

# Western Academic Leadership Academy



*Photo by: Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado*

July 11-13, 2018  
Boulder, Colorado

## Final Program

Western  
Academic  
Leadership  
Forum



The Western Academic Leadership Academy's intensive, two-and-a-half day professional development seminar kicks off a year-long process of building the leadership skills and functional knowledge of academic leaders aspiring to become chief academic officers in the West's postsecondary four-year sector.

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The Western Academic Leadership Academy (the Academy) provides a strong foundation for understanding the broader context in which a chief academic officer and an institution operate, including the intersection with governing boards and external communities. The Academy offers a particular focus on the development of practical skills within academic affairs, fiscal affairs, student affairs, and external relationships.

The program for the Academy's summer seminar, filled with small group discussion, addresses the context of academic leadership, the development of academic goals and priorities, and specific skill sets that are required of chief academic officers. This summer event will be followed by opportunities for cohort members to meet with a faculty mentor as well as their cohort colleagues at national meetings or electronically throughout the year for individual consultation about career paths. The 2018 Academy will culminate in a session at the Western Academic Leadership Forum annual meeting next spring.

The Academy is sponsored by the Western Academic Leadership Forum (Forum), whose members are the chief academic leaders of the four-year institutions and associated system and state agencies in the 16-member state and U.S. Pacific Territories region of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

## Schedule

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Wednesday, July 11, 2018

8:30 - 9:00 am	<b>Introductions and Goals for the Day</b> Sona Andrews, Academy program and mentoring coordinator
9:00 - 10:30 am	<b>Role of the Provost: How It Differs from Other Academic Leadership Roles</b> <i>All-Faculty Discussion:</i> Renny Christopher, vice chancellor for academic affairs, Washington State University - Vancouver Sam Gingerich, interim chancellor, University of Alaska Anchorage Dan Howard, provost, New Mexico State University Laura Woodworth-Ney, executive vice president and provost, Idaho State University
10:30 - 10:45 am	<b>Break</b>
10:45 - 11:15 am	<b>Small Group Reflections: Finding and Filling Gaps in Your Preparation</b> Sona Andrews
11:15 am - 12:15 pm	<b>The Importance of Building Coalitions: Presidential and Cabinet Relations</b> Dan Howard; Laura Woodworth-Ney
12:15 - 1:15 pm	<b>Working Lunch</b>
1:15 - 2:30 pm	<b>Policy: Budget, Finance, and Funding Formulas</b> Stacy Pearson
2:30 - 3:15 pm	<b>Small Group Reflections: The Provost's Role in the Budget Process</b>
3:15 - 3:30 pm	<b>Break</b>

3:30 - 4:45 pm	<b>External Relations: Boards, Partners, Systems, and Legislature</b> Ben Boggs; Sam Gingerich; Scott Marshall
4:45 - 5:15 pm	<b>Small Group Reflections: Communications and Media Relations</b> Sona Andrews
5:15 - 5:30 pm	<b>Wrap-up and Adjourn</b> Sona Andrews
6:30 pm	<b>Group Dinner</b>

## Thursday, July 12, 2018

8:30 - 8:45 am	<b>Reflections and Goals for the Day</b> Sona Andrews
8:45 - 9:45 am	<b>Advancement and Foundation Boards</b> Keith Mahlum
9:45 - 10:15 am	<b>Small Group Reflections: Are You a Fundraiser? Could You Be? Does a Provost Need to Be?</b> Keith Mahlum
10:15 - 10:30 am	<b>Break</b>
10:30 - 11:30	<b>Understanding Governance and Unions in Successful Faculty Relations and Policy Development</b> Sona Andrews; Laura Woodworth-Ney
11:30 - Noon	<b>Small Group Reflections: Faculty Relations</b>
Noon - 1:00 pm	<b>Working Lunch</b>
1:00 - 2:15 pm	<b>The Provost and Student Success: Improving Student Outcomes Through Actionable Data</b> Renny Christopher; Sam Gingerich
2:15 - 3:15 pm	<b>Managing and/or Collaborating: Student Affairs, Institutional Research, Enrollment Management and Other</b> Dan Howard; Laura Woodworth-Ney
3:15 - 3:30 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:30 - 4:00 pm	<b>Personnel Case Studies Discussion</b> Sona Andrews
4:00 - 5:00 pm	<b>Unifying the Academic Vision: Strategic Planning</b> Sona Andrews; Sam Gingerich; Dan Howard
<b>Dinner on your own</b>	

## Friday, July 13, 2018

8:30 - 8:45 am	<b>Reflections and Goals for the Day</b> Sona Andrews
8:45 - 10:00 am	<b>Promoting Diversity and Inclusion</b> Renny Christopher; Carmen Suarez
10:00 - 10:15 am	<b>Break</b>

10:15 - 10:45 am

### Small Group Reflections: Sharing Perspectives on Diversity and Inclusion

Renny Christopher; Carmen Suarez

10:45 - 11:45 am

### Small Group Reflections: Your Pathway and Making Use of the Year to Come

Sona Andrews

11:45 - Noon

Adjourn. Box lunch to go.

## Academy Faculty

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**Sona Karentz Andrews** has over thirty-five years of experience as a higher education university faculty member and administrator. She has held many leadership positions, including vice chancellor of the Oregon University System and provost and vice president for academic affairs at two large universities. Andrews has held faculty positions at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Boise State University and Portland State University. She has served and continues to serve on local, state, regional and national task forces and boards. She earned her undergraduate degree in geography from Worcester State College (Massachusetts) and her master's and Ph.D. degrees in geography from Arizona State University.



**Renny Christopher** is vice chancellor of academic affairs at Washington State University Vancouver. She was previously associate provost at California State University Channel Islands. She holds a B.A. in English from Mills College, a master's in linguistics from San Jose State University, and a Ph.D. in literature from the University of California Santa Cruz. Before she earned her Ph.D., she worked as a printing press operator, typesetter, carpenter and horse wrangler. Her teaching and research interests focus on issues of race, class, and gender in U.S. literature and culture. She was a Fulbright Senior Scholar in Barcelona, Spain, in 2000.



**Samuel (Sam) Gingerich** is interim chancellor at University of Alaska Anchorage. He assumed this position last year from his position of provost and executive vice chancellor. Prior to this, he served as the system vice president for academic affairs for the South Dakota Board of Regents, as provost at Mississippi University for Women, as interim president and as provost at Mesa State College (Colorado Mesa University) and as a faculty member and administrator at Northern State University (SD). Gingerich holds three degrees in chemistry: a Ph.D. from Montana State University, an M.S. from Cornell University, and a B.A. from Goshen College (IN).



**Daniel Howard** has been New Mexico State University's executive vice president and provost since August of 2013. Howard started his career at NMSU as an assistant professor of biology in 1988. A distinguished member of the faculty, he earned recognition as a Regents Professor and served as head of the department of biology. Under his leadership, the biology department's home in Foster Hall was renovated and expanded, and the department secured the first Howard Hughes Medical Institute Improvement of Undergraduate Science Education grant at NMSU. Before becoming provost, Howard spent five years at the University of Colorado Denver as dean of the college of liberal arts and sciences.



**Laura Woodworth-Ney** was named Idaho State University's executive vice president and provost August 14, 2016. Previously, she served as the provost and vice president for academic affairs and as ISU's associate vice president for academic affairs for three years before that. Woodworth-Ney's former administrative appointments at ISU include chair of the department of history and co-director of women studies. She also served on the ISU faculty senate, both as a senator and as an elected member of the faculty senate executive committee. Woodworth-Ney, who has been at ISU since 1999, has authored more than 30 articles, book reviews, and scholarly essays, as well as three books (several co-authored). Woodworth-Ney earned a bachelor degree in English from the University of Idaho, and a Ph.D. in American history and public history from Washington State University.

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## Guest Speakers



**Bennett G. Boggs** is the higher education program principal at the National Conference of State Legislatures. His professional experiences include service as nonpartisan staff to the House and Senate Education Committees of the Kentucky General Assembly, senior associate for academic affairs at the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, and President's chief of staff at Berea College, a tuition-free liberal arts work college focused on Appalachian students with limited resources. Boggs received his B.A. from Wake Forest University (NC), an M.Ed. from The College of William & Mary in Virginia and Ph.D. in higher education policy from the University of Virginia.



**Keith Mahlum** has served as the vice president for development for the South Dakota State University Foundation since 2008. In 2013, the Foundation/SDSU successfully completed a comprehensive campaign totaling more than \$255 million. Mahlum previously served as Associate Athletic Director for the Jackrabbits. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in health, physical education and recreation/sports management from the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse in 1991. He earned his Master's Degree in health, physical education and recreation/athletic administration from SDSU in 1993.



**Scott Marshall** is the vice president of academic affairs for the Institute for Shipboard Education (ISE). He is responsible for setting and implementing the academic strategy for Semester at Sea and other ISE academic initiatives. Scott works in directly with the academic leadership of Colorado State University, which is ISE's academic partner. Previously, Scott served in a variety of administrative positions at Portland State University, most recently as Vice Provost for Academic and Fiscal Planning. Scott has a Ph.D. in international affairs, University of Oregon; a M.A. in international affairs, George Washington University; and a B.A. in economics, Willamette University.



**Stacy Pearson** (MPA, CPA) is Washington State University's vice president for finance and administration. She is responsible for the coordination of financial and administrative operations, business services, financial reporting, treasury, real estate, contracting, tax and regulatory compliance, facilities services and campus master planning, public safety, environmental health and safety and risk management. Prior to coming to WSU, Pearson served as Boise State University's vice president for finance and administration. Pearson holds a B.A. in business administration from the University of Idaho and a master of public administration from Boise State University.



**Carmen Suarez** is the vice president for global diversity and inclusion at Portland State University, beginning her tenure September 8, 2015. Prior to this position, she was the founding chief diversity officer of the University of Idaho. She leads various diversity education and learning offerings including bias prevention, sexual harassment prevention, cultural competence, responsiveness and literacy, student of color higher education access, understanding diversity, equity and inclusion, managing diversity, Latino and African American relations, gender communications, career development, hiring practices and faculty/staff professional development training programs. She has a B.A. and M.A. in history and a Ph.D. in higher education administration.

## 2018 Cohort

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**Shannon Campbell** serves as director of graduate studies at Metropolitan State University of Denver. She develops centralized policies and procedures, leads the graduate council and represents graduate studies at a university level. She has been a professor of strategic communication for 21 years and served as chair of the journalism and strategic communication departments at High Point University in High Point, North Carolina, and director of graduate studies for the School of Communication at the University of Miami. Campbell received her B.S. in communication management from Missouri State University, M.A. in organizational communication from Southern Illinois University and Ph.D. in strategic communication from The University of Texas-Austin.



**Ginger Carney** has served as dean of the University of Idaho College of Science since August 2017, leading the college's implementation of the university strategic plan. Previously, she served in administrative roles at Texas A&M University College of Science, including serving as associate dean for undergraduate research, assessment and college climate. She was an NSF ADVANCE Administrative Fellow at Texas A&M where she was a faculty member for 13 years. Her research focuses on the neural genetic and physiological mechanisms that shape animal behavior. Carney received her B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in genetics from the University of Georgia.



**Ali Carr-Chellman** serves as the dean, College of Education, Health and Human Sciences at the University of Idaho. Following her research interests, she focuses on innovation, systemic change, e-learning, and negentropic faculty behaviors across the broad portfolio of the college and the university. Previously, she spent 23 years at Penn State University's department of learning and performance systems as assistant, associate and full professor of learning design and technology as well as program chair (eight years) and department head (six years). She received her B. S. in elementary education, M.S. in instructional design, development and evaluation from Syracuse University, and her Ph.D. in instructional systems technology from Indiana University, Bloomington.





**Joshua Hagen** has served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota, since 2016. Prior to that, he was department chair and professor of geography at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, for 13 years. Hagen earned his B.A. in geography and political science from the University of Northern Iowa and M.S. and Ph.D. in geography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



**David Hassenzahl** has been dean of the College of Natural Sciences at the California State University, Chico since 2014. Previously, Hassenzahl served as founding dean of the Falk School of Sustainability at Chatham University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and chair of the department of Environmental Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is co-founder and president of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences. Hassenzahl holds an undergraduate degree in environmental science and paleontology from the University of California at Berkeley and a Ph.D. in science, technology and environmental policy from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.



**Jeff Holm** currently serves in the office of academic affairs and the president's office at the University of North Dakota where he is responsible for online education, strategic academic planning, and special projects. Previously, he served as chairperson and director of clinical training for the department of psychology and as senior research scientist for the Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Research at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Holm received his B.A. in psychology from Hope College, Holland, Michigan, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Ohio University.



**Ranjit Koodali** is dean of the graduate school at the University of South Dakota (USD). He has administrative oversight of over 70 graduate programs and works in close collaboration with several units to drive innovation in graduate education. He served previously as graduate program director in chemistry at USD. He is a co-director of a National Science Foundation Research Traineeship grant that aims to provide a new paradigm and scalable model for graduate education. Koodali received his B.Sc. chemistry degree from Loyola College in Chennai India, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in chemistry from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai.



**Michael Kruger** has served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for the University of South Dakota since 2017. Previously, he served for four years as associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, nine years as chair of physics and astronomy, and two years as interim chair of geosciences at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he had been a physics professor for 24 years. Kruger received his B.S. in physics from Stony Brook University, and M.S. and Ph.D. in physics from the University of California, Berkeley.



**Marvin Lynn** has served as dean of the Graduate School of Education at Portland State University since June of 2017, where he oversees four departments and several centers including two university-wide childcare centers. He has served as dean of the School of Education at Indiana University South Bend, associate dean at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and as a faculty member and program coordinator at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Maryland-College Park. A recognized scholar on race and education, Lynn earned his Ph.D. in social sciences and education from the University of California at Los Angeles, a master of arts in curriculum and teaching from Teachers College-Columbia University and a bachelor's of science degree in elementary education from DePaul University in Chicago.



**Karen Marrongelle** has served as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Portland State University since 2014. She oversees 22 departments and programs and more than 2,000 employees. Under her leadership, the college has increased its research funding while raising the profile of student and faculty-led research and innovation. Previously, Marrongelle served as vice chancellor for academic strategies in the Oregon University System. She is a professor of mathematics and statistics, holding a B.S. in mathematics and philosophy from Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania, an M.S. in mathematics from Lehigh University, and a Ph.D. in mathematics education from the University of New Hampshire.



**Kevin Moore** has been dean of the College of Engineering and Computational Sciences at the Colorado School of Mines since 2011, where he has been a professor of electrical engineering since 2005. He oversees six academic departments with programs in civil, environmental, electrical, general, humanitarian, and mechanical engineering and programs in computer science and applied mathematics and statistics. Previously, Moore served at Idaho State (1989-1998) and Utah State (1998-2004). He received B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering from Louisiana State University and the University of Southern California, respectively. He received a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University.



**Karen Moranski** serves as the associate vice president for academic programs and interim graduate dean at Sonoma State University in northern California. Moranski leads academic planning and review, serves as WSCUC accreditation liaison officer, and supervises admissions and outreach, graduate studies, graduation initiatives, and institutional assessment. She served as faculty member and administrator at the University of Illinois at Springfield for 21 years, leading development of two interdisciplinary general education curricula and creating the office of undergraduate education. Moranski received her B.A. in English and history from Tulane University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in medieval literature from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.



**Lakshmi Reddi** assumed the role of dean of the New Mexico State University College of Engineering in July 2016. He oversees six academic engineering departments. Previously, he served as graduate school dean of Florida International University. Prior to joining FIU, he provided leadership at Kansas State University and University of Central Florida. Reddi has written, co-written and edited eight books and over 120 technical articles and secured extramural funding of about \$15 million. He received a bachelor's degree in technology in civil engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University in India; and an M.S. and Ph.D. in civil engineering, both from The Ohio State University.



**Tony Roark** will assume the role of interim provost in June 2018 after serving six years as dean of the college of arts and sciences. He joined Boise State in 2000 and previously held a visiting faculty position at Ohio State University. In addition to the deanship, Roark has served in a number of leadership positions at Boise State, including department chair and associate dean. He received his B.A. in English and philosophy from the University of Idaho and his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Washington.



**Tammi Vacha-Haase** currently serves as the dean of the graduate college at Boise State University where she provides oversight for graduate education in 72 master's and 11 doctoral programs across six colleges. Vacha-Haase previously served as the associate dean of the graduate school at Colorado State University. A tenured, full professor in the department of psychology, she joined the CSU faculty in 1998. Vacha-Haase received her B.S. in psychology and M.C. in counseling psychology from Arizona State University. She completed her Ph.D. in counseling psychology at Texas A&M University.



**Carrie Vath** became associate vice chancellor of enrollment management/dean of student success at Montana Tech in July 2017. She supervises student affairs and chairs the general education review committee, revised the academic misconduct policy, and serves as the campus lead for Complete College America initiatives. She previously held the director of student success position at Montana Tech from 2014-2017. Vath received her B.S. in zoology with a minor in anthropology from Humboldt State University, an M.S. in interdisciplinary ecology with a concentration in anthropology, and Ph.D. in interdisciplinary ecology with a concentration in zoology and certificates in environmental education and communication and tropical conservation and development from the University of Florida.

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## About the Western Academic Leadership Forum

The **Western Academic Leadership Forum** (Forum), founded by 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. Through the Forum, colleagues share the lessons they've learned from tackling challenges, and provide advice and assistance to one another based on their special expertise. They engage in planning and developing innovative regional initiatives addressing common concerns and together help build a stronger future for higher education in the West. The official representatives of the Forum's members are the chief academic leaders at the four-year institutions and their related system and state agencies in the WICHE region.

[www.wiche.edu/Forum](http://www.wiche.edu/Forum).



## About the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

The **Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education** works collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for all citizens of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions, WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to the region's social, economic, and civic life. WICHE's 16 members include 15 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, as well as the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (the first of the U.S. Pacific territories and freely associated states to participate). [www.wiche.edu](http://www.wiche.edu).



Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education  
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