

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

\$4.3M

TOTAL SAVED

by South Dakota students through WICHE's Student Access Programs.

\$3.8M

SAVED
through WUE

\$531K

SAVED
through WRGP

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 South Dakota WUE schools for out-of-state undergraduate students:

- ▶ **South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (527)**
- ▶ **Black Hills State University (489)**
- ▶ **South Dakota State University (307)**

Top out-of-state WUE schools for South Dakota undergraduate students:

- ▶ **North Dakota State University (186)**
- ▶ **Sheridan College, WY (48)**
- ▶ **Dickinson State University, ND (47)**

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 South Dakota WRGP schools for out-of-state graduate students:

- ▶ **University of South Dakota (87)**
- ▶ **Dakota State University (67)**
- ▶ **South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (38)**

Top out-of-state WRGP schools for South Dakota graduate students:

- ▶ **North Dakota State University (19)**
- ▶ **Minot State University, ND (5)**
- ▶ **University of Northern Colorado (4)**

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.

South Dakota doesn't use PSEP for its residents because students typically enroll in the state's public programs for several PSEP fields, or use agreements with neighboring states for programs not offered by their public institutions.

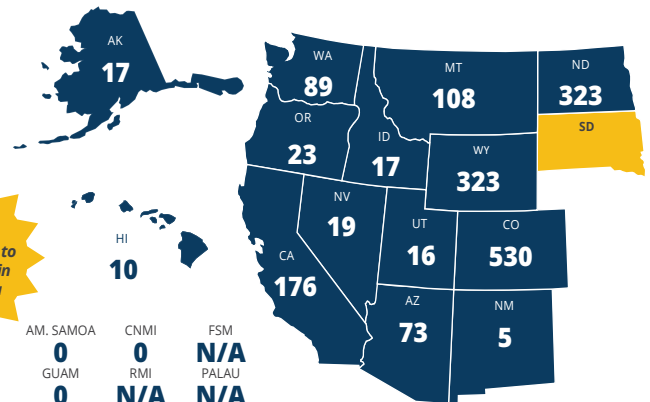
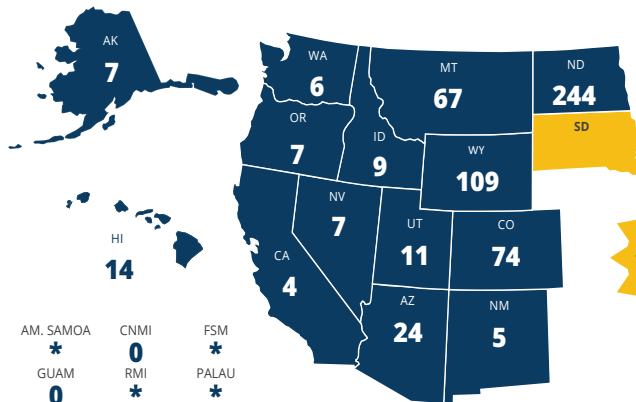
However, South Dakota institutions and their local economies still benefit from PSEP. This year, two PSEP students enrolled in programs located in South Dakota. Institutions received \$17,975 in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.

2,561% ROI Gained on South Dakota's WICHE annual dues (\$174,500/FY 2026)

WUE

WUE STUDENTS FROM S. DAKOTA: **588**

WUE STUDENTS TO S. DAKOTA: **1,729**



1,729 WUE students chose to attend school in South Dakota

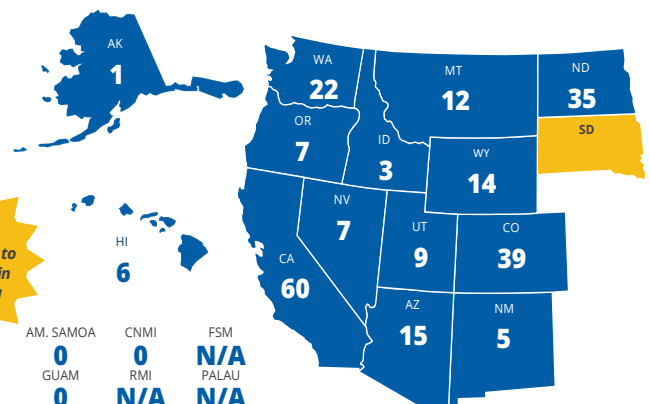
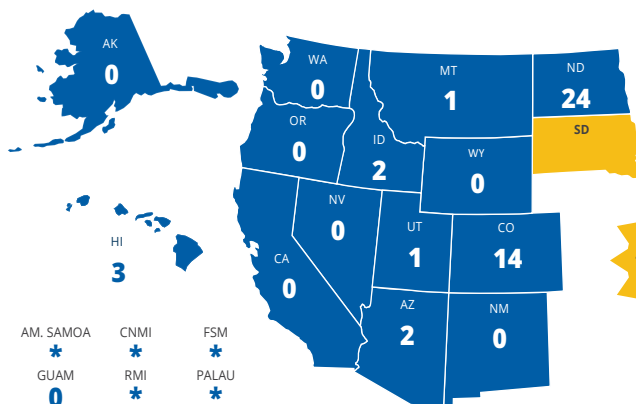
* Currently do not have any participating WUE schools.

Note: Students from Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, 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.

WRGP

WRGP STUDENTS FROM S. DAKOTA: **47**

WRGP STUDENTS TO S. DAKOTA: **235**



235 WRGP students chose to attend school in South Dakota

* Currently do not have any participating WRGP schools.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING



“As a member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, WRGP made pursuing a Ph.D. in creative writing possible and helped me return to my Dakota community. Now, as a faculty member, I teach Dakota/Lakota language and Native American studies, ensuring cultural knowledge continues for future generations.”

KARLI, Nevada resident, English: Literary Studies: Creative Writing (Ph.D.), University of South Dakota

STRENGTHENING SOUTH DAKOTA 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

- ▶ Lake Area Technical College
- ▶ Mitchell Technical College
- ▶ South Dakota Board of Technical Education
- ▶ Southeast Technical College
- ▶ Western Dakota Technical College

Tiffany Howe, Western Dakota Technical College, serves on the Alliance executive committee.

WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM – 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Black Hills State University
- ▶ Northern State University
- ▶ South Dakota Board of Regents
- ▶ South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
- ▶ South Dakota State University
- ▶ University of South Dakota

Pamela Carriveau, Black Hills State University, 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. Sixteen cohort members from South Dakota institutions have participated in the Academy since 2015.

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

WICHE's Behavioral Health Program (BHP) partners with the Human Services Center (HSC) and Lewis and Clark Behavioral Health Services (LCBHS) to develop the **SOUTH DAKOTA PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP CONSORTIUM (SD-PIC)**. WICHE's BHP ensures the program meets the accreditation requirements of the American Psychological Association (APA), provides technical assistance, and supports the internship program through the accreditation process.

WICHE's BHP provides consultation and technical assistance to the South Dakota Division of Behavioral Health regarding the implementation of their **INDIVIDUALIZED MOBILE PROGRAMS OF**

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 Roger DeGroot**
- ▶ **Representative Chris Kassin**
- ▶ **Senator Tim Reed**
- ▶ **Senator Stephanie Sauder**

ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT (IMPACT).

This work includes conducting quality assurance reviews of IMPACT programs using a modified tool that is based on the SAMHSA evidence-based practice of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) as well as ongoing technical assistance to IMPACT teams on the delivery of services.

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.

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. WCET members include:

- ▶ Black Hills State University
- ▶ Dakota State University
- ▶ Northern State University
- ▶ South Dakota Board of Regents
- ▶ South Dakota School of Mines & Technology
- ▶ South Dakota State University
- ▶ Southeast Technical College
- ▶ University of South Dakota
- ▶ Western Dakota Technical College

STATE AUTHORIZATION NETWORK (SAN) guides institutions through state regulations around online courses and programs. South Dakota has 11 members.

South Dakota Commissioners



Nathan Lukkes
Executive Director
and CEO, South
Dakota Board of
Regents



Larry Tidemann
Retired, South
Dakota Legislature



Ashley Wenger-Slaba
Senior Vice President of
Employee Experience,
Education & Workforce
Relations, Sanford Health

Distance Education Reciprocity

South Dakota 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.

\$1.7M SOUTH DAKOTA 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.

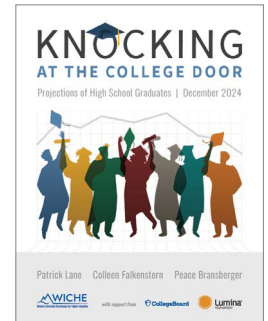
\$334k SOUTH DAKOTA ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVINGS

Data and Policy Resources for South Dakota

Policymakers and campus leaders in South Dakota 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 ECMC 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.