) to the public agenda?

Speaker:
Judith Ramaley, Portland State University

Thursday, April 24

8:00 - 8:45 am  Breakfast

8:45 - 9:00 am  Welcome and Meeting Overview

9:00 - 9:45 am  Focused Discussion

Our meeting’s theme and the keynote provide some interesting ideas for further consideration. Join this lively discussion to share your opinions on some key questions identified by our thoughtful discussion leader.

Discussion Leader:
Jane Sherman, Washington State University

Table Hosts:
Chaouki Abdallah, University of New Mexico
Diane Barrans, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
Perry Brown, University of Montana
Joe Cline, University of Nevada, Reno
Ian Macgillivray, Colorado Department of Education
Tom Miller, University of Arizona

9:45 - 10:45 am  Competency Based Programs: First Class Degrees or Second Class Options?
As institutions strive to increase the quality and reach of their academic programs while cutting costs and time to completion, promising new models have begun to emerge. Both Northern Arizona University and the University of Wisconsin are paving new inroads with innovative programs that eschew traditional semesters in favor of self-paced, competency-based learning. Presenters will discuss the inner workings of these programs and address such topics as quality assurance, the challenges encountered and successes achieved.
10:45 - 11:00 am  Break

11:00 - noon  Innovation: Faculty Style
Faculty members are playing an active role in innovation at some institutions with new competency-based models. What are some of these novel ideas and approaches they have put in place? What are some of the lessons learned from leading these efforts?

Moderator:
Neil Moisey, Montana University System

Panelists:
Cori Gordon, Northern Arizona University
Claudia Neuhauser, University of Minnesota-Rochester
Robert Seidman, Southern New Hampshire University

Noon - 1:15 pm  Awards Luncheon: Academic Leaders Tool of the Year
The Academic Leaders Toolkit – a joint project of the Forum and the Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders – will announce the winner of this year’s competition.

Presenter:
Sona Andrews, Chair, Academic Leaders Toolkit

In the Know: Federal and Regional Update
What’s up at the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies?
What’s new in the WICHE region?

Speaker:
David Longanecker, WICHE

1:15 - 1:30 pm  Break

1:30 - 2:45 pm  Are Competency-Centered Curricula Hastening the Irrelevance of the Credit Hour?
This session will argue how competency-centered curricula in higher education are changing the discussion on the relevance of the Carnegie Unit, otherwise known as the ‘credit hour.’ Prior Learning Assessment, the Degree Qualifications Profile, Tuning, and the Interstate Passport, all have the potential to demonstrate quality in our teaching/learning enterprise while the credit hour remains a proxy. The panel will provoke audience discussion on both the benefits and potential demise of the credit hour and what might take its place, if anything.

Moderator:
Sam Gingerich, South Dakota Board of Regents

Panelists:
Jeffrey Rosen, Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Assoc.
Teddi Safman, Utah Board of Regents
Ralph Wolff, formerly with Western Association of Schools and Colleges

2:45 - 3:00 pm  Break
3:00 - 3:45 pm  
**Focused Discussion**

As academic leaders in some very different environments, we have a range of perspectives on some of the ideas and questions arising from the most recent sessions. Don’t be shy sharing your opinions with colleagues around a new set of challenging questions.

*Discussion leader:*
Jane Sherman, *Washington State University*

*Table Hosts:*
Thomas DiLorenzo, *University of North Dakota*
Karen Marrongelle, *Oregon University System*
Rodney Custer, *Black Hills State University*
William Christensen, *Dixie State University*
Michael Zimmerman, *The Evergreen State College*
Susan Frye, *University of Wyoming*

3:45 - 5:00 pm  
**Innovation in the Completion Arena: What’s Making a Difference?**

Institutions across the United States have accepted the President’s challenge to increase the number of college completers.

The ways to that goal are many and some innovative leaders have been more successful than others. Find out what’s working and why in a cross-country overview. Then learn how trends and projections in Oregon helped to inform innovative plans resulting in legislative support and progress toward their ambitious goals.

*Moderator:*
Laura Woodward-Ney, *Idaho State University*

*Panelists:*
Dennis Jones, *National Center for Higher Education Management Systems*
Travis Reindl, *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*

5:00 pm  
**Dinner on your own**

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**Friday, April 25**

7:30 - 9:15 am  
**Breakfast, Forum Update and Point/Counterpoint**

9:15 - 9:30 am  
**Break**

9:30 - 10:30 am  
**From Side Stream to Mainstream: Learning from Innovative Structures**

Disruptive innovations often start in a corner of the institution and some make their way into the mainstream over time. What can we learn from the structures of some of these innovative programs? Are some destined to lead the way into the future?

*Moderator:*
Sona Andrews, *Portland State University*

*Panelists:*
Ruth Claire Black, *CAL State Online*
David King, *Oregon State University*
Mark Wheeler, *Boise State University*

10:30 - 10:45 am  
**Break**
10:45 - 11:45 am  Leading Innovation into the Mainstream: Reflections and New Thoughts
Join our keynote speaker as she reflects on some of the innovative ideas and topics of the last three days and their response to the question: How will we prepare our students to thrive in the 21st century? But she won’t stop there. She’ll pose some new ideas and questions that promise to challenge and excite your thinking as you return to your leadership posts in these most interesting of times!

Speaker:
Judith Ramaley, Portland State University

11:45 - noon  Meeting Wrap Up & Adjournment

Registration Information
All attendees must register for the meeting, including speakers and each Forum member’s official representative, for whom the registration fee is waived. Forum members may invite other staff with expertise in the program topics to accompany them at the discounted member fee.

The registration deadline for all attendees is April 4, 2014. To register, please go to: http://www.regonline.com/forum2014meeting.

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<tr>
<th>★ See special offer for new FORUM members</th>
<th>Early-Bird Registration Before March 14, 2014</th>
<th>Regular Registration March 15 - April 4, 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Forum Member Attendees  (fee waived for official representatives)</td>
<td>$450 per person</td>
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<td>Non-Member Attendees</td>
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Refund/Cancellation Policy
A cancellation request must be received in writing prior to April 2, 2014, in order to receive a refund, less a $100 processing fee. No refunds will be made for cancellations after the April 2 deadline. WICHE/the Forum is not responsible for canceling hotel reservations.

Send cancellation requests to:
WICHE
Attn: Kim Nawrocki
3035 Center Green Drive
Boulder, CO 80301
knawrocki@wiche.edu

★ Special Offer for New Members:
Join your Forum colleagues at 50% off the membership rate!

With this limited offer, you save 50% off your dues for FY 2014; and as your institution’s or organization’s official representative, your registration at the Annual Meeting is complimentary! Plus, you can invite members of your staff with expertise in the program topics to attend at a substantially discounted registration fee.

Find out more about membership on the back of this brochure and apply today at http://www.wiche.edu/forum/membership
Accommodations

The Hotel Albuquerque is conveniently located in the heart of Old Town. Please make your room reservations by asking for the WICHE discounted rate of $83.00 (plus applicable taxes). The cut-off date for the discounted rate is March 31, 2014, unless the block fills earlier. Room costs are the responsibility of the meeting attendees.

Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town
800 Rio Grand Blvd. NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104
Phone: 505-843-6300

To make online reservations:
https://secure.netbookerng.com/hotel/hotelalbuquerque/albuquerque/nm/hseoptx_herit/heseoid_10399512.html?&groupcode+1404WESTER

Airport Information

The Albuquerque International Sunport Airport is served by most major airlines. It is approximately five miles from the Hotel Albuquerque.

Transportation

Shuttle: Sunport Shuttle - http://www.sunportshuttle.com/- $28 round trip
Taxi: Fare is approximately $30.00 USD from the Albuquerque International Sunport Airport to the hotel via Yellow Cab.

Driving instructions to Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town

• Start out going east on Sunport Blvd SE.
• Merge onto I-25 N toward I-40/Downtown/Santa Fe.
• Keep right via EXIT 226AB toward Gallup/Santa Rosa.
• Keep left to take I-40 W via EXIT 226B toward Gallup.
• Take the Rio Grande Blvd. exit, EXIT 157A.
• Turn left onto Rio Grande Blvd NW/NM-194 S.
• 800 RIO GRANDE BLVD NW is on the left.

Dress

Dress for the meeting is business casual. The average temperature in the Albuquerque area in April is 69 degrees.

Local Attractions

The true Southwest awaits you in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Come immerse yourself in the rich culture and heritage, rooted in centuries of history. Below are a few possibilities if you arrive before the meeting begins or stay afterwards.

Old Town Albuquerque District – Old Town Albuquerque, New Mexico was constructed around a central plaza and features historic buildings dating back to the 1700s. Visit the San Felipe de Neri Church, which was built in 1793, and see charming attractions along the 10 lovely blocks of Old Town and check out museums, art galleries, boutiques and authentic southwest restaurants. Guided walking tours of Old Town are offered by The Albuquerque Museum. For more information about the fun things to do and see in Old Town Albuquerque, visit www.albuquerqueoldtown.com.

The Albuquerque Museum – The Albuquerque Museum was founded in 1967 to celebrate the history and peoples of the Middle Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico, specifically the Albuquerque area. Located just east of Old Town Albuquerque in a gleaming modern structure designed by Antoine Predock, learn more about the fascinating history of the southwest through art exhibitions, maps, handcrafts, photos, sculpture and historic artifacts. To learn more permanent collections and upcoming exhibits at the Albuquerque Museum, visit www.albuquerque museum.com.

Albuquerque Biological Park – The Albuquerque Biological Park encompasses four distinct facilities which are connected by railroad: The Rio Grande Botanic Garden, a splendid glass conservatory displaying desert climate plants; The Albuquerque Aquarium, which features aquatic life from the Gulf of Mexico in a 285,000-gallon ocean; The Rio Grande Zoo, where you can see more than 250 species of animals along 64 acres, and Tingley Beach, a picturesque fishing lake for
enjoying picnics, walking paths and sailing model boats. To learn more about fun things to do and see at the Albuquerque BioPark, visit www.cabq.gov/biopark.

**National Hispanic Cultural Center** – The National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico is dedicated to celebrating the cultural heritage of Hispanic peoples of the United States, Spain and Latin America. One of the fascinating parts of the National Hispanic Cultural Center is its Art Museum, which spans a wide range of Hispanic Arts, from traditional folk arts to contemporary works. To learn more about current exhibitions and the many fun things to see and do at Albuquerque’s National Hispanic Cultural Center, visit www.nhccnm.org.

**Albuquerque Tours** – What better way to get acquainted with the Duke City and our history and culture than with a tour of Albuquerque by professional tour guides. There are several different tours that we recommend that leave next door in Old Town so you can walk across the street to catch these tours:

- The Albuquerque Trolley Tour is a great way to see the town. Get a glimpse at some of the top attractions in Albuquerque, NM while enjoying a leisurely open-air trolley tour. To learn more about one of the best ways to see the many tourist attractions in Albuquerque, New Mexico, visit www.abqtrolley.com.
- Old Town Walking Tour & Sculpture Garden Tour by the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History www.cabq.gov/museum/gallerytour.html
- Tours of Old Town features walking tours about history legends and lore as well as ghost tours of the Historic Old Town area toursofoldtown.com

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**Information about our speakers**

**Ruth Claire Black** leads the California State University’s systemwide initiative on centralized online and blended degree program access and delivery. Prior to her appointment as executive director of Cal State Online in 2011, Black was associate vice chancellor at Chapman University and Brandman University, where she focused on developing, marketing, and administering online and strategic partnership programs, with particular emphasis on military education programs, vocational programming, and workforce development. She has extensive experience establishing accredited online degree programs utilizing extensive student support services. Her academic and research interests focus on embedded digital text options for online courses, comparative analysis of outcomes, and student satisfaction in courses with digital content versus physical textbooks. She has a B.A. in political science from UC Irvine and a J.D. from Vanderbilt Law School.

**Aaron Brower** has been the interim provost and vice chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Extension (UW-Extension) since 2012. He is also special assistant to UW President Kevin Reilly for new educational strategies. Brower is responsible for leadership of academic and program planning, including the UW flexible option degree. Prior to joining UW-Extension, he was UW-Madison’s vice provost for teaching and professor of social work, integrated liberal studies, and educational leadership and policy analysis. Brower earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology, a master’s in social work, a master’s in psychology, and doctorate in social work and psychology from the University of Michigan.

**Cori Gordon** works for Northern Arizona University, where she is the lead faculty for a competency-based, liberal arts bachelor degree. She has a Ph.D. in English education, an M.A. in theatre, and a B.S. in secondary English education. She has taught students from 6th grade through college, in subjects including English, theatre, storytelling, puppetry, literature, and composition; she specializes in digital storytelling.

**Fred Hurst** is senior vice president for extended campuses at Northern Arizona University, responsible for providing student access to traditional face-to-face and online courses. In 2007 NAU Extended Campuses received the United States Distance Learning’s top honor, its 21st Century Best Practices Award. Hurst serves the North Central Association Higher Learning Commission as a member of the Institutional Actions Council, team chair, and consultant-evaluator; he
has been a past evaluator with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He holds a Ph.D. in arts and sciences with a specialization in higher education policy and philanthropic studies from Union Institute and University.

**Dennis Jones** has more than 40 years of experience in research, development, technical assistance, and administration in the field of higher education management and policymaking. A member of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) staff since 1969, he assumed increasing levels of responsibility within that organization, becoming president in 1986. Under his leadership, and in collaboration with an extraordinarily talented staff, NCHEMS has achieved a position of preeminence as a leader in the development and promulgation of information-based approaches to policymaking in higher education. Jones is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and served as an administrator (in business and institutional planning) there for eight years prior to joining the NCHEMS staff. He has served as an advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Education, Lumina Foundation, the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, and numerous other associations, policy organizations, and state agencies.

**Dave King** serves as associate provost at Oregon State University (OSU) and professor in the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences. His responsibilities in the provost’s office include the OSU Extended Campus, Professional and Noncredit Education unit, and Extension and Experiment Station Communications Department. From 2006 to 2009, he was head of the Extension and Experiment Station Communications Department and communications program leader for OSU Extension. King has led delegations to China sponsored by the American Distance Education Consortium/U.S. Department of Agriculture on three occasions. He has a track record of international communications and distance education program development in México, Honduras, Nicaragua, Kenya, and China. King has a master’s degree from the University of Oregon in journalism and bachelor’s degree from California State University, Chico, in mass communication.

**David Longanecker** has served as the president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education in Boulder since 1999. Previously, Longanecker served for six years as the assistant secretary for postsecondary education at the U.S. Department of Education. Prior to that he was the state higher education executive officer in Colorado and Minnesota. He was also the principal analyst for higher education for the Congressional Budget Office. Longanecker has served on numerous boards and commissions. He has written extensively on a range of higher education issues. His primary interests in higher education are: expanding access to successful completion for students within all sectors of higher education, promoting student and institutional performance, assuring efficient and effective finance and financial aid strategies, and fostering effective use of educational technologies, all for the purpose of sustaining the nation’s strength in the world and increasing the quality of life for all Americans, particularly those who have traditionally been left out in the past. He holds an Ed.D. from Stanford University, an M.A. in student personnel work from George Washington University, and a B.A. in sociology from Washington State University.

**Claudia Neuhauser** is vice chancellor for academic affairs and student development and director of graduate studies for the Biomedical Informatics and Computational Biology program at the University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR), which was established in 2006 as the newest campus of the University of Minnesota. She is a Distinguished McKnight University Professor, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor, and Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor. She received her diploma in mathematics from the Universität Heidelberg (Germany) and a Ph.D. in mathematics from Cornell University. Before joining UMR in 2008, she was professor and head in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and a faculty member in Mathematics Departments at the University of Southern California, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Minnesota, and UC Davis.

**Judith A. Ramaley** is president emerita and distinguished professor of public service at Portland State University in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government. She has served as president of Winona State University (MN) and The University of Vermont. Ramaley is also a senior scholar with the Association of American Colleges and Universities. She has a special interest in the meaning and design of undergraduate education, civic and community engagement, and the leadership of change in higher education. She served as assistant director of the Directorate of Education and Human Resources (EHR) at the National Science Foundation from 2001 to 2005.

**Travis Reindl** is a senior program officer with the U.S. program office of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, concentrating on postsecondary success through policy and advocacy. Prior to joining the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Reindl completed a three-year stint at the Center for Best Practices of the National Governors Association (NGA), where he oversaw the postsecondary education work area, concentrating on increasing postsecondary access and completion, finance, governance, and accountability. During his tenure at the NGA, Reindl led the 2010 to 2011 NGA Chair’s Initiative, which focused on increasing college completion and productivity. Reindl holds a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and an M.P.P. from the University of Maryland-College Park.
Jeff Rosen is the vice president for accreditation relations and director, Open Pathway, at the Higher Learning Commission. Rosen has worked in higher education as a research university dean, professor in an open admission art school, and trustee of a community college. From 2005 to 2011 he was dean of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies and associate professor of art history at Loyola University Chicago, where he created programs in allied healthcare and also ran the university’s summer session, its precollegiate program, and its noncredit programs for adults. He currently serves as chair of the Leadership and Strategy Network of the University Professional and Continuing Education Association. Rosen received his Ph.D. in art history from Northwestern University; M.S. Ed. from Southern Connecticut State University; and B.A. cum laude in sociology from New York University.

Phyllis “Teddi” Safman is the assistant commissioner for academic affairs with the Utah System of Higher Education State Board of Regents. Her responsibilities include transfer, articulation, and assessment of general education; the Tuning Project, an outgrowth of the Bologna Process, funded by Lumina Foundation; the Association of American Colleges and Universities’ Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) Initiative; the Quality Collaboratives, also Lumina-funded; and the Western Interstate Passport Initiative, funded by the Carnegie Corporation. Although a musician by former training, Safman received a Ph.D. in continuing and adult education from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Safman joined the commissioner’s staff in 1993, with a short break to work in accreditation and strategic planning in Washington, D.C., and Chicago. Safman currently serves on the Western Academic Leadership Forum Executive Committee.

Robert Seidman began teaching at the university level in 1969 and joined Southern New Hampshire University in 1981. Seidman is a professor of information technology and served as the Computer Information Technology Department chair from 1995 to 2003. He is the author of many journal articles and a book, Predicting the Behavior of the Education System (coauthored with Thomas F. Green, senior author, and David P. Ericson), which was hailed as the first theory of the logic and behavior of national educational systems. He serves as the executive editor of the Journal of Education Computing Research and is a fellow in the Philosophy of Education Society, a member of the Association for Computing Machinery, IEEE Computer Society, American Educational Research Association, and the American Association of Artificial Intelligence. Seidman received his bachelor of science degree from Rutgers University and his master of science and doctorate of philosophy degrees from Syracuse University’s School of Computer and Information Science.

Mark Wheeler is the dean of extended studies at Boise State University. He works to extend higher education beyond traditional boundaries. Programs include Boise State eCampus, several off-campus sites, the Center for Professional Development, Boise State AfterWork, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, summer and intersession programs, and concurrent enrollment programs in high schools. In addition to providing educational opportunities, these extended studies programs have spurred innovation at the university and engaged communities. Previously, Wheeler served in other Boise State roles: dean of enrollment services, interim vice president for student affairs, director of admissions, and interim registrar. He started his career as an admissions and financial aid counselor at Lewis-Clark State College. Wheeler has a B.A. in English and a master of public administration from Boise State University.

Ralph Wolff joined the staff of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission in 1981 and served as its president from 1996 through August 2013. He currently serves as senior advisor. Before his appointment to WASC, Wolff was one of the founders of the Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C., the nation’s most innovative law school, with its focus on preparing lawyers for public interest and poverty law; he was responsible for helping it achieve accreditation. He later moved to Yellow Springs, Ohio, to become dean of the Antioch Graduate School of Education, where he oversaw a diverse range of innovative programs in Ohio, Massachusetts, Texas, and Colorado. As associate provost of Antioch College, he was responsible for establishing quality assurance systems for its 28 centers. A graduate of Tufts University, Wolff received his J.D. with honors from the National Law Center at George Washington University. He is currently a Fellow of Meridian International, a global think tank, and a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science.
Membership in the Western Academic Leadership Forum

Join your colleagues now at 50% discount!

Eligible members are public and private bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral institutions, university system offices, and state governing and coordinating boards located in the WICHE states. The members are represented by provosts, academic vice presidents, chief executive officers, and chief academic officers from system and state governing and coordinating boards.

Benefits include:

• Complimentary registration fee for the each member’s official representative attending the Forum’s Annual Meeting.
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For further information, please contact:

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