



Western Academic Leadership Academy



Photo by: Jeff Finkelstein

July 27-29, 2022

Preliminary Program

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 two-year and four-year sectors.

Western Academic Leadership Academy

July 27-29, 2022 - Boulder, Colorado

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 is 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. Academy participants are invited to attend special sessions at the annual meetings of the Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (Alliance) and Western Academic Leadership Forum (Forum) the following year.

The Academy is sponsored by the Alliance and Forum, whose members are the chief academic leaders of the two-year and 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).

Application Process

Participants must hold a position of assistant dean, assistant vice provost, or higher, at an Alliance- or Forum-member institution or organization and be nominated by their chief academic officer. Nomination of candidates who reflect the growing diversity of the region are encouraged.

Space is limited; 25 participants will be accepted into the program for 2022.

A letter of nomination, along with a letter of interest from the candidate and a current CV, should be sent by email to Kay Hulstrom, Associate Director of Academic Leadership Initiatives at WICHE: khulstrom@wiche.edu.

Application Due Date: April 7, 2022

Selection by the members of the 2022 Academy Faculty will be completed by the end of April 2022.

Fees, Dates, and Location

Dates: July 27-29, 2022

Location: SHEPC Learning Center, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
3035 Center Green Drive • Boulder, CO 80301-2204

Cost: The program fee is \$2,500 per attendee inclusive of all organized meals. Participants must make their own travel and hotel arrangements. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at the Residence Inn Boulder across the street from WICHE at 3030 Center Green Drive. Details about how to make room reservations at the discounted WICHE rate of \$209 per night will be included in the letter of acceptance.

Schedule

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

5:00 - 6:00 pm **Informal Meet and Greet at Residence Inn or WICHE**

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

8:30 - 9:00 am **Introductions and Goals for the Day**

Laura Woodworth-Ney, Academy program and mentoring coordinator
Raymonda Burgman, vice president of programs and services, WICHE

9:00 -10:30 am **Provost Uncovered: Thriving on Day 1 and Beyond**

All-Faculty Discussion:

Renny Christopher, vice chancellor for academic affairs, Washington State University – Vancouver

Veronica Dujon, director of academic planning and authorization, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Susan Jeffords, provost and vice president for academic affairs, Portland State University

Landon Pirius, vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, Colorado Community College System

Vicki Shields, provost, Nevada State College

10:30 - 10:45 am

Break

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

Promoting Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Higher Education Today

Renny Christopher; Veronica Dujon; Kirsty Fleming, executive vice president and provost, Northern Colorado University

12:00 – 12:45 pm

Small Group Reflection: Finding and Filling Gaps in Your Preparation

Laura Woodworth-Ney

12:45 – 2:00 pm

Working Lunch

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Managing Personnel and Legal Issues in the COVID Environment and Beyond

Renny Christopher; Jean Bannon, attorney, German • Burnette & Associates

3:00 – 3:45 pm

Small Group Reflection and Case Studies

3:45 – 4:00 pm

Break

4:00 – 4:45 pm

Leadership and Building Great Teams

Landon Pirius; Vickie Shields

4:45 – 5:00 pm

Wrap-up and Adjourn

Laura Woodworth-Ney

6:30 pm

Group Dinner

Thursday, July 28, 2022

8:30 – 8:45 am	Reflections and Goals for the Day Laura Woodworth-Ney
8:45 - 9:45 am	Strategic Decision-Making in the COVID environment Susan Jeffords; Ame Lambert (PSU); Ray Burgman
9:45 - 10:30 am	Small Group Reflection and Case Studies
10:30 - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 – 11:45 am	Understanding Governance and Unions in Successful Faculty Relations and Policy Development All Faculty
11:45 am – 12:30 pm	Small Group Reflection and Case Studies
12:30 - 1:45 pm	Working Lunch
1:45 – 3:00 pm	The Provost and Student Success: Enrollment Management and Collaborating with Student Affairs in the COVID environment All Faculty
3:00 – 3:45 pm	Small Group Reflection and Case Studies
3:45 – 4:00 pm	Break
4:00 – 5:15 pm	The Provost’s Role in Finance: Policy, Budget, and Funding Formulas – including CARES funds Susan Jeffords; Glen Nelson
5:15 – 6:00 pm	Work/Life Balance: Is It Possible? – Michelle Haney, president, Red Rocks Community College (invited); Cassandra Manuelito-Kerkvliet, past president, Antioch University Seattle (invited)
Dinner on your own	

Friday, July 29, 2022

8:15 – 8:30 am	Reflections and Goals for the Day Laura Woodworth-Ney
8:30 – 9:45 am	The Importance of Building Coalitions: Presidential and Cabinet Relations Susan Jeffords; Vickie Shields
9:45 - 10:00 am	Break
10:00 - 10:45 am	Small Group Reflection and Case Studies
10:45 - 11:45 am	Small Group Reflection: Your Pathway and Making Use of the Year to Come Vickie Shields
11:45 - Noon	Adjourn. <i>Box lunch to go.</i>

Academy Faculty



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.



Veronica Dujon is the director for academic policy and authorization at Oregon Higher Education Coordination Commission. She leads the Commission's efforts to coordinate academic programs, degree pathways, and student success initiatives among Oregon's public universities. Dujon also oversees degree authorization for private schools, and licensing and compliance for private career schools. Prior to joining the HECC she was an associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Portland State University. Dujon did her graduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dujon's research and publications focus on conflicts over declining natural resources; the role of women in the global economy; and the tensions between national development strategies and forces of globalization.



Susan Jeffords joined Portland State University in 2018 as provost and vice president for academic affairs. She served previously in numerous roles at the University of Washington, including department chair, vice provost for global affairs, and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Washington Bothell. Jeffords has written and taught broadly in the area of American popular culture, with a particular emphasis on Hollywood film, the Vietnam War, and feminism. She is particularly committed to increasing opportunities for more diverse and underrepresented communities to participate actively in higher education, including expanding opportunities for international and community engagement.



Landon K. Pirius is the vice chancellor for academic and student affairs for the Colorado Community College System (CCCS). At CCCS, Pirius provides strategic leadership for all aspects of academic affairs, student affairs, online education, workforce development, and institutional research. Prior to his current position, he was the vice president for academic and student affairs at North Hennepin Community College. Pirius also served in a variety of leadership roles at Inver Hills Community College, Minnesota State University, Mankato, and Walden University, and as an adjunct faculty member. He completed his B.A. in Russian studies and environmental studies from Gustavus Adolphus College, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in educational policy and administration from the University of Minnesota.



Vickie Rutledge Shields, Ph.D., is provost and executive vice president of Nevada State College since 2017. She leads both academic and student affairs. Shields serves on several boards representing education for Henderson and Nevada. She served as dean of social sciences and social work and professor of communication for 12 years at Eastern Washington University. Prior, at Bowling Green State University, she served as associate dean of arts and sciences, and director of the women's studies program. Shields received her B.A. in communication from Boise State University and M. A., Ph.D. in communication/media from the Ohio State University.



Laura Woodworth-Ney has 30 years of experience in higher education, including roles as an academic administrator, tenured professor, writer, and consultant. Currently she serves as a Senior Consultant for Summit Search Solutions, a boutique executive search firm for higher education and non-profit organizations. Her previous appointments include executive vice president and provost, provost and vice president for academic affairs, associate vice president for academic affairs, chair of the history department, and co-director of women's studies. A passionate advocate for equity and access in higher education, she is an active national speaker on topics in education and the humanities. Woodworth-Ney has authored more than 40 articles and scholarly essays and three books. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Idaho and a Ph.D. in American history and public history from Washington State University.

Guest Speakers



Jean Bannon enjoys advising clients on employment law compliance, mentoring other German • Burnette & Associates attorneys and assisting with the defense of cases in all of the firm’s practice areas. Prior to joining the firm in 2009, Bannon served as senior in-house employment counsel for the University of New Mexico for many years and also worked in private practice. She is an experienced employment lawyer, advising clients on a variety of personnel matters, and other civil litigation claims against public and private entities. Jean offers practical legal advice and a wealth of expertise in employment and other areas of law. She has served as an arbitrator, has participated in numerous mediations and federal settlement conferences and has provided management training for public and private clients. She has been a frequently invited speaker at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities annual conferences.



Glen Nelson is the vice president, finance and business affairs for Idaho State University. He has worked in higher education for twenty-four years holding senior administrative positions at the college, university and system levels including service at Arizona State University, the University of Nebraska, and the University of Wisconsin System. Prior to entering higher education, he spent fourteen years in the corporate sector. Glen earned a Ph.D. in educational studies, with a specialization in educational leadership and higher education from the University of Nebraska, an M.B.A. from Thunderbird (AZ), and a B.S. in business administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Kirsty Fleming serves as the executive vice president and provost at Northern Colorado University. Prior to this appointment, she served as associate vice president for Faculty Affairs at CSU Long Beach, where she worked to foster an inclusive climate through faculty professional development, faculty hiring, retention, reappointment, tenure, promotion, compensation, and labor relations. Previously, she served as dean of the College of Natural Sciences at CSU, San Bernardino, as Executive Director for the Kentucky Center for Mathematics, as a department chair at Northern Kentucky University and as a faculty member at Central Michigan University. Fleming received her B.Sc. from the University of London and Ph.D. from the University of Birmingham, both in mathematics.

Additional faculty and guest speakers forthcoming.

About the Western Academic Leadership Forum

The **Western Academic Leadership Forum** (Forum) provides a unique avenue by which 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.



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 member U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States (which currently include the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam). www.wiche.edu.



Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
3035 Center Green Drive, Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80301-2204
www.wiche.edu

For more information, please contact
Sarah Leibrandt, Ph.D.
Director, Academic Leadership Initiatives
sleibrandt@wiche.edu / 303.541.0221



Kay Hulstrom
Associate Director, Operations and
Academic Leadership Initiatives
khulstrom@wiche.edu / 303.541.0294

