WICHE ...

Provides strong return on investment
- More than 45,000 Western students saved $451 million in academic year 2019-20 through the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP), and Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP). These WICHE programs provide significant student savings on nonresident tuition at 160+ Western U.S. public colleges and universities and select private healthcare programs.
- WICHE’s Student Access Programs provided the region a 2,645% return on investment, relative to annual WICHE dues and PSEP support fee investment.

Bolsters the Western health workforce
- Through PSEP, students from Western states and territories pursuing careers in 10 health fields, can enroll in participating programs in another state while receiving substantial tuition support from their home state or territory. With fields ranging from dentistry to occupational therapy to veterinary medicine at 60 institutions, PSEP can save a student between $32,600 and $130,600 on tuition over the lifespan of a program, depending on the field of study. By participating in PSEP, Western states and territories benefit by inspiring, and in some states requiring, professionals to return home to practice and bolster their communities’ professional health care.
- WICHE’s Behavioral Health Program initiated and administers psychology internship programs in five Western states (Alaska, Hawai’i, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah) that help doctoral-level students find placements in rural and underserved communities. More than 60 percent of graduates from the internships continue their professional work in the states in which they completed their work.
- WICHE, partnering with the University of North Dakota, administers the Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC). The Mountain Plains MHTTC serves the states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming by establishing a collaborative network that strengthens the capacity of different systems, organizations, and treatment practitioners involved in the delivery of mental health services.

Increases higher education access and affordability
- WICHE’s Interstate Passport® enables block transfer of lower-division general education, reducing frustrating barriers to transfer of credits that students may encounter when transferring out of state. Currently, 32 institutions in 14 states are members of the program.
- WICHE is building an alliance of Native American-Serving, Nontribal Institutions (NASNTIs) to improve postsecondary attainment. Through convening an annual summit including Native American students; developing policy studies; and creating a formal network of NASNTIs, the initiative is strengthening and sustaining campus efforts to support Native students in order to improve their college and career success.

Fosters idea sharing
- The Legislative Advisory Committee improves state-level policymaking in the West by providing a forum for legislative leaders to share valuable insights on trends and promising practices and build partnerships throughout the region.
- WICHE’s Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (Alliance) and Western Academic Leadership Forum (Forum) are active peer networks of academic leaders at two-year and four-year institutions and systems throughout the West, providing a venue for chief academic officers to connect and learn to better serve students and stakeholders.
For more than 65 years, WICHE has served as a trusted partner for states and territories in the Western region in order to address some of society’s most pressing needs. From promoting high-quality, affordable postsecondary education to helping states get the most from their technology investments and addressing behavioral health challenges, WICHE improves lives across the West through innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy.

The WICHE Commission oversees the development of WICHE programs and assures that the Western Regional Compact is carried out for the benefit of the citizens of the West. WICHE’s 48 commissioners, who are appointed by the governors of the 15 Western states and the US Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States, are leaders in higher education; they include state higher education executive officers, college and university presidents, legislators, business and community leaders, and other key partners. Camille Preus from Oregon is the 2020 chair of the Commission.