

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

\$58.4M

TOTAL SAVED

by Colorado students through WICHE's Student Access Programs.

\$55.3M

SAVED
through WUE

\$2.8M

SAVED
through WRGP

\$365K

SAVED
through PSEP

WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE



WUE

Saves **UNDERGRADUATE** students on out-of-state tuition. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top Colorado WUE schools for out-of-state undergraduate students:

- ▶ Colorado State University (2,139)
- ▶ Colorado Mesa University (616)
- ▶ University of Northern Colorado (346)

Top out-of-state WUE schools for Colorado undergraduate students:

- ▶ University of Utah (538)
- ▶ Montana State University, Bozeman (390)
- ▶ Oregon State University (370)

WESTERN REGIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAM



WRGP

Saves **GRADUATE** students on out-of-state certificate, master's, and doctoral programs. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top Colorado WRGP schools for out-of-state graduate students:

- ▶ University of Colorado Denver (161)
- ▶ University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus (109)
- ▶ University of Northern Colorado (106)

Top out-of-state WRGP schools for Colorado graduate students:

- ▶ University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (28)
- ▶ South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (20)
- ▶ University of Idaho (20)

PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM



PSEP

Helps students pursuing careers in **10 HEALTH FIELDS**. They can enroll in programs in the WICHE region and receive substantial tuition support from their home state/territory.

17 Colorado students paid reduced tuition for health care studies not offered by public institutions in their home state.

80% of Colorado's PSEP graduates returned home to practice (2012-16 for physicians, 2012-21 for all other fields). Students are contractually required to return.

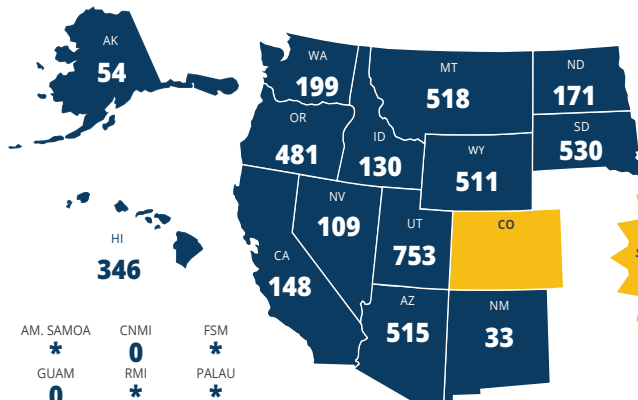
Colorado institutions and their local economies benefit, too. This year, 83 PSEP students enrolled in programs located in Colorado. Institutions received \$2.7M in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.

10,831% ROI Gained on Colorado's WICHE annual dues (\$174,500/FY 2026)

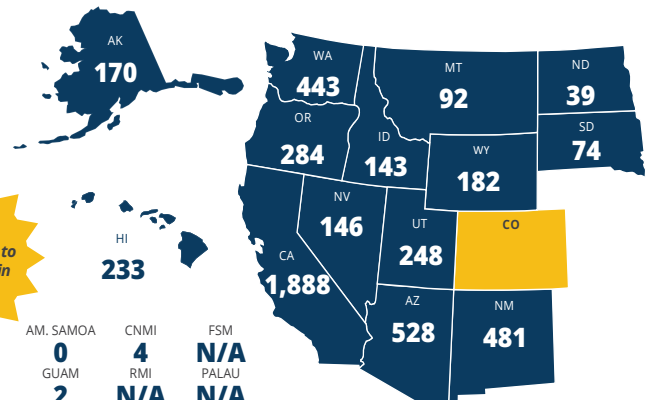
WUE

WUE STUDENTS FROM COLORADO: **4,498**

WUE STUDENTS TO COLORADO: **4,957**



4,957 WUE students chose to attend school in Colorado



Note: Students from Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming are eligible for the South Dakota Advantage Program and are assessed resident on-campus tuition rates. These students are also reported as WUE students. Students from New Mexico are eligible for the New Mexico Reciprocal Tuition Scholarship at Fort Lewis College. Students from those states are assessed resident on-campus tuition rates. These students are also reported as WUE students.

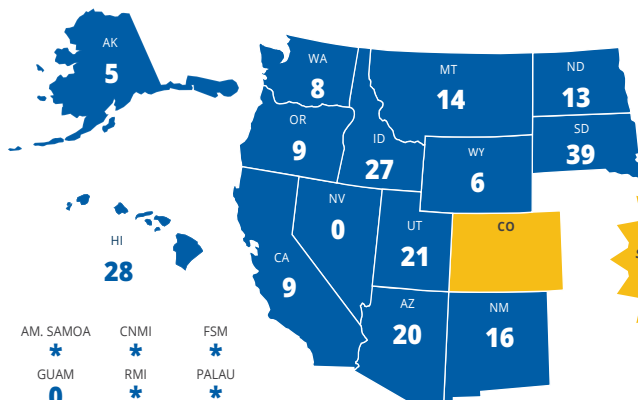
* Currently do not have any participating WUE schools.

Note: Students from Colorado are eligible for the South Dakota Advantage Program and are assessed resident on-campus tuition rates. These students are also reported as WUE students.

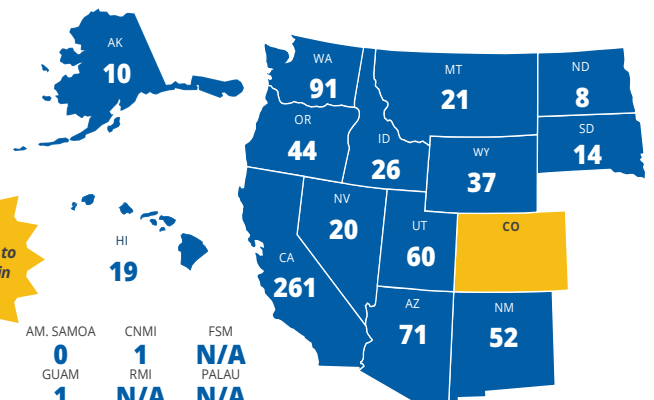
WRGP

WRGP STUDENTS FROM COLORADO: **215**

WRGP STUDENTS TO COLORADO: **736**



736 WRGP students chose to attend school in Colorado



* Currently do not have any participating WRGP schools.

PSEP

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

FIELD	STUDENTS	FEES PAID
Optometry	17	\$365,075
TOTAL	17	\$365,075

PSEP students from Colorado saved \$365,075 in tuition



“Thanks to PSEP, I graduated with less debt and was able to open my own practice in a semi-rural community that previously had no full-time eye doctor. Today, our clinic provides essential care to thousands of patients, creates jobs, and strengthens the local economy. Without PSEP, my ability to serve my community would not have been possible.”

MICHAEL, Colorado resident, Optometry, Pacific University (Oregon)

STRENGTHENING COLORADO AND THE WEST

WICHE brings together senior leaders and partners to foster dialogue about issues facing institutions and states through its leadership and professional development networks.

WESTERN ALLIANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC LEADERS – 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Aims Community College
- ▶ Arapahoe Community College
- ▶ Colorado Community College System
- ▶ Colorado Northwestern Community College
- ▶ Community College of Aurora
- ▶ Community College of Denver
- ▶ Front Range Community College
- ▶ Lamar Community College
- ▶ Morgan Community College
- ▶ Northeastern Junior College
- ▶ Otero Junior College
- ▶ Pikes Peak Community College
- ▶ Pueblo Community College
- ▶ Red Rocks Community College
- ▶ Trinidad State Junior College

Sarah Heath, Colorado Community College System, serves on the Alliance executive committee.

WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM – 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Metropolitan State University of Denver
- ▶ Colorado State University
- ▶ Colorado State University Pueblo
- ▶ University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Matthew Makley, Metropolitan State University of Denver, serves on the Forum executive committee.

WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY is a yearlong professional development program for academic leaders aspiring to become chief academic officers in the WICHE region. Twenty-two cohort members from Colorado institutions have participated in the Academy since its inception in 2015.

TECHNOLOGY AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR TRANSFER SUCCESS PROJECT offers two-year grants to partner institutions to create technology solutions to assist transfer students. The partnership is between University of Northern Colorado (CO) and Laramie County Community College (WY).

WICHE convenes the **OERWEST NETWORK** as part of a national effort to expand free course materials and other open educational resources (OER) that reduce textbook costs and support student success. WICHE is also conducting a regional landscape

Created by the WICHE Commission in 1995, the **LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC)** works to strengthen state-level postsecondary policymaking across the West. Members are state legislators appointed by the WICHE Commissioners in the region to explore emerging policy issues and develop strategies for interstate collaboration.

- ▶ **Representative Jennifer Bacon**
- ▶ **Senator Scott Bright**
- ▶ **Representative Meghan Lukens**

analysis examining how textbook price transparency and affordability policies are being implemented across the West.

MOUNTAIN PLAINS RURAL OPIOID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (MP ROTAC) develops and shares resources, training, and technical assistance focused on opioid and stimulant misuse in rural areas in Region 8. This is funded through a multiyear grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM (RCORP) is a multiyear initiative supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to identify treatment barriers and best practices for preventing and treating substance use disorder. In Colorado, the RCORP program supports one grantee.

WCET – THE WICHE COOPERATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES is the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced digital learning in higher education. Its growing membership includes institutions, higher education agencies and systems, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in all U.S. states and several Canadian provinces. The University of Colorado System, Colorado Community College System, and 20 other institutions and organizations are WCET members. Erika Swain, University of Colorado Boulder, and Brittany Dudek, Colorado Community College System, serve on the WCET Steering Committee.

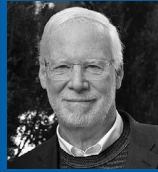
STATE AUTHORIZATION NETWORK (SAN) guides institutions through state regulations around online courses and programs. Colorado has 33 members.

Colorado Commissioners



Jim Chavez

Executive Director,
Community College of
Denver Foundation and
Governmental Affairs



JB Holston

Executive Director,
Colorado
Department of
Higher Education



Kate Siegel Shimko

Vice Chancellor for
Administration and
Governmental Relations,
Colorado State
University System

Distance Education Reciprocity

Colorado institutions save money on out-of-state authorization fees by participating in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) through WICHE. This voluntary agreement provides reciprocity for the state authorization of distance education, while ensuring meaningful consumer protections for students and reducing regulatory red-tape for institutions.

\$6.3M COLORADO ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVINGS

Cost-savings Partnerships

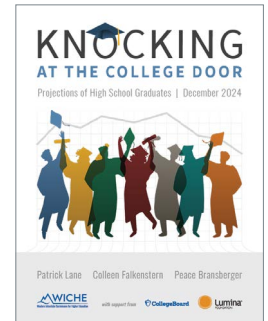
WICHE offers pre-negotiated student health and technology contracts to colleges and universities, K-12 school districts, state and local governments, and education-related nonprofits through a cost-savings program with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC). Last year, participating entities saved an average of 9% compared with other purchasing options.

\$363k COLORADO ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVINGS

Data and Policy Resources for Colorado

Policymakers and campus leaders in Colorado can explore WICHE's data and policy resources to better understand what's happening at home and across the West. These resources provide reliable state-level and regional insights to help make informed, strategic decisions that strengthen postsecondary education and workforce outcomes.

- ▶ **Knocking at the College Door** is the leading U.S. resource for projections of high school graduates. Visit wiche.edu/knocking to access reports, interactive dashboards, webinars, presentations, as well as state-level data.
- ▶ **Tuition and Fees in the West** includes tuition, fees, and enrollment data about 350+ public institutions in the West.
- ▶ **Benchmarks: WICHE Region** presents information on the West's progress in improving access to, success in, and financing of higher education.
- ▶ Data on over 35 indicators in WICHE's **Regional Fact Book for Higher Education in the West**.
- ▶ With support from the ECOM Foundation, WICHE equips state leaders with analysis and resources on **Completion Strategies in the West** to increase credential completion and improve student success across states.



Our data experts provide research, analysis, and peer collaboration opportunities on key higher education issues, including workforce development, state finance, transfer, student success strategies, and more, to help decision-makers develop evidence-based, effective policy solutions.

About WICHE

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) is a regional interstate higher education compact of 15 Western states and the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States. Since 1953, WICHE has focused on its mission of expanding educational access and excellence for all residents of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy, WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to the region's social, economic, and civic life. Visit wiche.edu.