

Washington

Working for the West

Since 1955 Washington has partnered with and benefited from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) through regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation.

Commissioners



Don Bennett
Deputy Director,
Washington
Student
Achievement
Council



Gerry Pollet
Representative,
Washington State
Legislature



**Thomas L. (Les)
Purce**
President Emeritus,
The Evergreen
State College



Gerry Pollet
Representative,
Washington State
Legislature



Vacancy



WICHE ...

Provides strong return on investment

- 4,823 Washington residents saved \$58.2 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 Washington a 32,277 percent return on investment, relative to the state's annual WICHE dues.
- Washington students and their families have saved \$550.8 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 Washington attract students from other states

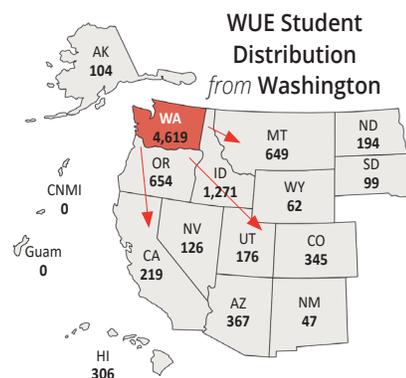
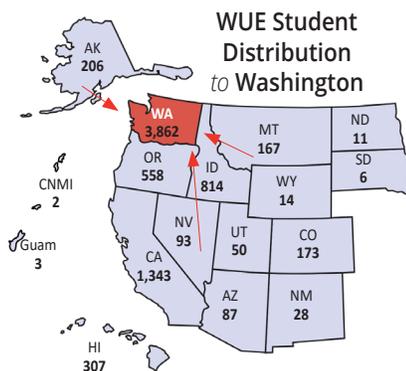
- WUE and WRGP incentivized 3,954 students this year to invest their tuition dollars in Washington.

Bolsters Washington's health workforce

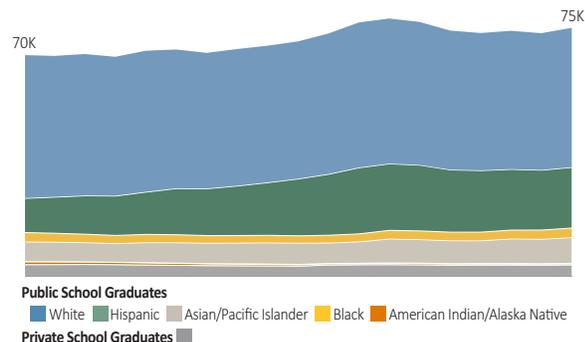
- WICHE's Behavioral Health Program provided consultation and technical assistance on evidence-based and/or best practices for the Washington Student Achievement Council grant program on suicide prevention for postsecondary students.

Helps Washington 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 Washington's state profile.



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



Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates, 9th Edition. Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 2016.

Fosters idea sharing

- WICHE's **Legislative Advisory Committee** provides valuable insights on trends and promising practices to Washington's legislative leaders as they build partnerships with leaders in other Western states.
- Four Washington 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. Washington members include *Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, The Evergreen State College*, and *Washington State University*. Renny Christopher, Washington State University Vancouver, 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 nine Washington members of the Alliance are *Centralia College, Clover Park Technical College, Columbia Basin College, Edmonds CC, Lake Washington Institute of Technology, North Seattle College, Pierce College District, Spokane Falls CC*, and *Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges*. Carli Schiffrer, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, 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.
- *Bellevue College, Central Washington University, Community Colleges of Spokane, Eastern Washington University, Pierce College, Seattle Pacific University, Walla Walla Community College, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges*, and *Washington State 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. Washington's members are: *Big Bend CC, Community Colleges of Spokane, Eastern Washington University, Green River College, Heritage University, Lower Columbia College, Pierce College, Shoreline CC, Tacoma CC, Walla Walla CC*, and *Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges*.
- 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.



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.