

# Western Academic Leadership Academy



July 16-19, 2024

## 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.

# Schedule

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## Tuesday, July 16, 2024

5:00 - 6:00 pm Informal Meet and Greet at WICHE

## Wednesday, July 17, 2024

8:00 - 8:30 am Introductions and Goals for the Day  
Laura Woodworth-Ney, Academy program and mentoring coordinator

8:30 - 10:00 am Provost Uncovered: Thriving on Day 1 and Beyond  
All-Faculty Discussion:  
Jeffrey Alexander, vice president of academic affairs, Truckee Meadows Community College  
Veronica Dujon, director of academic planning and authorization, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission  
Denise Runge, provost and executive vice chancellor, University of Alaska Anchorage  
Todd Schwarz, provost, College of Southern Idaho  
Karyn Scissum Gunn, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, California State University, Long Beach

10:00 - 10:15 am Break

10:15 - 11:15 am Navigating Political Landscapes in Higher Education  
All Faculty and Ray Burgman Gallegos, vice president of programs and services, WICHE

11:15 am – 12:15 pm Promoting Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Higher Education Today  
Veronica Dujon and Karyn Scissum Gunn

12:15 – 1:30 pm Lunch/Introduction to WICHE Units  
Ray Burgman Gallegos

1:30 – 2:15 pm Small Group Reflection: Finding and Filling Gaps in Your Preparation  
Denise Runge

2:15 – 3:45 pm Managing Personnel and Legal Issues  
Jean Bannon, attorney, German • Burnette & Associates

3:45 – 4:00 pm Break

4:00 – 4:30 pm Small Group Reflection and Case Studies

4:30 – 5:15 pm Leadership and Building Great Teams  
Todd Schwarz and Jeffrey Alexander

5:15 – 5:30 pm Wrap-up and Adjourn  
Laura Woodworth-Ney

6:15 pm Group Dinner

## Thursday, July 18, 2024

8:30 – 8:45 am	Reflections and Goals for the Day Karyn Scissum Gunn
8:45 - 9:45 am	Accreditation and Strategic Planning Veronica Dujon, Jeffrey Alexander, Denise Runge
9:45 - 10:30 am	Small Group Reflection and Case Studies
10:30 - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 – 11:45 am	Governance, Unions, and Faculty Relations All Faculty
11:45 am – 12:30 pm	Small Group Reflection and Case Studies
12:30 - 1:45 pm	Lunch
1:45 – 3:00 pm	Student Success: Enrollment Management and Collaborating with Student Affairs Kaylyn Bondy and Karyn Scissum Gunn
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 Glen Nelson and Todd Schwarz
5:15 – 6:00 pm	Work/Life Balance: Is It Possible? Cassandra Manuelito-Kerkvliet, past president, Antioch University Seattle
Dinner on your own	

## Friday, July 19, 2024

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 Kaylyn Bondy; Glen Nelson; Denise Runge
9:45 - 10:00 am	Break
10:00 - 10:45 am	Case Studies with Your Mentoring Circle
10:45 - 11:45 am	Reflection Panel All Faculty
11:45 - Noon	Adjourn

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## Academy Faculty

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**Jeffrey Alexander**, Ph.D., has served as vice president of academic affairs at Truckee Meadows Community College since June 2021, and he represents Nevada's 2-year public institutions as Chair of the Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (Alliance). Alexander served for 6 years as dean of arts and sciences at Pueblo Community College, prior to which he taught history at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. He received his doctorate in history from The University of British Columbia in Vancouver, and he has published three books on Japanese consumer product manufacturing, sales, and consumption. Jeff and his wife, Carolyne, live in Reno with their two unemployed dogs.



**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.



**Denise Runge**, Ph.D., has served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Alaska Anchorage since 2020. She leads programming across five campuses and collaborates closely with the other campuses in the Alaska system. Previously, she held similar positions in Montana and Georgia. Runge received her B.A. in political science from Washington and Jefferson College, an M.A. from Jacksonville State University, and Ph.D. in policy and administration from the University of Alabama.



**Todd Schwarz** currently serves as provost at the College of Southern Idaho since January 2014. He has had a long career in a variety of roles at CSI that exceeds 30 years with over 20 in administration including department chair and dean of career technical education. In 2012 he was appointed to the role of state administrator of the Idaho Division of Career Technical Education where he was instrumental in the creation of the Idaho micro credentialing system before returning to CSI. In 2015 he was recognized with the Institutional Leadership Award by the International Economic Development Council. Schwarz holds an associate, baccalaureate, and master's degree from Idaho schools and a Ph.D. in education from the University of Idaho.



**Karyn Scissum Gunn** joined California State University, Long Beach as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs in July 2021. Before coming to CSULB, she served as an associate vice president in academic affairs at Cal State Fullerton and spent over 20 years at Alabama State University in Montgomery, where she served as professor, chair, dean, associate provost, and provost. Under her leadership, she garnered \$54.5 million in federal funding from NIH, NSF, USDA, and U.S. Dept of Education to support scientific research, student training and STEM faculty development, and state capital funding for a new instructional and research facility. Scissum Gunn earned both her bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in cell biology from Tuskegee University and her Ph.D. in molecular genetics from Auburn University.



**Laura Woodworth-Ney**, Ph.D., joined AGB Search in 2022. Woodworth-Ney has more than thirty years of experience in higher education as a tenured full professor, academic historian, and administrator. With over a decade in the provost's office at Idaho State University, she was the first female executive vice president and provost. A staunch advocate for equity and accessibility, Woodworth-Ney helped pioneer initiatives that significantly expanded the application and retention rates of Idaho's public institutions and was honored with the 2021 President's Medallion Award from Idaho State University. An expert on the history of the North American West, Woodworth-Ney is the author of three books. She holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in History from Washington State University and a B.A. in English from the University of Idaho.

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## Guest Speakers

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**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.



**Kaylyn Bondy** serves as the vice president for student affairs at Bismarck State College (BSC) in Bismarck, North Dakota. She oversees student success and development, strategic enrollment planning, policy formation, and state/federal regulation implementation. Prior to her work at BSC, she led student affairs for nine years at Williston State College and worked prior to that in international education. Bondy received her B.A. in French from the University of North Dakota, a Master's in French American international business from l'Université de Caen Basse-Normandie, an M.B.A. from the University of St. Thomas and a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of North Dakota.



As president of Antioch University Seattle, **Cassandra Manuelito-Kerkviet** became the first Native American woman to ascend to the presidency of a mainstream university outside the tribal colleges. Prior to her presidency in Seattle, she served as the first Navajo woman president of Diné College, a tribal college on the Navajo reservation in Arizona and New Mexico. Manuelito-Kerkviet received her bachelors degree in social work and masters degree in counselor education from the University of Wyoming. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Oregon in educational policy and management, with a special emphasis in higher education administration.



**Glen Nelson** is the vice president, administration and finance/CFO for California State University Monterey Bay. He has worked in higher education for 26 years holding senior administrative positions at the college, university and system levels including service at Arizona State University, Idaho 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. His research is focused on the unintended consequences of administrative actions such as differential tuition and tuition transparency on access and choices made by first generation students and those from low socioeconomic status backgrounds. 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.

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## 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](http://www.wiche.edu/Forum)



## About the Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders

The Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (Alliance) is a membership organization that serves as an incubator for collaborating and problem-solving among chief academic officers (or equivalent) at WICHE-region community colleges and technical schools, related systems, and state coordinating and governing boards. How should community colleges retool in a fast-evolving economy? What strategies work for increasing student access and completion? How can colleges foster a seamless interrelationship between their programs and workforce opportunities? These are just a few of countless issues of distinct concern to chief academic leaders, but common to peer two-year institutions across the Western United States. Together, this network's participants seek solutions to these and other issues beyond the scope of a single institution, system, or state on behalf of Alliance-member institutions. [www.wiche.edu/Alliance](http://www.wiche.edu/Alliance)



## 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](http://www.wiche.edu)



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