

Since 1953 Utah has partnered with and benefited from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) through regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation.

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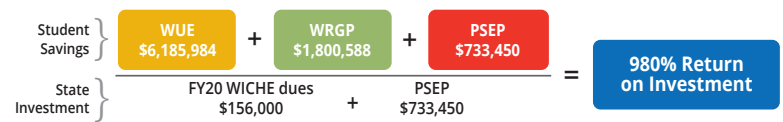
Michael McKell
Representative,
Utah State Legislature



Ann Millner
Senator,
Utah State Legislature

WICHE ...

Provides strong return on investment



- 1,038 Utah residents saved \$8 million in 2019-20 through the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) and the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP). These WICHE programs provide significant student savings on nonresident tuition at 170+ Western U.S. public colleges and universities.
- In 2019-20 WICHE Student Access Programs provided Utah a 980 percent return on investment, relative to the state's annual WICHE dues.
- Utah students and their families have saved \$93 million since the state began participating in WUE.
- The Master Property Program (MPP) helps institutions reduce their insurance premiums and improve their coverage. The MPP includes more than 170 campuses with total insured values of over \$100 billion.

Helps Utah attract students from other states

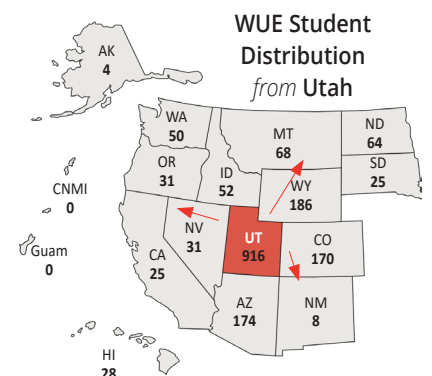
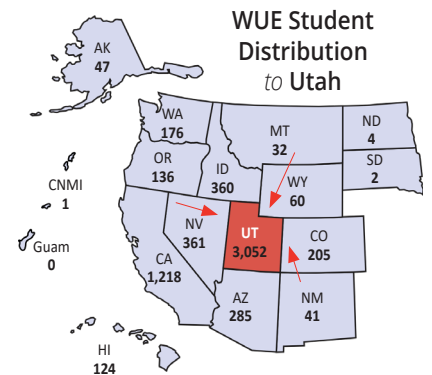
- WUE and WRGP incentivized 3,211 students this year to invest their tuition dollars in Utah.

Bolsters Utah's health workforce

- Through the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), students from Utah can enroll in participating programs in another state while receiving substantial tuition support. Currently, Utah supports students in optometry and podiatry.
- With support from the Utah Medical Education Council, WICHE's Behavioral Health Program (BHP) is working with partner agencies to develop a broad and culturally relevant training program to support the preparation and retention of doctoral-level psychologists in Utah. The BHP is facilitating development, helping ensure the program meets American Psychological Association accreditation standards, and assisting with the accreditation process.
- 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.

Helps Utah allocate resources efficiently with data and policy analysis

- WICHE offers various data and policy resources to support better-informed decision-making. WICHE's research projects and collaborations cover postsecondary completion, closing attainment gaps, adult learners, and multistate data-sharing to support educational planning and workforce development. WICHE staff serve as expert resources and provide technical assistance on finance, financial aid, articulation and transfer, strategic planning, student demographics, and more. WICHE's website features [Benchmarks](#), an interactive dashboard featuring the most recent data available on the West's progress in improving access to, success in, and the financing of higher education, as well as other useful resources.

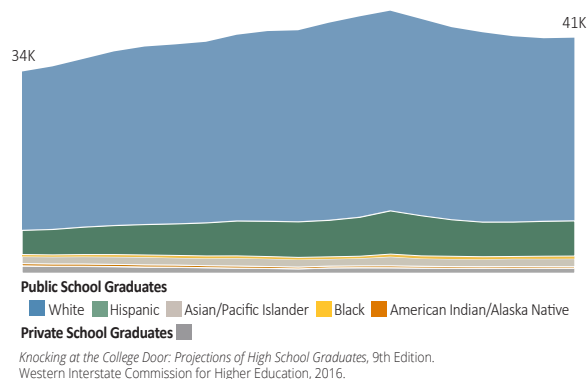


- WICHE's quadrennial *Knocking at the College Door* report is the foremost US resource for projections of college-ready students. There is an abundance of information on knocking.wiche.edu, including the publication and other reports, projections data, interactive data dashboards, recorded webinars and presentations, and Utah's state profile.

Fosters idea sharing

- WICHE's **Legislative Advisory Committee** provides valuable insights on trends and promising practices to Utah's legislative leaders as they build partnerships with leaders in other Western states.
- Four Utah institutions are members of the **Western Academic Leadership Forum (the Forum)**, a consortium of academic officers at bachelor's, master's, and doctoral institutions and chief executives and chief academic officers for systems and state governing boards. Utah members include *Dixie State University*, *University of Utah*, *Utah System of Higher Education*, and *Utah Valley University*. Greg Benson, Utah System of Higher Education, serves on the Forum executive committee. Academic leaders at community colleges (cc) and technical schools and at systems and state governing and coordinating boards associated with two-year institutions are members of the **Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (the Alliance)**. The Utah member of the Alliance is *Salt Lake Community College*. Clifton Sanders, Salt Lake Community College, serves on the executive committee of the Alliance. Both the Forum and the Alliance exchange ideas and information, share resources and expertise, and collaborate on regional initiatives.
- *Independence University*, *Salt Lake Community College*, *University of Utah*, *Utah Education Network*, *Utah State University*, *Utah System of Higher Education*, and *Western Governors University* are all members of **WCET (WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies)**, the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education. WCET's growing membership includes almost 400 institutions, higher education agencies and systems, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in all US states and several Canadian provinces. Through its *Frontiers* blog, convenings, and active online discussions, WCET keeps members informed of the latest in policy change, regulations, and trends in educational technology. And WCET offers a host of resources related to educational technology and faculty support, including advice and guidance for institutions on how to transition their face-to-face offerings to emergency online alternatives and how to increase quality in these courses over time.
- The **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)** is a voluntary, state-led initiative designed to establish comparable standards for US states and territories regulating postsecondary distance education. SARA expands access to postsecondary educational opportunities, while ensuring meaningful consumer protections for students and reducing regulatory red-tape for institutions. WICHE is responsible for coordinating the membership of SARA states in the West through the **WICHE State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (W-SARA)**.
- The **State Authorization Network (SAN)** provides institutional support in managing regulations related to online courses and programs. Utah's members are: *Brigham Young U.-Utah*, *Broadview U.*, *Dixie State U.*, *Eagle Gate College*, *LDS Business College*, *Midwives College of Utah*, *Newmont U.*, *Rocky Mountain U. of Health Professions*, *Salt Lake CC*, *Snow College*, *Southern Utah U.*, *Stevens-Henager College*, *U. of Utah*, *Utah SARA Private institutions*, *Utah State U.*, *Utah System of Higher Education*, *Utah Valley U.*, *Weber State U.*, *Western Governors U.*, and *Westminster College*.
- At the outset of the recent outbreak of **COVID-19**, WICHE quickly reacted, shifted to remote work, and continues to advance our mission. WICHE is facilitating peer-to-peer videoconferences for higher education leaders to connect and identify solutions to common challenges; following legislation passed in response to the crisis; and identifying how emergency funding for students and higher education institutions, as well as block grants to states, can be best used to support education in the West. The Behavioral Health Program is hosting webinars that offer guidance to support the mental wellbeing of their students, and WCET is providing updates and resources to help institutions address issues that arise due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Utah Projected High School Graduates, 2013-14 to 2031-32, Public by Race/Ethnicity, and Private



About WICHE and the WICHE Commission

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.