Western Academic Leadership Academy

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 four-year sector.

July 27-29, 2022
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. The Academy culminates in a session at the Western Academic Leadership Forum annual meeting the following spring.

The Academy is sponsored by the Western Academic Leadership Forum (Forum), whose members are the chief academic leaders of the 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 dean or higher at a 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; 17 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: February 15, 2022

Selection by the members of the 2022 Academy Faculty will be completed by March 15, 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

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
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; Ame Lambert, vice president for global diversity and inclusion, Portland State 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  Small Group Reflection: Communications and Media Relations
Laura Woodworth-Ney

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:45 - 9:45 am</td>
<td>Strategic Decision-Making in the COVID environment</td>
<td>Susan Jeffords; Ame Lambert (PSU); Ray Burgman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>Small Group Reflection and Case Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 - 10:45 am</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:45 am</td>
<td>Understanding Governance and Unions in Successful Faculty Relations and Policy Development</td>
<td>All Faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 am – 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Small Group Reflection and Case Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 - 1:45 pm</td>
<td>Working Lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45 – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>The Provost and Student Success: Enrollment Management and Collaborating with Student Affairs in the COVID environment</td>
<td>All Faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 – 3:45 pm</td>
<td>Small Group Reflection and Case Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45 – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 – 5:15 pm</td>
<td>The Provost's Role in Finance: Policy, Budget, and Funding Formulas – including CARES funds</td>
<td>Susan Jeffords; Glen Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 – 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Small Group Reflection and Case Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner on your own</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Friday, July 29, 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:15 – 8:30 am</td>
<td>Reflections and Goals for the Day</td>
<td>Laura Woodworth-Ney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:45 am</td>
<td>The Importance of Building Coalitions: Presidential and Cabinet Relations</td>
<td>Susan Jeffords; TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 10:00 am</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:45 am</td>
<td>Small Group Reflection and Case Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 - 11:45 am</td>
<td>Small Group Reflection: Your Pathway and Making Use of the Year to Come</td>
<td>Laura Woodworth-Ney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 - Noon</td>
<td>Adjourn. <em>Box lunch to go.</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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.
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.

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