

WICHE Workplan 2014

WICHE and its 16 member states and territories work collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for their citizens. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy, WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to our social, economic, and civic life.

WICHE's 16 members include Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and the U.S. Pacific territories and freely associated states (the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is the first to participate).

Focus Areas. In fiscal 2014 WICHE's four units – Programs and Services, Policy Analysis and Research, Mental Health Program, and WCET – will strive to assist our members' institutions and students, focusing on five areas.

- Finance: Examining appropriations, tuition, and financial aid policy and practice at the institutional, state, and federal level.
- Access & Success: Improving students' access to higher education and success in it, especially those students we haven't served well in the past.
- Workforce & Society: Helping to ensure our institutions are meeting workforce and society needs.
- Technology & Innovation: Developing innovations that improve higher education and lower costs.
- Accountability: Working to ensure that students receive the education they've been promised, and that government is receiving a strong return on its investment.

Workplan Activities. The FY 2014 workplan has been redesigned, per commissioners' request. Our work for FY 2014, our potential projects for the future, and our recently completed projects are organized according to the following categories.

- Existing Activities: Our current work, divided into two types:
 - Ongoing Activities: Continuing work that supports WICHE's mission, supported by the general fund or fees.
 - Projects & Initiatives: Continuing (or new) work supported by grants and contracts.
- New Directions: Commissioner-approved projects for which staff is seeking funding.
- Potential Future Projects: Work that staff is considering pursuing (and bringing to the commission for approval); in addition, we list projects that staff previously considered pursuing but that staff now proposes to remove from the workplan.
- Completed Projects: Work that staff finished in FY 2013.

Priority. In the FY 2014 workplan, we've made a small change to the way we prioritize our work, again per commissioners' request. Existing Activities are initiatives that WICHE staff is committed to accomplishing and therefore are not given a priority ranking. New Directions are prioritized by mission relevance, opportunity, and staff competence. Potential Future Projects are under consideration and have not been commissioner-approved; therefore, they're not prioritized.

Programs & Services

The primary goals of the Programs and Services unit are to improve student access and success and to foster higher education collaborations to help boost institutional effectiveness. Programs and Services manages WICHE's four-pronged Student Exchange Program and a number of other initiatives that help institutions and students – undergraduate, graduate, and professional – save money and make good use of available resources. It also oversees projects that bring together the West's higher education leaders to work toward common goals; assist in smoothing the transfer process; link students with next-generation learning opportunities; and help institutions to achieve cost savings through group purchasing.

EXISTING ACTIVITIES ONGOING

Continuing work supported by the general fund or by fees. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Staffing	Partners
Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)	Access and success; workforce and society	Western	1.05 FTE	All WICHE member states and CNMI
Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)	Access and success; workforce and society	Western	1.05 FTE	All WICHE members, except SD (CA, HI, OR, and WA are receiving states only) and CNMI
Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)	Access and success; workforce and society	Western	1.05 FTE	All WICHE member states and CNMI
WICHE Internet Course Exchange	Access and success; technology and innovation	Western	.30 FTE and consultants	12 institutions, 3 systems, 2 consortia
Western Academic Leadership Forum	Access and success; accountability	Western	.41 FTE	50 institutions, 11 systems
Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders	Access and success; accountability	Western	.40 FTE	54 institutions, 6 systems
Academic Leaders Toolkit	Access and success	Western	(included in Forum and Alliance FTE)	Forum and Alliance members
MHECare	Access and success; finance	WICHE/MHEC/NEBHE states	.20 FTE	MHEC/Mercer/United HealthCare Student Resources, 1 state (CO), 5 institutions
Master Property Program	Finance	WICHE/MHEC/NEBHE states	.15 FTE and consultant	MHEC/Marsh/Lexington, 7 states (AZ, CO, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY) 1 system, 17 institutions
MHECtech	Finance	WICHE/MHEC states	.05 FTE	All WICHE member states
Workforce Briefs	Workforce and society	Western/U.S.	.05 FTE and consultants	All WICHE member states
WICHE website, print and electronic communications, media relations	All 5 focus areas	Western/U.S.	3.0 FTE	All WICHE member states

**EXISTING ACTIVITIES
PROJECTS & INITIATIVES**

Continuing (or new) work supported by grants or contracts. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Bridges to the Professoriate	Access & success	National	National Institute of Health (\$27,500 annually)	.20 FTE	7/1/2008 - 6/30/2013	Southern Regional Education Board
Gaining Online Accessible Learning through Self-Study	Access & success	National	U.S. Dept. of Education, FIPSE (WICHE share: \$36,000)	.05 FTE	1/2011 - 12/2013	National Center on Disability and Access to Education (lead) & 3 other partners
Interstate Passport Initiative	Access & success	Western	Carnegie Corporation of New York grant (\$550,000)	1.15 and consultants	10/2011 - 9/2013	23 two- & four-year institutions in 5 states (CA, HI, ND, OR, UT)
Consortium for Health Education Online (CHEO)	Access & success; technology & innovation	Western	Department of Labor, Trade Adjustment Assistance CC & Career Training grant (WICHE contract: \$823,859)	1.6 FTE	10/2012 - 9/2016	Pueblo Community College (CO), fiscal agent; & 8 institutions in 5 states (AK, CO, MT, SD, WY)

Bridges to the Professoriate. Provides National Institute of General Medical Sciences-Minority Access to Research and Careers' predoctoral fellows with opportunities to participate in the annual Compact for Faculty Diversity's Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, helping them to gain skills needed in doctoral programs and academic careers.

Gaining Online Accessible Learning through Self-Study. GOALS develops web accessibility tools that institutions can use in the continuous improvement process for reaffirmation by regional accrediting agencies.

Interstate Passport Initiative. The Interstate Passport Initiative is creating a new interstate block transfer framework for lower-division general education, one based on student-learning outcomes rather than seat time in courses and credits.

Consortium for Health Education Online (CHEO). Eight community colleges in five WICHE states are creating or transforming existing allied health courses for delivery in an online or hybrid format, incorporating new, web-based lab experiments from the recently completed North American Network of Science Labs Online (NANSLO) project, where it's appropriate to do so.

NEW DIRECTIONS

Commissioner-approved projects for which staff is actively seeking funding, prioritized as follows:

- ★ = Urgency (mission critical) ★ = low, ★★ = medium, ★★★ = high
- = Opportunity (funding) ● = low, ●● = medium, ●●● = high
- = Competence (staff/consultants) ■ = low, ■■ = medium, ■■■ = high

Project Title	Focus	Priority	Geo-scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Implementation of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)	Access & success; technology & innovation	*** ●●● ■ ■ ■	Western and national	Lumina proposal pending (\$2,878,192; WICHE share, \$500,050) & institutional fees (\$592,891, WICHE region)	Nationwide, 3.3 FTE (1st year), based at WICHE: WICHE, 2.5 FTE	7/2013 - 6/2016	WICHE member states that sign the reciprocity agreement; & MHEC, NEBHE, SREB
North American Network of Science Labs Online (NANSLO) Expansion Project 1	Access & success	*** ●●● ■ ■ ■	International	Previous grant: Next Generation Learning Challenges (\$750,000)	.05	TBD	Colorado Community College System, 5 institutions in CO, MT, WY, & 1 institution & organization in British Columbia

Implementation of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). WICHE and the other three regional higher education compacts will administer SARAs so that any institution offering distance education may acquire authorization from its home state to reciprocally enable it to operate in other participating states.

North American Network of Science Labs Online Expansion Project 1. NANSLO will seek funding to expand its collection of experiments, conduct research on the best practices in lab experiments for students in online courses, and add new member institutions to its network.

POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS

Work we’re considering pursuing (and bringing to the commission for approval); also previously considered projects that we propose to remove from the workplan.

Rural medical education residencies: Develop partnerships with federal and state agencies and funders to help increase the number of rural graduate medication education residencies in the West.

Previously considered projects we propose to remove from the workplan. None.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Work that staff finished in FY 2013.

North American Network of Science Labs Online. NANSLO furthered the development of openly licensed online science courseware in biology, physics, and chemistry and replicated a Canadian innovation known as Remote Web-Based Science Laboratory, through a NGLC grant.

Policy Analysis and Research

The Policy Analysis and Research unit offers a variety of policy and information resources to support better-informed decision making, principally at the state level. The unit is involved in a number of research projects and collaborative initiatives that focus on college completion; adult learners; multistate data-sharing to support educational planning and workforce development; and other critical areas. WICHE staff serve as a useful resource on a number of higher education issues, including state and federal financial aid, finance, articulation and transfer, the Common Core State Standards, and various college completion initiatives. Its publication series, including *Policy Insights* and *Western Policy Exchanges*, explore a wide range of significant policy issues. The unit also undertakes major, long-term grant-funded projects, collaborates with other regional and national organizations, and provides short-term technical assistance to members.

EXISTING ACTIVITIES ONGOING

Continuing work supported by the general fund or by fees. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Staffing	Partners
Tuition and Fees	Finance	Western	.025 FTE	All WICHE members respond
Legislative Advisory Committee	Finance, access & success, workforce & society, technology & innovation, accountability	Western	.10 FTE	All WICHE members
State Higher Education Policy Database	Finance, access & success, workforce & society, technology & innovation, accountability	National	.20 FTE	National Conference of State Legislatures, Lumina Foundation
Policy Publications Clearinghouse	Finance, access & success, workforce & society, technology & innovation, accountability	National	.025 FTE	N/A
Benchmarks	Accountability	Western	.025 FTE	N/A
Regional Fact Book for Higher Education in the West	Accountability	Western	.025 FTE	N/A
Policy Insights	Finance, access & success, workforce & society, technology & innovation, accountability	National	.05 FTE	N/A
Western Policy Exchanges	Finance, access & success, workforce & society, technology & innovation, accountability	Western	.05 FTE	N/A

**EXISTING ACTIVITIES
PROJECTS & INITIATIVES**

Continuing (or new) work supported by grants or contracts. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Adult College Completion Network	Access & success; workforce & society	National	Lumina Foundation: \$1,133,800	1.65 FTE	10/2010 - 9/2014	Lumina Foundation
College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) Consortium and Network	Access & success	Western states, Texas	State memoranda of agreement/ U.S. Dept. of Education: Year 5 revenue, \$190,000	1.40 FTE	Year 5: 8/2012 - 8/2013	2 Consortium states (AK, ID) & 4 Network states (ND, TX, UT, and WA)
Equity in Excellence	Access & success, accountability	Western	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation (subcontract): \$50,000	.45 FTE	1/2013 - 12/2013	Center for Urban Education at the University of Southern California, Colorado
Facilitating Development of a Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange	Workforce & society, technology & innovation, accountability	Western	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: \$1.5 million	.80 FTE	6/2010 - 5/2014	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, educational & workforce agencies in HI, ID, OR, WA
<i>Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates</i>	Access & success	National	ACT, College Board: \$441,000	1.65 FTE	10/2010 - 9/2014	ACT, College Board
Policy and Assessment Framework for Washington's Opportunity Scholarship Program	Finance	Western	Microsoft Corporation via subcontract from NCHEMS: \$30,000	.15 FTE	3/2012 - 9/2013	National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), Washington

Adult College Completion Network (www.adultcollegecompletion.org). WICHE manages the ACC Network, a learning network that unites organizations and agencies working to increase college degree and credential completion by adults with prior college credits.

College Access Challenge Grant Consortium and Network (www.wiche.edu/cacg). States can participate in the CACG Consortium, which involves WICHE working closely with the state to administer its federally funded formula grant program, designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enroll and succeed in postsecondary education; or in the CACG Network, which is a collaborative council composed of CACG grant administrators from each of the states.

Equity in Excellence. With a focus on the Denver metro area, WICHE is partnering with the Center for Urban Education at the University of Southern California to support the implementation of Colorado’s higher education reform agenda by aligning the state’s higher education policy measures with concrete, equity-focused actions within community colleges and four-year institutions.

Facilitating Development of a Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange (www.wiche.edu/longitudinalDataExchange). Working initially with four member states – Idaho, Hawai’i, Oregon, and Washington – WICHE is coordinating efforts to develop the necessary architecture for the exchange of data, govern the exchange, produce standard reports, and ensure the protection of privacy, in an effort to develop a pilot data exchange among several states, allowing for more comprehensive analyses of the production, stock, and flows of human capital through a regional, multistate approach.

Knocking at the College Door (www.wiche.edu/knocking). With support from its traditional partners, ACT and the College Board, Policy recently released the 8th edition of these projections and is continuing to explore the feasibility of enhancements, such as producing projections for urban areas and disaggregations by sex.

Policy and Assessment Framework for Washington’s Opportunity Scholarship Program. In partnership with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), staff is examining Washington’s new financial aid program and offering guidance concerning how its effectiveness can be measured and how its implementation can be integrated with the state’s existing finance and financial aid policies.

NEW DIRECTIONS

Commissioner-approved projects for which staff is actively seeking funding, prioritized as follows:

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- = Competence (staff/consultants)
- ★ = low, ★★ = medium, ★★★ = high
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- = low, ■■ = medium, ■■■ = high

Project Title	Focus	Priority	Geo-scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Race Against the Clock: Preparing Teachers to Effectively Utilize Information from the Common Core State Standards	Access & success	★★★ ●●● ■■■	Western	\$3 million	1.8 FTE	3 years	Stanford (Linda Darling Hammond), SHEEO, CCSSO, NGA, SBAC, PARCC, CAEP & state affiliates, AACTE, NCTM, NCTE, NEA, AFT*
Creating Positive Educational Outcomes through Cooperative Education and Internship Programs	Access & success, workforce & society	★★★ ● ■■■	Western	\$1 million	1.75 FTE	3 years	TBD
Facilitating Development of a Multistate Data Exchange	Workforce & society, technology & innovation, accountability	★★★ ●● ■■■	Western	\$1.5 million	2.5 FTE	4 years	Additional Western states

Project Title	Focus	Priority	Geo-scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
A Fighting Chance at Success: Increasing College Completion and Reducing Recidivism through Correctional Education	Access & success, workforce & society	★★ ●● ■ ■	Western	\$1 million	1.35 FTE	3 years	WICHE Mental Health Program
Serving Student Soldiers of the West	Access & success, workforce & society	★★ ● ■ ■	Western	\$1 million	1.35 FTE	3 years	Mental Health Program, U.S. Dept. of Defense, Service-members Opportunity Colleges, American Council on Education

* State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO), Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), National Governors Association (NGA), Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and state affiliates, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the National Education Association (NEA), and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

Race Against the Clock: Preparing Teachers to Effectively Utilize Information from the Common Core State Standards Assessments. The overarching goal of this work is to prepare preservice and veteran teachers throughout the educational pathway to effectively and proficiently utilize information from the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) assessments to monitor student progress toward mastery of the CCSS in English/language arts and mathematics and use the data to promote continuous improvement toward college and career content readiness.

Fostering Successful Cooperative Education and Internship Programs to Improve Educational Outcomes and Meet Workforce Demands. The goal of this work is to help states (and perhaps metropolitan areas) facilitate the development of partnerships among institutions and businesses to ensure effective linkages between the workplace and the classroom through co-op/internship programs.

Facilitating Development of a Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange. The next phase of this project will continue, enhance, and expand the work it has done in piloting a multistate longitudinal data exchange spanning K-12 education, postsecondary education, and workforce information in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Hawai'i by working toward further development of a sustainable architecture, governance, and financing plans, as well as expansion into more states, and a second round of data exchange and analysis.

A Fighting Chance at Success: Increasing College Completion and Reducing Recidivism through Correctional Education. The overall goal of this project is to expand and improve prison education programs in the Western states, to better prepare those who will be released from prison, particularly individuals of color, for a productive, educated life outside of the corrections system.

Serving Student Soldiers of the West: Policy and Practice Solutions. The goal of this project is to increase access to and success in higher education for military students and their families in the Western region.

POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS

Work that staff is considering pursuing (and bringing to the commission for review or approval). In addition, at the end of this section, we list projects that staff previously considered pursuing but that staff now proposes to remove from the workplan.

The Impact of Dual and Concurrent Enrollment on Student Success in Postsecondary Education.

A project that would assess the impact of enrolling in and successfully completing dual and concurrent enrollment courses while still in high school on success in postsecondary education.

Fostering Institutional Fidelity to State Performance Funding Policies. A project to investigate the responses of institutions to outcomes-based performance funding policies and to facilitate the adoption and implementation by institutions of policies and practices that are faithful to the intent of state performance-funding policies and effective at the achievement of them.

Changing Direction 2.0. A project building off WICHE's previous national project of the same name but addressing the new post-recession fiscal climate, which would promote the adoption of contemporary higher education finance policies that link appropriations, tuition setting, and financial aid policies.

Informing Career and Technical Education and Economic Development Programs to Meet State Workforce Needs. A potential partnership with the Institute for Higher Education leadership and Policy at Sacramento State University to explore how career and technical education and economic development programs can be best organized and informed with contemporary workforce data, in order to meet state workforce needs.

Redefining Degrees. A potential partnership with Sacramento State University's Institute for Higher Education leadership and Policy to study and recommend more effective degree pathways, including applied degrees.

Assessing the Landscape on State Policy on Student-Learning Outcomes. A project that would assist states in understanding the various efforts underway to better capture student-learning outcomes, especially with respect to the Degree Qualifications Profile and its applicability to statewide and institutional curriculum design and assessment.

Exploring Strategies for Improving the Delivery of Remedial and Developmental Education Policies and Practices. A project that would build on current emerging practices in the field to help states more effectively and efficiently target remedial education to students, particularly adult learners.

Identifying Effective College Persistence and Success Projects and Working to Bring Them to Scale. A project in which WICHE would launch a program that identifies the most effective – and cost-effective – college persistence and success projects and bring them to scale.

Addressing Workforce Needs with the Emerging Majority-Minority. A project that would build on previous work that strengthened the connections between higher education institutions and workforce-training programs in an effort to promote a more explicit focus on how state workforce needs can be met through better service to racial/ethnic minorities and other underrepresented populations.

Previously considered projects that we propose to remove from the workplan. None.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Work that staff finished in FY 2013.

N/A.

Mental Health

The WICHE Mental Health Program (MHP) seeks to enhance the public systems of care and the workforce that serves persons with mental health issues and their families. The program approaches this mission through partnerships with state mental health authorities, federal agencies, advocacy and consumer groups, and higher education institutions. Activities focus on direct technical assistance to state and local agencies, policy analysis and research, support of state mental health agency data analysis, and liaison activities with higher education to enhance workforce development.

EXISTING ACTIVITIES ONGOING

Continuing work supported by the general fund or by fees. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Staffing	Partners
Mental Health, General	Workforce & society	Western & national	.90 FTE	States
Decision Support Group	Workforce & society	Western	.20 FTE	States
Mental Health First Aid Training	Workforce & society	Western	.05 FTE	States & 501(c)3s
Suicide Prevention Training and Toolkits	Workforce & society	Western & national	.10 FTE	States & 501(c)3s

EXISTING ACTIVITIES PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Continuing (or new) work supported by grants or contracts. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Alaska Outcomes and System Performance Project	Workforce & society	Western	\$100,000	.55 FTE	7/13 - 6/14	Alaska
Alaska Competencies Training	Workforce & society	Western	\$20,000	.10 FTE	7/1 - 6/14	Annapolis Coalition and Trust Training Cooperative
Alaska Intern Trainee and Support and Development	Workforce & society	Western	\$125,000	.20 FTE	7/1-6/15	AK Trust
Association of Psychology Post-doctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC)	Workforce & society	Western	\$50,000	.20 FTE	7/13-6/15	APPIC
Hawai'i Internship Program	Workforce & society	Western	\$85,000	.20 FTE	7/13-6/14	Hawai'i
South Dakota Survey	Workforce & society	Western	\$20,000	.10 FTE	7/13-6/14	South Dakota
South Dakota Co-Sig	Workforce & society	Western	\$187,476	.60 FTE	8/12-9/13	South Dakota

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
South Dakota State Prevention Enhancement	Workforce & society	Western	\$32,457	.20 FTE	8/12-9/13	South Dakota
South Dakota Tribal Engagement	Workforce & society	Western	\$49,980	.10 FTE	8/12-9/13	South Dakota
Texas UTEP Intern Program	Workforce & society	Western	\$85,000	.15 FTE	7/13-6/15	U of Texas, El Paso

Alaska Outcomes and System Performance Project. The Alaska Outcomes and System Performance Project (OISPP) provides the statistical research necessary for the refinement of the performance management system of the Division of Behavioral Health, which is used to monitor the performance of the behavioral health treatment system.

Alaska Competencies Training. This is the final phase of a multiyear project to build core competencies and curriculum to enhance the direct care workforce across human service settings.

Alaska Intern Trainee and Support and Development. This contract represents a three-year training grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to expand the available training slots in the Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium, developed and supported by WICHE.

Association of Psychology Post-doctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). A two-year collaboration between WICHE and APPIC to conduct a nationwide evaluation of doctoral psychology internship programs that are currently not accredited by the American Psychological Association, to determine the barriers to accreditation and develop a tool to assess accreditation readiness.

Hawai'i Internship Program. The project is developing a doctoral psychology internship consortium within in the Health, Education, and Public Safety departments of Hawai'i.

South Dakota Survey. The South Dakota Consumer is an annual mail survey of clients of the Division of Behavioral Health which is used to monitor access to care, quality of care, outcomes, and satisfaction with treatment services.

South Dakota Co-Sig. WICHE staff provides technical assistance to South Dakota on a variety of system improvement projects for persons with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse issues.

South Dakota State Prevention Enhancement. WICHE staff is facilitating the integration of three community prevention coalitions.

South Dakota Tribal Engagement. WICHE staff is facilitating discussions between the South Dakota Division of Behavioral Health and Tribal Behavioral Health programs to provide Medicaid-funded rehabilitation services.

Texas Internship Program. Supporting the University of Texas at El Paso, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and William Beaumont Army Medical Center in developing a doctoral psychology internship consortium.

NEW DIRECTIONS

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- = low, ●● = medium, ●●● = high
- = low, ■■ = medium, ■■■ = high

Project Title	Focus	Priority	Geo-scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Alaska Health Reform	Workforce & society	★★ ●●● ■ ■ ■	Western	\$150,000	.20 FTE	7/13-9/14	Alaska & Trust
National Institute on Drug Abuse	Workforce & society	★★ ●● ■ ■ ■	National	\$75,000	.50 FTE	1/14-12/14	Montana
Alaska Psychiatric Institute	Workforce & society	★★ ● ■ ■ ■	Western	\$65,000	.10 FTE	7/13-9/14	Alaska
Suicide Prevention Mobile Application	Workforce & society	★★ ● ■ ■ ■	National	\$75,000	.10 FTE	1/14-12/14	Suicide Prevention Resource Center
Suicide Prevention Research Project	Workforce & society	★★ ● ■ ■ ■	National	\$85,000	.20 FTE	1/14-12/14	Suicide Prevention Resource Center
South Dakota Systems Improvement	Workforce & society	★★ ●● ■ ■ ■	Western	\$100,000	.40 FTE	9/13-8/14	South Dakota
University of South Dakota Psychology Department	Workforce & society	★★ ●●● ■ ■ ■	Western	\$ 10,000	.10 FTE	9/13-8/14	University of South Dakota
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	Workforce & society	★★ ● ■ ■ ■	Western	\$100,000/ year	.20 FTE	9/13-8/14	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Alaska Health Reform. WICHE is preparing to bid on a study of readiness and capacity of the existing behavioral health system to serve expanded beneficiary population.

National Institute on Drug Abuse. Research project to study culturally appropriate substance abuse treatment in American indigenous populations.

Alaska Psychiatric Institute. WICHE staff is providing technical assistance in the areas of leadership development, strategic planning, performance improvement and the provision of distance services through the use of technology.

Suicide Prevention Mobile Application. The development of a mobile application for suicide prevention in primary care settings.

Suicide Prevention Research Project. The evaluation of suicide prevention training modalities in primary care practices.

South Dakota Systems Improvement. WICHE will support the South Dakota Department of Social Services in its transition of responsibility for providing community-based behavioral health to persons involved in the corrections system.

University of South Dakota, Psychology Department. Mental Health Program staff will serve as consultants on a Graduate Psychology Education grant focused on integrated behavioral health training in rural primary care clinics.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Research project to identify leadership and other characteristics needed to maximize the effectiveness of integrated primary care and behavioral health.

POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS

Work that staff is considering pursuing (and bringing to the commission for review or approval). In addition, at the end of this section, we list projects that staff previously considered pursuing but that staff now proposes to remove from the workplan.

Montana Intern Planning. Project based on building an APA-accredited psychology internship consortia.

Wyoming Intern Planning. Healthcare reform.

Hawai'i Planning. Workforce planning and development.

South Dakota Hospital Planning. Providing evaluation and planning for state hospital.

Alaska Research Center. Project at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Previously considered projects that we propose to remove from the workplan. None.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Work that staff finished in FY 2013.

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, Arkansas. Technical assistance and support.

Alaska Competencies. Completion of FY13 train the trainer program in core competencies.

WCET

The WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET) was established in 1989 to promote collaboration and information sharing about educational technologies in higher education. WCET’s mission is to accelerate the adoption of effective practices and policies, advancing excellence in technology-enhanced teaching and learning in higher education. It provides colleges and universities with solutions, interventions, good practices, and access to valuable resources on wide array of important issues in higher education through working groups, special interest groups, discussion lists, social media, content curation, research activities, and its acclaimed annual meeting. The WCET community includes many leading innovators in e-learning from institutions across the United States. WCET is nationally recognized as one of the most informative, reliable, and forward-thinking organizations regarding the role of technology and innovation in higher education. Its membership includes 315 institutions, higher education agencies, nonprofit organizations, and corporations in North America, with close to 2,000 active WCET users.

EXISTING ACTIVITIES ONGOING

Continuing work supported by the general fund or by fees. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Staffing	Partners
WCET National Membership Cooperative	Technology & innovation, access & success	National, with some international	5.35 FTE	Sage Road Solutions, 312 member institutions & organizations
WCET Leadership Summit	Technology & innovation, access & success	National	WCET staff	
WCET Research	Technology & innovation	International	WCET staff	UPCEA, Sloan-C, BCcampus, eCampus Alberta, CT Distance Learning
Connecting Communities of Broadband and Learning Innovation	Access & success	Western	WCET staff	Northwest Academic Computing Consortium, institutional members

EXISTING ACTIVITIES PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Continuing (or new) work supported by grants or contracts. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR) Framework	Technology & innovation, access & success	National	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, \$2,557,920	.4 FTE and 7 subcontractors	August 2012 - January 2014	Sage Road Solutions, 16 named partner institutions, Starfish, SSP

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
State Authorization Network (SAN)	Access & success	National	Member fees, \$170,000	.25 FTE	April 2013 - March 2014	NCHEMS & 34 member systems or organizations representing more than 600 institutions
Massive Open Online Class (MOOC) on Badges, Competencies, and Alternative Certifications	Technology & innovation, access & success	National	Corporate sponsors	WCET staff	September 2013	Mozilla Foundation, Blackboard
Top of the Top 100 Tools for Learning: Virtual Event	Technology & innovation, access & success	International	Corporate sponsors	WCET staff	June - August 2013	Centre for Learning and Performance Technologies

Predictive Analytics Reporting Framework. The PAR Framework continues to derive results from its multi-institutional data-mining project to develop data assets that member institutions are using to mitigate academic risk: 16 WCET member institutions (including two-year, four-year, public, proprietary, traditional, and progressive schools) continue to collaborate on using big data to improve student retention in U.S. higher education.

State Authorization Network. SAN is a membership service for those seeking to comply with state authorization regulations related to the provision of online, distributed and distance courses and programs; WCET provides training on the state regulations, access to experts, strategies on meeting state requirements, and supports a community of practitioners to share effective practices and latest developments.

Massive Open Online Class on Badges, Competencies, and Alternative Certifications. This MOOC, hosted by WCET and its partners, will address opportunities for rethinking the Carnegie unit as the measure of academic achievement and explore the use of badge systems to document and certify skills and knowledge for competency-based learning, college completion, workplace development, and employment.

Top of the Top 100 Tools For Learning: Virtual Event. Jane Hart, an internationally recognized expert on trends and adoption of technology tools for learning, will be featured in a virtual online event showcasing and demonstrating some of the top free digital content creation, management, sharing, and distribution tools that are currently trending in education.

NEW DIRECTIONS

Commissioner-approved projects for which staff is actively seeking funding, prioritized as follows:

- ★ = Urgency (mission critical) ★ = low, ★★ = medium, ★★★ = high
- = Opportunity (funding) ● = low, ●● = medium, ●●● = high
- = Competence (staff/consultants) ■ = low, ■■ = medium, ■■■ = high

Project Title	Focus	Priority	Geo-scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
PAR Framework Initiative, Phase 3	Technology & innovation, access & success	★★★ ●●● ■■■	National	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	TBD	January 2014 and beyond	Sage Road Solutions

Project Title	Focus	Priority	Geo-scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Badges, Competency-Based Learning, and High-Value Alternative Credentials	Technology & innovation, access & success	★★ ●● ■	National	TBD	TBD	TBD	Mozilla Foundation, Blackboard

PAR Framework: Round 3. The PAR Framework team will continue to increase the number of participating schools by as many as 36; efforts in this round are aimed at moving the PAR Framework to a point of self-sufficiency.

Badges, Competency-Based Learning, and High-Value Alternative Credentials. WCET, its partners, and several member institutions will further explore this topic, following up on the fall 2013 MOOC and the 2012 “Who’s Got Class” initiative.

POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS

Work that staff is considering pursuing (and bringing to the commission for review or approval). In addition, at the end of this section, we list projects that staff previously considered pursuing but that staff now proposes to remove from the workplan.

Rethinking the Notion of “System.” WCET is partnering with NCHEMS to build on the notion of “unbundling” the academic activities that compose the “system” we identify as a college or university, an initiative that emerged from our previous partnership in creating the Technology Costing Methodology.

Identification and Dissemination of Best Practices in Conceptualizing and Sustaining High-Quality Distributed Education Programs in Colleges of Agricultural and Food Sciences. WCET is partnering with Texas Tech University and Ohio State University in seeking U.S. Department of Agriculture funding to ascertain, codify, and disseminate best practices in successful distributed education programs.

Previously considered projects that we propose to remove from the workplan:

Digital Learning Content. In June 2012 WCET convened a leadership summit on digital-learning content, an important issue in higher education, but one in which other organizations have a significant presence; WCET will invest its resources in other key issues.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Work that staff finished in FY 2013.

Transparency by Design. TbD helped adult learners become knowledgeable consumers of online higher education by developing a website that provided student-learning outcome information and tools, allowing users to compare this information across institutions.

Predictive Analytics Reporting Proof of Concept Project. The PAR proof of concept project demonstrated that analyses of millions of course records from six diverse institutions could provide valuable benchmarks for student success in online courses.