

## **Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders**

2023 Alliance Annual Meeting – Call for Proposals

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 – October 6, 2023

Hotel Murano  
Tacoma, WA

### **Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders -- 2023 Annual Meeting Trailblazing a New Pathway: Challenging Assumptions about Community Colleges**

The Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (Alliance) is an interstate membership group of higher education leaders at two-year institutions based in the West. Roughly 60 chief academic officers at WICHE-region college and technical schools and related systems offices and state agencies gather each year for the Alliance annual meeting. This highly rated, intimate annual meeting leads to constant idea generation around pressing issues while also facilitating professional development.

The focus of the 2023 Alliance Annual Meeting is about reframing the community college experience to better reflect the current reality and future of community colleges. Proposals should consider the overarching assumptions that are made about community college students, faculty, relationship to workforce, equity imperatives, and academic excellence, and what aspects of those topics can be analyzed for deeper understanding or unique framing. Proposals can also consider assumptions made about the changing workforce and economy, the value of a degree, approaches to funding, and the metrics by which institutions assess their productivity and success. The interactive sessions at this annual meeting will discuss the ways in which perception can shape the future for community college leaders and students.

**New this year, WICHE invites Alliance members to submit proposals that will explore specific aspects of our theme such as:**

- Students
- Faculty
- The relationship between community college and workforce
- Equity imperatives
- Or other assumptions that need to be reframed

One of the greatest benefits we hear from meeting participants is the format of the meeting. General sessions that involve panels and follow-up small group discussions allow all participants to take actionable ideas back to campus. The opportunity to participate in round table discussions allows participants to dive into detail with small groups of colleagues. The format of the 2-day Forum Annual Meeting includes an invited keynote address as well as 5 x 90-minute general sessions and 3 x 20-minute round tables.

We encourage proposers to work with their colleagues from other institutions to put together a panel presentation for a general session. We are also happy to create a panel from multiple proposals to address one of the four overarching questions from multiple perspectives.

**Proposals should include:**

1. Title
2. A brief description of your session (up to 50 words, to be used in meeting materials)
3. A longer statement describing the content and context of the session (up to 250 words)
4. Please list 3-4 discussion questions that relate to your session
5. Which overarching question does this session attempt to address:
  - a. How should community colleges retool in a fast-evolving economy?
  - b. What strategies work for increasing student access and completion?
  - c. How can colleges foster a seamless interrelationship between their programs and workforce opportunities?
  - d. How do we unpack, understand, and shift the value proposition of higher education?
  - e. Other \_\_\_\_\_
6. Please select the type of session you are interested in:
  - a. Roundtable discussion – 20 minutes, we ask you stay at your table to facilitate the discussion 3 times. Participants will move between tables.
  - b. General session – 90 minutes; these sessions use the following format: 45 minutes for presentation or panel discussion followed by 15 minutes of Q and A; then 30 minute facilitated discussion in small groups.
  - c. Either
7. Please indicate if you would be interested in being assigned to a panel with other proposal submissions.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
8. Names, titles, institutional affiliation, and email addresses for session presenters (general sessions will ideally have 2-4 presenters or 1 moderator and 2-3 panelists; roundtable discussants will have 1 presenters). Clearly designate which presenter is the main point of contact for WICHE.

**Important dates**

- Call for proposals announced February 1, 2023
- Proposals due April 1, 2023 midnight MT
- Decisions will be made May 15, 2023

**Please submit a proposal by [completing this form](#).** If you have any questions about the process, please contact Sarah Leibrandt, [sleibrandt@wiche.edu](mailto:sleibrandt@wiche.edu) . Please visit the [Alliance website](#) for more information.