

WICHE NewsCap

April 2017

April Highlights

- ▶ WICHE Commission News
- ▶ WICHE Media Coverage
- ▶ WICHE Program and Initiative Updates

WICHE Commission News

Appointments and reappointments



Kim Hunter Reed



Francisco Rodriguez

The two newest members of the WICHE Commission are Kim Hunter Reed, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, who was appointed by Gov. John Hickenlooper, and Francisco Rodriguez, Chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Prior to being selected as Colorado's Higher Education Chief in February, Reed served in the Obama Administration as Deputy Undersecretary at the U.S. Department of Education leading postsecondary diversity and inclusion work. She also headed the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Her extensive experience in higher education includes serving as Chief of Staff for the Louisiana Board of Regents and Executive Vice President of the University of Louisiana System.

Rodriguez is a veteran educator who was chosen in 2014 to lead LACCD, the largest community college district in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world. Previously, he served as Superintendent of the MiraCosta Community College District in north San Diego County and as President of Cosumnes River College in Sacramento. He is a noted scholar and speaker on topics ranging from student access and success to higher education governance, workforce development, fundraising, and philanthropy.

Recently reappointed as WICHE Commissioners by New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez were Patricia Sullivan, Assistant Dean of the New Mexico State University College of Engineering, and Barbara Damron, Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Higher Education Department. Sullivan was first appointed to the commission in 2003 and currently serves as its chair. Damron has been a commissioner since April 2015.

Upcoming commission meeting

The next WICHE Commission meeting will take place May 22-23 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Several informative and interactive sessions have been scheduled to bring WICHE commissioners up-to-date on a range of topics:

- Recent WCET report on the price and cost of distance education
- Evolving policy context around campus climate issues and the development of comprehensive campus sexual violence prevention assessment and support
- Knocking at the College Door: Responding to the Changing Demographics to Increase Postsecondary Attainment
- WICHE strategic communications plan



WICHE Media Coverage

WICHE President Joe Garcia discusses higher education on *Colorado Public Radio*



WICHE President Joe Garcia joined other postsecondary officials for a higher education panel recording on March 14 at *Colorado Public Radio's* studio in Centennial. Garcia and his fellow panelists discussed the changing landscape of higher education in Colorado, the impact of dwindling state support, and what schools are doing to adapt and prepare themselves for the future. Colorado ranks No. 2 nationally in the percentage of adults holding bachelor's degrees, and only six states have a higher percentage of adults with advanced degrees. But state funding for higher education isn't what it used to be – having shrunk nearly 70 percent in the past 30 years. [Listen](#) to the full *Colorado Public Radio, Colorado Matters* podcast recording.

WICHE's Margo Colalancia authors student exchange article for *Casper Star-Tribune*

The history, mission, and unique benefits of WUE were the focal point of a recent [guest column](#) in the *Casper Star-Tribune* by Margo Colalancia, WICHE's Director of Student Exchange Programs. "WUE is a great option for Wyoming residents whose major is not offered in-state, or for students looking to experience a new environment during their college years," Colalancia wrote, noting that 1,180 Wyoming students are studying in other WICHE states this year, saving \$5.7 million on their tuition bills. "Students – and parents who are bankrolling their kids' education – are often amazed to learn that they can afford an undergraduate education outside of their home state. Some say it's like winning the lottery."



WICHE Program and Initiative Updates

Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (the Alliance)



Alliance holds annual meeting

A record number of attendees were present at the [Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders](#) annual meeting March 22-24 in Long Beach, CA. The theme for this year's meeting was "The Future of Community Colleges: Thriving in a World of Flux," and below are some of the presentation and discussion highlights:

- How learning is being packaged and sold to students who have heightened interest in return on investment
- Success stories and lessons learned in developing competency-based programs
- New approaches to providing affordable course materials
- Research on "skills-builder" students, high performers who are enrolling in short, certificate programs at community colleges

The Alliance provides chief academic leaders of two-year institutions and related system and state agencies with opportunities to share resources and work collaboratively on issues of mutual interest. [Slides and handouts](#) from each of the meeting's sessions are available and recordings will be available on the site by April 15.

Alliance selects new chair

At the Alliance's recent annual meeting, Jan Yoshiwara, Deputy Executive Director of Education for the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, was selected as the Alliance's Chair for 2017-18.



Lita Burns, Vice President for Instruction at North Idaho College, will serve as Vice Chair. Their terms will extend through the 2018 annual meeting to be held in Washington state next April.

University of Hawai'i Community Colleges receives 2017 Bernice Joseph Award

The Alliance presented its [2017 Inaugural Bernice Joseph Award](#) (formerly Academic Leaders Toolkit Award) to the University of Hawai'i Community



Colleges during its recent annual meeting. The new “sector mapping tool” is designed to align the state’s economic and workforce needs with academic offerings and degree production within the University of Hawai’i System. The award is named in honor of the late Bernice Joseph, former Vice Chancellor for Rural, Community, and Native Education at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Joseph’s collaborative spirit and support for innovation were driving forces in the creation of the Alliance in 2010.

Western Academic Leadership Forum (the Forum) to hold annual meeting



The Western Academic Leadership Forum, comprising the chief academic officers of four-year institutions and their related system offices and boards, will hold its annual meeting April 26-28 in Salt Lake City, UT. WICHE President Joe Garcia is slated to give the keynote address and he will be joined by featured speakers James M. Lang, author of the recently published “Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Learning,” and Dror Ben-Naim, founder and CEO of Smart Sparrow, a pioneer in personalized, adaptive education technology. Registration information for Forum members and a preliminary program are available on the [Forum’s web page](#).

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program participation increases to 160 institutions



Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen, WA, is the newest institution to join WICHE’s [Western Undergraduate Exchange](#) (WUE), the largest tuition-reciprocity program in the nation. Grays Harbor joins Spokane Community College and Spokane Falls Community College to round out the three community colleges participating in WUE from Washington, as well as its five universities: Central Washington University,

Eastern Washington University, Washington State University Pullman, Washington State University Tri-Cities, and Western Washington University. This year, WUE is helping 38,300 students and their families save an estimated \$341.5 million by allowing them to pay up to a maximum of 150 percent of resident tuition – instead of the full nonresident rate – at participating institutions in the WICHE region.

Interstate PassportSM launches monthly newsletter



[Interstate Passport Briefing](#)

is designed to keep readers up-to-date on the expanding scope and reach of Interstate Passport, the groundbreaking initiative aimed at helping students transfer across state lines without losing credit for what they learn in lower-division courses. The newsletter includes information on recent and upcoming meetings and webinars, along with brief status reports on various components of the initiative.

Western Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET)



[New WCET study on price and cost of distance education](#)

The widely held perception that online education courses cost less to produce and therefore save students money on tuition doesn’t hold up to scrutiny, according to a newly published [report](#) by WCET based on a survey of administrators at 197 colleges and universities. Among the key findings:

- Most institutions charge students the same or more to study online, compared with face-to-face instruction. In fact, when additional fees are included, roughly half of distance education students pay more for their courses than do those in brick-and-mortar classrooms.
- The higher prices are connected to higher production costs, including licensing software, engaging instructional designers, training faculty, and offering around-the-clock student support.
- Rather than building online courses from scratch, many institutions use a “bolt-on” approach that starts with taking face-to-face courses and adding the tools needed to offer them online, which drives up costs. Typically, the extra costs are passed on to students in the form of technology fees.

The report points out that colleges and universities have long focused on digital instruction primarily as

a means of increasing access to education, and paid scant attention to the issues of cost and price. Distance education can and should be more affordable, the authors conclude, but that will require rethinking existing structures, policies, and practices.

Call for proposals for WCET's 29th annual meeting

May 5 is the deadline for higher education and technology leaders to submit proposals for WCET's 2017 annual meeting, which will be held October 25-27 in Denver, CO. Of interest are proposals focused on emerging technologies, institutional success, new learning models, student perspectives, and policies and regulations affecting technology-enhanced learning. Find more information here on [session formats and proposal requirements](#).

Registration for WCET's 6th Leadership Summit

Not that long ago, job titles like chief learning officer, design engineer, data scientist, competency-based learning director, 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, will engage institutional leaders in discussing how best to align technology investments, human capital, and a content strategy to sustain innovation in teaching and learning. Space is limited, [register here](#).



forward-thinking program planning approach that helps institutions position themselves to operate more efficiently in today's digital market. Featuring: David Capranos, Wiley Education Services; Jourdan Hathaway, Wiley Education Services; and Steven J. Szydowski, Scranton University.



WICHE's 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, and Director, W-SARA
- Demarée Michelau, Vice President, Policy Analysis and Research
- Jere Mock, Vice President, Programs and Services
- Dennis Mohatt, Vice President, Behavioral Health

Upcoming WCET webcasts

- [Distance Ed Enrollment Trends: New Data, New Trends, New Partnership](#) will air on April 19 at 12:00 p.m. MDT and will focus on the newest trends in distance education enrollment by sector, by undergraduate/graduate level, growth over time, and more. The U.S. Department of Education recently released its distance education enrollment numbers as captured for the fall 2015 term. On April 17, a new analysis of these data by Digital Learning Compass will be released. Learn about the new findings and ask questions about the results. Featuring: Jeff Seaman, Babson Survey Research Group; Phil Hill, MindWires Consulting; and Terri Straut, WCET.
- [Strategic Portfolio Development: Maximizing Course Offerings While Lowering Costs](#) will air on April 20 at 11:00 a.m. MDT and will focus on using Strategic Portfolio Development™ (SPD) as a

