

# CODE OF ETHICS – COMMISSION



The Western Regional Education Compact calls upon Commissioners appointed by each participating state and Pacific Island jurisdiction to oversee the development of WICHE's programs in order to strengthen higher education's contribution to the social and economic life of the region. Ethical practices are essential to the creation, implementation, and continued operation of effective, equitable programs that benefit the residents of the West.

It is essential that WICHE espouse its own standards of ethical conduct since codes differ by state and Pacific Island jurisdictions and do not apply to an interstate agency such as WICHE. In this regard, each Commissioner agrees individually to:

- ▶ Fulfill their responsibilities in a professional manner, with honesty, integrity, dignity, fairness, and civility.
- ▶ Act in an informed, competent, and responsible manner, and with due diligence to provisions of the Western Regional Education Compact, the Bylaws, and the approved policies and procedures of the organization.
- ▶ Avoid possible conflicts of interest between their responsibilities as a state-appointed official and the policies, procedures, and operations of the multistate organization. Should a potential conflict arise, a Commissioner has the responsibility to disclose this to the Commission and to recuse themselves from any discussion or actions with regard to the potential conflict of interest.
- ▶ Foster high standards of professional and ethical conduct within WICHE and the Commission.
- ▶ Support the principles of due process and civil and human rights of all individuals while being vigilant to resolve circumstances of discrimination, inequity, inappropriate behavior, harassment, or abuse within WICHE.
- ▶ Assure that allegations of ethics violations concerning a member of staff or the Commission are thoroughly investigated and reviewed. The President or their designee shall review allegations concerning a WICHE staff member. Allegations against the President or a Commissioner shall be reviewed by the Commission officers in consultation with the Executive Committee.
- ▶ Refrain from accepting duties, incurring obligations, accepting gifts or favors of monetary value, or engaging in private business or professional activities where there is, or would appear to be, a conflict between the Commissioner's personal interests and the interests of WICHE or its participating states or Pacific Island jurisdictions.

- ▶ Avoid exploiting their position for personal gain through the use of political, social, religious, economic, or other influence.
- ▶ Obey local, state, and national laws and pursue any changes in those laws, policies, and regulations only through legal, ethical, and otherwise appropriate means.
- ▶ Support this WICHE Code of Ethics as a fundamental underpinning for the values, the decisions, and the actions of the Commission and the organization.