



WICHE NewsCap

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Western Interstate Commission
for Higher Education

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Statistical Report

Academic Year 2016-17

Student Exchange Program

Coordinated by the
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

- ▶ **Record-setting enrollment, savings for WICHE's student exchange programs**
- ▶ **New website for *Knocking at the College Door* projections and trends**
- ▶ **Upcoming meetings for chief academic officers of two- and four-year institutions and systems**
- ▶ **Interstate PassportSM initiative continues to scale up**

Number of students benefiting from tuition-reciprocity agreements in Western states tops 40,000 – an all-time high. Through the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP), and the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), more than 40,510 residents of 15 Western states, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam are currently enrolled at reduced levels of tuition in a variety of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. According to WICHE's latest [annual statistical report](#), which covers fall 2016 enrollments for the three exchange programs:

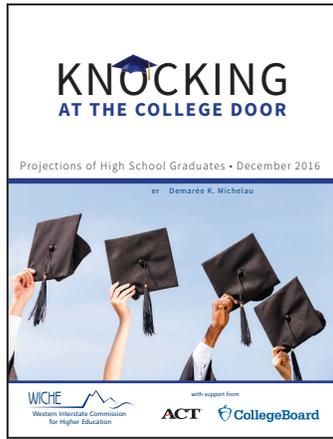
▶ This year, WUE helped 38,300 students and their families save an estimated \$341.5 million by paying no more than 150 percent of resident tuition – instead of the full nonresident rate – at 159 participating institutions. The average WUE student saved \$8,900. Since the exchanges began in 1988, WUE has provided Western students and their parents with discounts on more than 501,700 annual tuition bills – saving them, over all, \$3.2 billion. California and Washington are the biggest users of the program, sending some 17,500 and 3,470 students, respectively, to study at participating WUE institutions across the West. Arizona and Nevada institutions enrolled the most WUE students this year.

▶ Through WRGP, 1,570 graduate students are enrolled this year in master's, doctoral, and graduate certificate programs of study, saving an estimated \$23.3 million by paying resident tuition instead of nonresident – and with a choice of 400 participating programs at 60 institutions. In 2016-17, the average WRGP student saved \$14,900.

▶ Some 640 students preparing for their professional degree in medicine, dentistry, optometry, and seven other healthcare professions paid significantly reduced tuition by enrolling through WICHE's PSEP. Depending on his or her field of study and choice of school, the average PSEP student can save an estimated \$8,000 to \$32,000 per academic year.

The statistical report this year includes a section on steadily growing workforce demands in WICHE states in two key areas: geriatricians, gerontological nurses, and other professionals trained in elder care; and cybersecurity and information technology. The report also brings to life the vital benefits of WICHE's three exchange programs by offering brief testimonials from 20 currently enrolled students and graduates, as well as program administrators of participating institutions.

► **Get up to speed on WICHE'S latest projections of the supply of U.S. high school graduates, by state and race/ethnicity, through the Class of 2032.** A [new website](#) puts at your fingertips a wide variety of information generated in the 9th edition of WICHE's quadrennial report, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates*, including the executive summary and full report, data dashboards, downloadable data tables, access to presentations, as well as national, regional, and state profiles. With generous support from ACT, Inc. and the College Board, the one-of-a-kind report is widely used by state policymakers, postsecondary and K-12 leaders, researchers, and others involved in targeting resources to the education and workforce needs of current and future populations. Key findings include:



► The overall number of high school graduates will plateau for most of the next decade with seven of the 10 years from 2013 to 2023 expected to see fewer or about the same number of graduates compared to 2013, which was the year with highest recorded number of U.S. graduates yet.

► The racial/ethnic mix of high school graduates in the United States will continue to shift significantly toward a more diverse population of graduates fueled primarily by large increases in the number of Hispanic (up to 50 percent) and Asian/Pacific Islander (30 percent) public high school graduates through about 2025.

► There is significant regional variation with the Northeast and the Midwest experiencing continuing declines in the number of high school graduates while the West will see slight increases and the South will see significant and steady increases.

► The number of students graduating from private high schools will decline more sharply than the decreases in the overall numbers of graduates.

For a useful overview of the report and its implications, watch [WICHE President Joe Garcia's recent interview](#) on C-SPAN's Washington Journal. You can also [register for upcoming webinars](#) in which WICHE staff will moderate discussions among K-12, higher education, and workforce leaders about the data and their implications.

► **Upcoming meetings of chief academic officers of two- and four-year institutions and systems in the WICHE region.**

Eloy Ortiz Oakley, newly appointed chancellor of the California Community Colleges, will be the keynote speaker for the Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders' 2017 annual meeting, to be held March 22-24 in Long Beach, CA. The meeting, whose theme is "The Future of Community Colleges: Thriving in a World in Flux," features a strong lineup of speakers and session topics ranging from competency-based learning, career pathways, and affordable course materials, to improving student retention and connecting middle-skill job seekers to employers and educators.

Registration information, the preliminary program, and a list of speakers are available on the [Alliance's web page](#). The Alliance's members are the chief academic officers of two-year institutions in the WICHE states and their related system offices and state governing and coordinating boards.

The Alliance's sister organization – the Western Academic Leadership Forum, comprising the chief academic officers of four-year institutions and their related system offices and boards – will hold its 2017 annual meeting April 26-28 in Salt Lake City, UT. The theme of this year's meeting is "Designing for Quality in Higher Education Facet by Facet."

Featured speakers include WICHE President Joe Garcia, who will deliver the keynote address; James M. Lang, author of the recently published "Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Learning"; Dror Ben-Naim, founder and CEO of Smart Sparrow, a pioneer in personalized, adaptive education technology; and representatives of Lumina Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment.

The [Forum's web page](#) provides registration information, a list of speakers and the preliminary program.

► **Mark your calendar for the 2017 WCET Leadership Summit in Salt Lake City in June.** Not that

long ago, job titles like chief learning officer, design engineer, data scientist, competency-based learning director, user-experience analyst, and privacy/compliance officer were relatively uncommon. Today, such positions are vital in the delivery of quality higher education programs.



WCET's 6th Annual Leadership Summit, scheduled for June 14-15 in Salt Lake City, UT, is built around the

theme of “Building and Expanding Capacity for Leading Innovation.” The summit will engage institutional leaders in exchanging information and ideas on how best to align an institution’s human capital, technology investments, and content strategy in support of sustained innovation in teaching and learning. [Join the interest list.](#)

► **The groundbreaking Interstate PassportSM continues to scale up.** Twenty-one institutions in six states – Hawai’i, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming – are now members of the Interstate Passport Network.



Some institutions have awarded Passports to students for the fall 2016 term, and more will do so in spring 2017. The award assures that students have achieved 65 learning outcomes in nine different knowledge and skill areas. Each Interstate Passport Network member has designated a person on campus to serve as liaison between the Interstate Passport staff and campus stakeholders – registrars, institutional researchers, academic advisors, marketing representatives, and faculty.

Interstate Passport is aimed at helping students transfer across state lines without losing recognition for what they learned in lower-division courses. It is undergirded by a framework of learning outcomes and proficiency criteria developed collaboratively by faculty at a network of two- and four-year institutions in seven Western states, led by WICHE and supported by Lumina Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Also supporting the scaling-up and enhancement of the Interstate Passport is a \$2.99 million First in the World grant, awarded to WICHE by the U.S. Department of Education in 2015. Recent developments include:

► *Implementation of verification and tracking services.* The National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) has completed development of the PassportVerify service for members of the Interstate Passport Network. Ten institutions will test the service during the month of February. Registrars will extract data on the students who earned the Passport in fall 2016 and submit the data to NSC via a secure FTP account. Institutions can also query NSC to find out if incoming transfer students have earned a Passport at a previous institution, and when. In April, NSC will test the new Academic Progress Tracking Service. Registrars will submit de-identified data on three cohorts of students – transfer students with a Passport, transfer students without a Passport, and native students with a Passport – on their performance over two terms after earning the Passport. Both services will be fully operational by late spring, and NSC will deliver data reports in the fall to “sending” institutions on how their former students performed.

► *California pilot project.* Two community colleges in California – College of the Canyons and Cerritos College – are participating in a pilot project in which faculty will review the Passport Learning Outcomes for alignment with their own, construct their institution’s Passport Block, determine their capacity to participate in the Interstate Passport’s academic progress tracking services, and write a case study about the process they used to accomplish these tasks.

The [Interstate Passport website](#) offers a wide array of information on the history, development, and key components of the initiative, in formats ranging from FAQs to policy briefs to webinars. A new monthly newsletter, launched January 27, will keep stakeholders informed about the Interstate Passport’s latest news and activities.

► **Kelvin Bentley joins WCET Steering Committee.**

The new vice chair of the WCET Steering Committee is Kelvin Bentley, chief academic officer for the Fort Worth, TX-based Tarrant County College’s online learning, dual credit, and accelerated Weekend College programs. Bentley, who holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, has more than 15 years of experience in teaching, administration, and consulting work. His professional interests include competency-based education, quality assurance in online education, learning analytics, and best practices in instructional design. [Click here](#) to learn more about Bentley and the other 13 members of the WCET Steering Committee.



► **Register now for upcoming WCET webcasts.**

The latest in a series of webcasts sponsored by WCET are “Researching and Coordinating Professional Licensure Board Information,” scheduled for Feb. 14, and “Understanding and Implementing an Education Content Strategy,” on Feb. 16. Both sessions are free of charge and open to all. To register and to browse previous webcasts, [click here](#).

WICHE Staff Leadership

- Joseph A. Garcia, president
- Michael Abbiatti, vice president for educational technologies and executive director, WCET
- John Lopez, special assistant to the president and chief administrative officer, WICHE; and director, W-SARA
- Demarée Michelau, vice president, office of policy analysis and research
- Jere Mock, vice president, programs and services
- Dennis Mohatt, vice president, behavioral health