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The bimonthly newsletter from WICHE serving Western states, students, and institutions for 65 years

New WUE, WRGP Savings Finder portals help students find the tuition-discounted school for them

Just in time for Fall college application season, WICHE has upgraded its search portals for two tuition-discount programs, the [Western Undergraduate Exchange \(WUE\)](#) and the [Western Regional Graduate Exchange \(WRGP\)](#). These Savings Finders' newly streamlined, database-driven interface allows students to refine their search by major, degree type, online course availability, eligibility requirements and other filter criteria. The Finders' new back-end interface also enhances the ability of admissions, recruitment, and enrollment managers at WICHE partner institutions to inform, promote, and reach students about their institution.

The [WUE Savings Finder](#) helps prospective undergraduates find hundreds of eligible degree programs at 161 public colleges and universities in the West. The [WRGP Savings Finder](#) allows prospective students to search graduate certificate, master's and doctoral programs offered at the resident-tuition rate by some 60 public universities in the West.

The screenshot shows the WICHE Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education logo at the top left and a home icon at the top right. The main heading reads "Welcome to Your College Savings Finder." Below this, a search prompt states: "Search among hundreds of undergraduate degrees offered at the WUE rate of 150% of resident tuition (or less) by 160+ public colleges and universities across the West. Find the school and program that fits your geographic and educational goals." A link says "Start here to save an average of \$9,000 a year!". A search bar contains the text "Search by school, major, city, or state" with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar is a button that says "See all WUE schools and eligible majors →". At the bottom, a paragraph explains: "The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) enables students in 16 Western states and territories to enroll at participating public colleges and universities outside of their home state and pay reduced tuition. WUE is a program of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, a regional higher education agency that supports states, students, and institutions throughout and beyond the American West." The footer contains the copyright notice "© WICHE 2018".

Legislative Advisory Committee spotlights key state higher-ed issues

"Serving Students and State Goals: The Shared Mission of State Legislatures and Higher Education" was the theme of the annual meeting of [WICHE's Legislative Advisory Committee \(LAC\)](#), Sept. 25-26 in Boise, Idaho. State lawmakers from Alaska, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Washington, and

Wyoming explored topics including the alignment of tuition, appropriations, and financial aid; the role of sub-baccalaureate credentials in meeting workforce needs; rural teacher shortages; and likely state-level impact of recent shifts in federal policy. [View the agenda and presentations.](#)

WICHE Behavioral Health Program: Same mission, new name

The executive committee of the WICHE Commission has approved renaming [WICHE's Mental Health Program](#) to the Behavioral Health Program to better reflect its programmatic scope and the field's evolving nomenclature. Though WICHE's website continues to reflect the original Mental Health name, the new name is being phased in this Fall in program correspondence and literature, and will be ultimately reflected on WICHE's overhauled website to launch later this year.

Behavioral health encompasses focus on mental health and substance use/addiction as well as, increasingly, its interface and integration with primary health care. The name change will augment the WICHE Behavioral Health Program's work in technical assistance, education, consulting, program evaluation, training, and research services for diverse government and institutional stakeholders, as it expands the capacity and capabilities of behavioral health care throughout the West.

Innovations by WOW winners transform college experience

A highlight of WCET's [30th Annual Meeting](#) Oct. 23-25 in Portland, Ore. will be the honoring of this year's [WCET Outstanding Work \(WOW\) Award](#) recipients, recognizing institutions that develop exceptionally creative, technology-based solutions to contemporary challenges in higher education. This year's WOW Award winners are:



- [Colorado State University](#) and [Grit Digital Health](#), for a web portal, [YOU@CSU](#), that promotes self-awareness, mental health literacy, coping strategies, and access to physical and behavioral health resources on campus
- [Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Worldwide](#), for a new infrastructure of student support—from virtual labs to personalized degree maps to career advising—aimed at increasing retention and persistence among distance learners.
- [University of Montana](#), for a statewide program that aims to reduce college remediation rates by offering low-cost, personalized math instruction online for middle- and high school students, adult learners, and teachers.

- [Open SUNY](#), for a quality review process that helps instructional designers and faculty throughout the [State University of New York](#) system improve online course offerings.
- [Colorado Technical University](#), for a mobile app that allows faculty to stay connected with their students, monitor coursework, and make the most of their time while on the go.

WICHE, UND win \$3.8 million federal award to co-lead Mental Health Tech Transfer Center

An \$3.8 million, five-year grant in August by the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) will help Mountain Plains front-line providers be better prepared to help individuals affected by serious mental illness.

[WICHE's Behavioral Health Program](#), along with the [University of North Dakota College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines](#), will co-administer the new [Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center](#), which will focus on expanding access to training and technical assistance for the public behavioral health workforce, encompassing pre-professional, postgraduate, and continuing preparation. The Mountain Plains region comprises Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Utah.

New MHEC partnership can help insure WICHE-region institutions against cyber crime, data breaches

Public (and private nonprofit) higher education institutions and systems in the WICHE region can now obtain cyber insurance coverage through a collaboration with the [Midwestern Higher Education Compact \(MHEC\)](#). The [MHEC Cyber Insurance Program](#), in conjunction with [Marsh USA Inc.](#), offers institutions access to services including analysis of threat environment, the significance of vulnerabilities in security controls, and potential financial exposure. It can also help institutions benchmark how much cyber coverage similar institutions and systems are buying.

MHEC aims to build a critical mass of program participants to develop a shared risk pool with costs lower than those available to individual institutions. Interested parties

may contact [Frank Cella](#), managing director at Marsh, at 312-627-6082. WICHE also collaborates with MHEC to offer property insurance coverage ([Master Property Program](#)), discounted technology purchases ([MHECtech](#)), and student health insurance ([MHECare](#)). Contact [Jere Mock](#), WICHE's vice president of programs and services, at 303-541-0222 to learn more.



state's equity gaps from the perspective of rural, Latino, and Native American communities.

As part of an intensive, two-year process supported by [Lumina Foundation](#), WICHE is working with a broad array of stakeholders in Arizona, Utah and Wyoming to develop state-specific action plans to close attainment gaps and ultimately to craft regional recommendations for increasing higher education success among underserved students throughout the West.

On the road: Selected recent and upcoming WICHE-led presentations

- [Interstate Passport](#) staff at the [National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators](#) annual conference, Oct. 15-18 in Orlando and the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges](#), Dec. 8-11 in New Orleans
- Policy Analysis and Research staff on the [Knocking at the College Door](#) report at the annual convening of private K-12 schools by the [Enrollment Management Association](#), Sept. 14 in San Diego; and on [closing postsecondary achievement gaps](#), at the [Flinn-Brown 2018 convention](#), Sept. 22 in Phoenix
- Pat Shea, director of academic leadership initiatives, and Sue Schmidt, former project coordinator of the WICHE-led North American Network of Science Labs Online (NANSLO), in a Sept. 12 webinar, [Promising Practices and Design Principles in Delivery for Distance CTE](#), sponsored by the APEC Digital Workforce Development Project

Interstate Passport convenes campus academic advisors for train-the-trainer workshop



Academic advisors serving students at [Interstate Passport](#) Network member and prospective member institutions gathered for a [two-day September workshop](#) in Boulder to learn more about this friction-free way to transfer lower-division general education credits across state lines, and how to train other advisors on their campuses. More than 23,600 students at 14 Network institutions have become eligible for Passports over two years. The newest member of the Passport Network is [College of the Siskiyous](#) in northern California.

Ariz. effort to close attainment gaps begins with stakeholder outreach

A series of roundtable discussions were held across Arizona in September to kick off the state's participation on the [WICHE Task Force on Closing Postsecondary Attainment Gaps](#). Sessions in Yuma, Tucson, and Phoenix were designed to gain a better understanding of the

You heard it from WICHE

"Information comes so fast, and having a center that can sort through information and get that information out to service providers to advance their use of what we know is the best science—that makes the whole system better."

— [Thomasine Heitkamp](#), professor of graduate nursing at the University of North Dakota and co-director, with WICHE's [Dennis Mohatt](#), of the new [Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center](#)



With WICHE's help, South Dakota officials take a deep dive into the state's mental health system

South Dakota legislators convened this summer for a study session on the status and performance of the state's mental health system. In partnership with [WICHE's Behavioral Health Program](#) and the state's Department of Social Services, legislators reviewed the availability, capacity, and funding of mental health services in South Dakota, along with options for developing cost-effective treatment programs. WICHE staff will issue a report and recommendations based on session observations and findings by the end of 2018.

Save the date!

- Oct. 16, WCET webcast: "[The Cheating Economy and Integrity](#)"
- Oct. 23-25, [WCET 30th Annual Meeting](#), Portland, Ore.
- Oct. 28-31, [National Dialogues on Behavioral Health](#) annual conference, New Orleans
- Oct. 31, WCET webcast "[Web Accessibility: Trick or Treat?](#)"
- Nov. 8-9, [WICHE Fall Commission Meeting](#), Broomfield, Colo.
- Nov. 8, WICHE Behavioral Health Oversight Council Annual Meeting, Broomfield

Raise a toast to NCHEMS!

A Sept. 7 celebration at the State Higher Education Policy Center in Boulder marked the 50th anniversary of WICHE's first-floor neighbor, [the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems \(NCHEMS\)](#). WICHE played a leading role in the creation of NCHEMS, which is dedicated to improving strategic decision-making in higher education in the U.S. and abroad. The party was an occasion to salute Clara Roberts, who recently retired after a 49-year career at NCHEMS, where she served as director of administration and corporate secretary. [See event photo gallery.](#)



Clara Roberts and Sally Johnstone



David Longnecker, Ken Mortimer and Earl Hale