



BOULDER, COLORADO

JULY 14 – 17, 2026

2026
WESTERN
ACADEMIC
LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY

AGENDA

LEARNING CENTER | STATE HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY CENTER (SHEPC)
3035 CENTER GREEN DRIVE, BOULDER, CO 80301

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. **Meet Your Mentor and Mentoring Group**

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

8:00 - 8:30 a.m. **Introductions and Goals for the Day**
Laura Woodworth-Ney, Academy Program and Mentoring Coordinator

8:30 - 10:00 a.m. **Provost Uncovered: Thriving on Day 1 and Beyond**
All Faculty Discussion:

- TJ Bliss, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, Utah System of Higher Education
- Jennifer Brown, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Montana State University – Northern
- Kari Brown-Herbst, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Laramie County Community College
- Denise Runge, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, University of Alaska Anchorage
- Todd Schwarz, Provost Emeritus, College of Southern Idaho

10:00 - 10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:15 - 11:30 a.m. **The Provost's Role in Finance: Policy, Budget, and Funding Formulas**
Glen Nelson, Vice President for Finance and Planning and Chief Financial Officer, Illinois State University

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Small Group Reflection: Finding and Filling Gaps in Your Preparation**
Denise Runge, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, University of Alaska Anchorage

12:15 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch with WICHE Staff**

1:30 – 2:00 p.m. **Networking Break with a Visit from Sweet Cow Moo Mobile**

2:00 – 3:30 p.m. **Managing Personnel and Legal Issues**
Jean Bannon, Attorney, German • Burnette & Associates

3:30 – 3:45 p.m. **Break**

3:45 – 4:15 p.m.	Small Group Reflection and Case Studies
4:15 – 5:00 p.m.	Leadership and Building Great Teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TJ Bliss, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, Utah System of Higher Education • Kari Brown-Herbst, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Laramie County Community College • Todd Schwarz, Provost Emeritus, College of Southern Idaho
5:00 – 5:15 p.m.	Wrap-up and Adjourn Laura Woodworth-Ney, Academy Program and Mentoring Coordinator, WICHE
6:00 p.m.	Group Dinner in SHEPC Learning Center with Table Topics

Thursday, July 16, 2026

8:00 – 8:15 a.m.	Reflections and Goals for the Day Kari Brown-Herbst, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Laramie County Community College
8:15 - 9:15 a.m.	Accreditation and Strategic Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kari Brown-Herbst, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Laramie County Community College • Denise Runge, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, University of Alaska Anchorage
9:15 - 10:00 a.m.	Small Group Reflection and Case Studies
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	Governance, Unions, and Faculty Relations All Faculty
11:15 – 12:15 p.m.	Political Landscape and Policy Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Faculty • Molly Hall-Martin, Director, W-SARA, Policy and Research, WICHE
12:15 – 1:45 p.m.	Lunch with Your Mentoring Group
1:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Student Success: Enrollment Management and Collaborating with Student Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaylyn Bondy, Vice President for Student Affairs, Bismarck State College • Jennifer Brown, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Montana State University – Northern

3:00 – 3:45 p.m.	Small Group Reflection and Case Studies
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Break
4:00 – 5:15 p.m.	Navigating Political Landscapes in Higher Education All Faculty
5:15 – 6:00 p.m.	Work/Life Balance: Is It Possible? Cassandra Manuelito-Kerkvliet, President Emerita, Antioch University Seattle
6:00 p.m.	Dinner on Your Own

Friday, July 17, 2026

8:15 – 8:30 a.m.	Reflections and Goals for the Day Laura Woodworth-Ney
8:30 – 9:45 a.m.	The Importance of Building Coalitions: Presidential and Cabinet Relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TJ Bliss, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, Utah System of Higher Education • Kaylyn Bondy, Vice President for Student Affairs, Bismarck State College • Glen Nelson, Vice President for Finance and Planning and Chief Financial Officer, Illinois State University
9:45 - 10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Case Study/Mentoring Report Out
11:00 a.m. – Noon	Reflection Panel All Faculty
Noon	Adjourn

ACADEMY FACULTY

Note: This text was edited with the help of AI.



TJ Bliss, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, Utah System of Higher Education

TJ Bliss, Ph.D., serves as Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer for the Utah System of Higher Education. He is also a Clinical Assistant Professor of Education Leadership at the University of Idaho. Previously, Bliss served as Chief Academic Officer for the Idaho State Board of Education and held several executive leadership roles across government, philanthropic, and nonprofit organizations. He earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Education Research and a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from Brigham Young University, as well as a Master of Science in Biology from the University of Nebraska.



Jennifer Brown, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Montana State University – Northern

Jennifer Brown, Ph.D., has served as Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Montana State University–Northern since June 2023. In this role, she oversees a broad portfolio of academic programs spanning arts and sciences, education, health sciences and technical sciences. Previously, Brown served as Associate Provost and Dean of Academic Analytics at Eastern Connecticut State University, where she was also a tenured professor of economics. Her areas of expertise include industrial organization, environmental economics and econometrics. Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Weber State University and both a Master of Arts in Economics and Doctor of Philosophy in Economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara.



Kari Brown-Herbst, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, Laramie County Community College

Kari Brown-Herbst, Ed.D., serves as Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, Wyoming. As the college's chief academic officer, she provides executive leadership and strategic direction for the planning, development and implementation of academic programs and instructional support services. Brown-Herbst serves on the American Association of Community Colleges Commission on Structured Pathways and supports the Higher Learning Commission as a member of both the Peer Review Corps and the Institutional Actions Council. She also represents Wyoming's community colleges on WICHE's Alliance Executive Committee. Brown-Herbst earned a Doctor of Education in Instructional Technology from the University of Wyoming, a Master of Science in Education Technology from Marian University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, with an education endorsement, from Kalamazoo College.



Denise Runge, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, University of Alaska Anchorage

Denise Runge, Ph.D., has served as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Alaska Anchorage since 2020. In this role, she leads academic programming across five campuses and works closely with partner institutions throughout the University of Alaska system. Previously, Runge held senior academic leadership positions in Montana and Georgia. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Washington and Jefferson College, a Master of Arts from Jacksonville State University and a Doctor of Philosophy in Policy and Administration from the University of Alabama.



Todd Schwarz, Provost Emeritus, College of Southern Idaho

Todd Schwarz, Ph.D., is a retired higher education leader who continues to advocate for students and contribute to the postsecondary education landscape. His career spans 35 years at the College of Southern Idaho, including more than 20 years in administrative leadership roles as Department Chair, Dean of Career and Technical Education, and Provost, a position he held for 11 years. In 2012, Schwarz was appointed State Administrator of the Idaho Division of Career Technical Education before returning to the College of Southern Idaho. He earned associate, bachelor's and master's degrees from Idaho institutions and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education, with an emphasis in leadership, from the University of Idaho, where his research focused on career decision-making characteristics of community college students. Schwarz has also advised the University of Idaho on community college-to-university transfer initiatives.



Laura Woodworth-Ney, Academy Program and Mentoring Coordinator, WICHE

Laura Woodworth-Ney, Ph.D., joined AGB Search in 2022. She brings more than 30 years of experience in higher education as a tenured professor, historian and administrator. During more than a decade in the provost's office at Idaho State University, Woodworth-Ney became the institution's first female executive vice president and provost. A dedicated advocate for equity and accessibility, she helped lead initiatives that expanded application and retention rates across Idaho's public institutions and received Idaho State University's President's Medallion Award in 2021. An expert on the history of the North American West, Woodworth-Ney is the author of three books. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy in History and a Master of Arts in History from Washington State University and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Idaho.

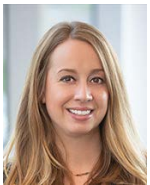
SPEAKERS

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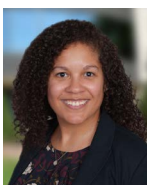
Jean Bannon, Attorney, German • Burnette & Associates

Jean Bannon advises clients on employment law compliance, mentors attorneys at German • Burnette & Associates, and assists with the defense of cases across the firm's practice areas. Before joining the firm in 2009, Bannon served for many years as Senior In-House Employment Counsel for the University of New Mexico and also practiced law in the private sector. An experienced employment attorney, she provides guidance on personnel matters and civil litigation involving both public and private entities. Bannon has served as an arbitrator, participated in numerous mediations and federal settlement conferences, and delivered management training for public and private clients. She is also a frequent speaker at American Association of State Colleges and Universities annual conferences.



Kaylyn Bondy, Vice President for Student Affairs, Bismarck State College

Kaylyn Bondy, Ph.D., serves as Vice President for Student Affairs at Bismarck State College in Bismarck, North Dakota. She oversees student success and development, strategic enrollment planning, policy development, and implementation of state and federal regulations. Prior to joining Bismarck State College, Bondy led student affairs at Williston State College for nine years and previously worked in international education. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in French from the University of North Dakota, a master's degree in French American International Business from Université de Caen Basse-Normandie, a Master of Business Administration from the University of St. Thomas, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education from the University of North Dakota.



Molly Hall-Martin, Director, W-SARA, Policy and Research, WICHE

Molly E. Hall-Martin, Ph.D. (Kul Wicasa Oyate/Lower Brule Lakota) serves as Director for the WICHE State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (W-SARA) where she manages the implementation, administration, and oversight of W-SARA. Prior to joining WICHE, Hall-Martin served as the Director of Student Preparation & Success for the South Dakota Board of Regents, as a staff member at Lower Brule Community College, and as an intern at the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) and the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO). Hall-Martin holds a Bachelor of Arts in American Indian Studies from the University of North Carolina, a Master of Education in Adult and Higher Education from the University of Oklahoma, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education and Student Affairs from the University of Iowa.



Cassandra Manuelito-Kerkvliet, President Emerita, Antioch University Seattle

Cassandra Manuelito-Kerkvliet, Ph.D., is President Emerita of Antioch University Seattle. She became the first Native American woman to lead a mainstream university outside the tribal college system. Prior to her presidency in Seattle, Manuelito-Kerkvliet served as the first Navajo woman president of Diné College, a tribal college serving the Navajo Nation in Arizona and New Mexico. She earned a Bachelor of Social Work and a Master of Science in Counselor Education from the University of Wyoming. Manuelito-Kerkvliet received a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Policy and Management, with a specialization in higher education administration, from the University of Oregon.



Glen Nelson, Vice President for Finance and Planning and Chief Financial Officer, Illinois State University

Glen Nelson, Ph.D., serves as Vice President for Finance and Planning and Chief Financial Officer at Illinois State University. He has worked in higher education for 30 years, holding senior administrative positions at the college, university, and system levels. His experience includes leadership roles at Arizona State University, California State University Monterey Bay, Idaho State University, the University of Nebraska and the University of Wisconsin System. Before entering higher education, Nelson spent 14 years in the corporate sector. His research focuses on the unintended consequences of administrative policies, including differential tuition and tuition transparency, on college access and decision-making among first-generation students and students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. Nelson earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Studies, with a specialization in Educational Leadership and Higher Education, from the University of Nebraska, a Master of Business Administration from Thunderbird School of Global Management, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

2026 COHORT MEMBERS



Muge Akpinar-Elci, Dean of the School of Public Health and a Professor, University of Nevada, Reno

Muge Akpinar-Elci, M.D., M.P.H., is Dean of the School of Public Health and a Professor at the University of Nevada, Reno. After finishing medical school, she completed residency training in pulmonology and a fellowship in occupational medicine in Turkey. She earned a Master of Public Health from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Akpinar-Elci previously worked for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and served as Founding Director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Environmental and Occupational Health in Grenada. She also served as Chair of the School of Community and Environmental Health, Associate Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Director of the Center for Global Health at Old Dominion University. Her research focuses on vulnerable populations, environmental and occupational respiratory diseases, One Health, and climate change.



Lisa Badanes, Chair of the Department of Psychological Sciences, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Lisa Badanes, Ph.D., is Chair of the Department of Psychological Sciences at Metropolitan State University of Denver and President of the Council of Chairs and Directors. She provides institution-wide academic leadership and works closely with executive leaders to advance student success, academic quality, and program alignment. Trained as a developmental psychologist, Badanes studies stress physiology, emotion regulation, and the effects of early-life adversity on psychological and academic outcomes. She is committed to advancing public higher education through evidence-based practices.



Lisa Bonneau, Associate Vice President for Academic Programming, South Dakota Board of Regents

Lisa Bonneau, Ph.D., has served as Associate Vice President for Academic Programming for the South Dakota Board of Regents since 2025. She oversees curriculum, program management, and program review for the state's six public institutions and leads strategies that support systemwide academic goals. Previously, Bonneau served as Assistant Provost at the University of South Dakota and as a Team Chair-Peer Reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from Missouri State University and a Doctor of Philosophy in Zoology from Oklahoma State University.



Miebeth Bustillo-Booth, Dean of Instruction, Green River College

Miebeth Bustillo-Booth, Ed.D., E.M.B.A., M.P.A., has served as Dean of Instruction at Green River College since 2023. She leads innovative systems-thinking initiatives, including the "What Would Have to Be True" fiscal framework and the Equity by Design and Delivery Model for Online Learning. With more than 10 years of leadership experience, Bustillo-Booth specializes in scalable student success strategies. Her previous roles include Tenured Faculty Member and District Co-chair at Pierce College, Academic Dean at Bates Technical College and Director of Professional Education at Bellevue College. She earned degrees from the University of Washington and Pacific Lutheran University.



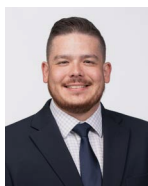
Deborah Craven, Academic Dean for the School of Science, Front Range Community College

Deborah Craven, M.F.A., serves as Academic Dean for the School of Science at Front Range Community College. She is committed to advancing faculty excellence, program growth, and student success. Craven has led initiatives in program review, accreditation, faculty evaluation, and the redesign of the department chair model to strengthen collaboration and accountability. She has also expanded undergraduate research opportunities, creating pathways for hands-on learning and faculty mentorship. Craven earned a Master of Fine Arts from Colorado State University.



Melissa Deadmond, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Truckee Meadows Community College

Melissa Deadmond, Ph.D., M.P.H., serves as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Truckee Meadows Community College. Previously, she served as Associate Dean of Assessment and Planning and Accreditation Liaison Officer, leading institution-wide assessment, planning, and accreditation efforts. Deadmond also served as Chair and Tenured Faculty Member in Biology, where she helped develop the college's public health program. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Cell and Molecular Biology and a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Nevada, Reno.



Matt Garcia, Academic Dean, Red Rocks Community College

Matt Garcia, Ph.D., is Academic Dean at Red Rocks Community College. He oversees academic programs across career and technical education, adult education and transfer disciplines, leading multidisciplinary teams focused on workforce-relevant learning. Garcia has led large-scale program development initiatives, secured state and federal grant funding, and cultivated partnerships that strengthen career pathways and regional economic development. He earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Foundations, Policy and Practice from the University of Colorado Boulder, as well as a Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Arts from the University of New Mexico.



Sherry Jensen, Associate Dean of Business Management and Economics, Salt Lake Community College

Sherry Jensen, Ph.D., has served as Associate Dean of Business Management and Economics in the Gail Miller Business School at Salt Lake Community College since 2025. She works with college leadership, faculty, students, and community partners to support the growth and success of the school's largest division. Previously, Jensen served as an Associate Professor of Economics and Chair of General Education at Salt Lake Community College and held faculty appointments at four-year institutions. She earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Centre College and master's and doctoral degrees in economics from Clemson University.



Dianna Johnston, Academic Dean, Front Range Community College

Dianna Johnston, D.N.P., serves as Academic Dean at Front Range Community College. She leads initiatives that strengthen program quality, faculty performance, and institutional effectiveness. Johnston's work has advanced accreditation readiness, enhanced curriculum design and supported measurable improvements in student success. With experience spanning clinical practice, teaching, academic administration, and military service, she brings a systems-focused approach to leadership. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Pacific Lutheran University, a Master of Science in Nursing from Walden University, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of New Mexico.



Soojung Kim, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Associate Professor of Communication, University of North Dakota

Soojung Kim, Ph.D., M.P.H., is Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Associate Professor of Communication at the University of North Dakota. She is dedicated to advancing academic excellence, student success, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Previously, Kim served as Department Chair and Graduate Program Director, leading efforts to increase enrollment, revitalize the journalism program, and expand online graduate offerings. She earned degrees from Korea University, the University of Minnesota, and the University of North Dakota.



Nāwa'akauluaokamehameha (David) Napoleon, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Kapi'olani Community College

Nāwa'akauluaokamehameha (David) Napoleon has served as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Kapi'olani Community College since 2023. He provides leadership for academic programming and integrates Native Hawaiian epistemology to support faculty and student success. Over more than 30 years at the college, Napoleon has served as Dean of Arts and Sciences, Chair of Languages, Linguistics and Literature, and Associate Professor of Hawaiian language. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Hawaiian studies from the University of Hawai'i and completed formal traditional training in both hula and hoe wa'a.



Andrea Opitz, Training and Development Manager, Lake Area Technical College

Andrea Opitz, M.Ed., has served as Training and Development Manager at Lake Area Technical College since July 2025. She collaborates with higher education institutions and external partners to deliver training, onboarding, and professional development initiatives that strengthen instructional quality. Previously, Opitz served as Academic Vice Principal at Al Hosn Secondary School in Abu Dhabi and held additional leadership positions throughout the United Arab Emirates from 2011 to 2023. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Northern State University and a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Grand Canyon University.



Michelle Pacheco, Vice President for Concurrent Enrollment, Community College of Aurora

Michelle Pacheco serves as Associate Vice President for Concurrent Enrollment for the Community College of Aurora's Denver Campus. In this role, she develops strategic partnerships with K-12 districts and oversees campus operations to expand access and student success. Pacheco also teaches courses in education, ethnic studies, and psychology. Before joining the Community College of Aurora, she worked in admissions and outreach at Metropolitan State University of Denver. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Metropolitan State University of Denver and a Master of Arts in Counselor Education from Colorado State University Pueblo, where she is pursuing a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Leadership.



Bernnell Peltier-Glaze, Dean of the School of Education, Nevada State University

Bernnell Peltier-Glaze, Ed.D., has served as Dean of the School of Education at Nevada State University since 2024. She oversees academic affairs, student affairs, personnel, strategic planning, and budget management. Previously, Peltier-Glaze served as Interim Dean of the College of Education at Texas Southern University and held roles as Associate Dean, Director of a teaching and learning center and Professor of Educational Leadership. She earned degrees from Louisiana State University, Texas Southern University, and Sam Houston State University.



Jace Kaholokula Saplan, Dean for Liberal Arts and Sciences, Hawai'i Community College

Jace Kaholokula Saplan, D.M.A., serves as Dean for Liberal Arts and Sciences at Hawai'i Community College. He leads faculty development and onboarding, Early College, transfer pathways, curriculum alignment, and place-based educational initiatives. Previously, Saplan served as Senior Director of Identity and Belonging at Whitman College and held tenured faculty and administrative appointments at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and Arizona State University. He earned degrees from the University of Miami, the University of Oregon, Concordia University, and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.



Christina (Kris) Smerick, Dean of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, College of Western Idaho

Christina (Kris) Smerick, Ph.D., has served as Dean of Social Sciences and Public Affairs at the College of Western Idaho since 2023. She oversees six departments across academic and career and technical education programs and supervises 44 full-time faculty members. Smerick also serves as facilitating dean on the Assessment Committee and Administrative Council. Previously, she taught philosophy and Jewish studies at Greenville University and served as the institution's Accreditation Officer. She earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Trevecca Nazarene University and master's and doctoral degrees in philosophy from DePaul University.



Randi Storch, Interim Provost, Western Oregon University

Randi Storch, Ph.D., is the Interim Provost at Western Oregon University as of July 1, 2026. Since 2025, she has served as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, where she leads eight divisions, 28 departments, and 160 faculty and staff members. Storch joined Western Oregon University after serving as an American Council on Education Fellow during 2024-25. Previously, she spent 26 years at the State University of New York at Cortland as a Professor of History, Department Chair, and Principal Investigator on eight National Endowment for the Humanities grants.



Dean Straight, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Great Basin College

Dean Straight, Ph.D., serves as Dean of Arts and Sciences at Great Basin College, leading the institution's largest academic division and overseeing more than 25 programs. He works with faculty and institutional leaders to advance student success, academic pathways, and workforce alignment. Previously, Straight served as Chair of Arts and Letters and as a Faculty Member in English. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in English, as well as a Doctor of Philosophy in Rhetoric and Composition and a graduate certificate in technical writing from the University of Texas at El Paso.



Raymond Weber, Dean of the Community and Technical College, University of Alaska Anchorage

Raymond Weber, Ph.D., has served as Dean of the Community and Technical College at the University of Alaska Anchorage since 2020. He provides academic leadership for 28 programs across five campuses throughout the university system. Previously, Weber served as a Tenured Faculty Member in the university's Aviation Division and taught at Kent State University's aviation program. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in aviation from the University of North Dakota and a Doctor of Philosophy in educational psychology from Kent State University.



Jeremy Youde, Dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University

Jeremy Youde, Ph.D., has served as Dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University since August 2024. He oversees five departments and 12 centers and institutes, with a focus on community engagement and public service.

Previously, Youde served as Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Minnesota Duluth and held administrative positions at the Australian National University. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Global Development Studies from Grinnell College and master's and doctoral degrees in political science from the University of Iowa.

ABOUT

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.

About the Western Academic Leadership Forum

The Western Academic Leadership Forum (Forum) brings together WICHE region chief academic officers and senior academic leaders from four-year institutions, related systems, and state coordinating and governing boards to exchange ideas and information, share resources and expertise, and collaborate on regional initiatives. The Forum is funded primarily by membership dues, with additional support from annual meeting sponsors.

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. The Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (Alliance) brings together chief academic officers and senior academic leaders at community colleges and technical schools, related systems, and state coordinating and governing boards to exchange ideas and information, share resources and expertise, and collaborate on regional initiatives supporting the two-year higher education sector. Like the Forum, the Alliance is funded by membership dues and annual meeting sponsors.



KAY HULSTROM

Associate Director, Operations and Program Implementation

khulstrom@wiche.edu

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