



# Future-Facing Policy: Considerations for a New Era in Higher Education

Legislative Advisory Committee Annual Meeting  
Courtyard Portland City Center • Portland, Oregon • September 12-13, 2019

## Agenda

Thursday, September 12

**7.45 – 8.30 am**

*Irvington & Sellwood*

**8.30 – 9.15 am**

*Park Ballroom*

**9.15 – 10:15 am**

*Park Ballroom*

**10.15 – 10.30 am**

**10.30 – 11.30 am**

*Park Ballroom*

### **Networking Breakfast (Full Breakfast)**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

**Facilitator:**

Demarée Michelau, President, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

### **Reflecting Back to Look Ahead**

The LAC was founded 24 years ago, meaning many who were born the year of the first LAC meeting have now completed their postsecondary education and entered the workforce. What did we get right over the past two decades of postsecondary policy? What do we need to do differently moving forward? LAC members will share what they view as their state's greatest accomplishments in higher education policymaking – and what they must address to be successful in the future.

**Facilitator:**

Christina Sedney, Director of Policy Initiatives and State Authorization, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

### **Break**

### **Using Data to Shape Policy: Now and in the Future**

To create policy for the future we must understand how it is working today. How are states using data to track the effectiveness of their policies and to guide the development new ones? What might this look like moving forward? This session will provide an overview of the data capacity Western states currently have and examples of how states are using their data to develop and refine policy, followed by a discussion of how legislators can leverage data to shape policy.

**Moderator:**

Demarée Michelau, President, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

**Speakers:**

Christine Thompson, President & CEO, *Expect More Arizona*  
Dustin Weeden, Senior Policy Analyst, *State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO)*

**11.30 am – 12.00 pm**  
*Park Ballroom*

**Facilitated Discussion – Using Data to Shape Policy: Now and in the Future**

**Facilitator:**

Demarée Michelau, President, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

**12.00 – 1.00 pm**  
*Irvington & Sellwood*

**Lunch**

Networking Lunch

**1.00 – 2.00 pm**  
*Park Ballroom*

**Crafting Sustainable Higher Education Infrastructure**

Investment in infrastructure is not a new topic, but it is a critical one for shaping what higher education will look like and how it will function in the years to come. This conversation will explore models of capital funding that take into account not just buildings and maintenance, but also key 21<sup>st</sup> century considerations such as technology.

**Moderator:**

Christina Sedney, Director of Policy Initiatives and State Authorization, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

**Speakers:**

Ben Cannon, *Executive Director, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission\**  
Representative Mark Sanford, *North Dakota*  
Van Davis, Policy and Planning Consultant, WCET, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

**2.00 – 2.30 pm**  
*Park Ballroom*

**Facilitated Discussion – Crafting Sustainable Higher Education Infrastructure**

**Facilitator:**

Christina Sedney, Director of Policy Initiatives and State Authorization, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

**2.30 – 2.45 pm**

**Break**

**2.45 – 3.45 pm**  
*Park Ballroom*

**Mission Differentiation vs. Mission Creep Revisited**

In 2008 WICHE released “Mission Differentiation vs. Mission Creep” a policy brief detailing the importance of mission differentiation in higher education in order to efficiently meet state goals. Eleven years later the issue remains a critical one, as more and more Western states expand the scope of their institutions’ offerings – from

community colleges offering bachelor's degrees to regional universities expanding their research capacity and graduate education programs. This session will explore considerations for legislators as they think about the increasingly blurred lines between higher education sectors and both the opportunities and challenges this presents for the future.

**Moderator:**

Demarée Michelau, President, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

**Speakers:**

Randall Brumfield, Chief Academic Officer, *Idaho State Board of Education*

David Lassner, President, *University of Hawai'i \**

Senator Ann Millner, *Utah*

**3.45 – 4.30 pm**

*Park Ballroom*

**Facilitated Discussion – Mission Differentiation vs. Mission Creep Revisited**

**Facilitator:**

Demarée Michelau, President, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

**5.45 pm**

*Lobby*

**Dinner for LAC Members & Invited Guests**

Join LAC colleagues in the lobby of the hotel at 5:45 pm, and the group will together make the short walk to the Portland City Grill (111 SW 5th Avenue, 30th Floor) for a 6:00 pm dinner hosted by WICHE.

Friday, September 13

7.30 – 8.15 am  
*Irvington & Sellwood*

**Networking Breakfast (Full Breakfast)**

8.15 – 9.00 am  
*Park Ballroom*

**WICHE’s Role in the Future of the West**

How is WICHE thinking about its role in shaping the future of higher education in the West? WICHE leadership will share their vision for how each of WICHE’s units will contribute to a thriving postsecondary education ecosystem in the West.

**Moderator:**

Demarée Michelau, President, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

**Speakers:**

Patrick Lane, Vice President, Policy Analysis & Research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Jere Mock, Vice President, Programs and Services, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Van Davis, Policy and Planning Consultant, WCET, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Liza Tupa, Director of Education and Research, Behavioral Health Program, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

9.00 – 9.45 am  
*Park Ballroom*

**Serving Students in a New Era**

It is clear from demographic trends that our state’s higher education institutions must adapt to better serve a new generation of students – one more likely to be working, to be attending part-time, and to shift into and out of postsecondary education depending on their life circumstances. This group faces significant barriers to completion related to affordability and food and housing insecurity. How can legislators think about adapting our systems to serve this new—and growing—group of students through better data and better policies?

**Moderator:**

Cam Preus, Executive Director, *Oregon Community College Association\**

**Speaker:**

Mark Mitsui, President, *Portland Community College*

9:45 – 10:15 am  
*Park Ballroom*

**Facilitated Discussion – Serving Students in a New Era**

**Facilitator:**

Cam Preus, Executive Director, *Oregon Community College Association\**

10.15 – 10.30 am

**Break**

10.30 – 11.30 am  
*Park Ballroom*

**Better Together: Effective Partnerships Between Legislators & Higher Education Leaders**

Each state in the West has a unique relationship between its legislators and its higher education leaders, shaped by many factors ranging from varied postsecondary governance structures to differing demographics and economies. Yet no matter the state, building long-term relationships between the higher education sector and the legislature is a critical component in crafting effective, student-centered policies for the future. This session will examine how these relationships work—and how they can be strengthened—in different state contexts.

**Moderators:**

Bennett Boggs, Chief of Staff, *Colorado Department of Higher Education*  
Demarée Michelau, President, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

11.30 am – 12.00 pm  
*Park Ballroom*

**Final Reflections**

After the preceding discussions of infrastructure investments, evolving student needs, data, and mission differentiation this session will give participants an opportunity to think through the implications for their home states. LAC members will review key takeaways from the discussions, present ideas to each other, raise questions, and share insights about issues they plan to address in the 2020 legislative sessions and beyond.

**Facilitator:**

Demarée Michelau, President, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*