



2026 Legislative Advisory Committee Annual Meeting

September 14-15, 2026 | Bozeman, Montana
AC Hotel Bozeman Downtown



Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Meeting Agenda

AC Hotel Bozeman Downtown, 110 North Tracy Avenue, Bozeman, Montana 59715

Monday, September 14, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast

Bridger Ballroom

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Bridger Ballroom

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Proactively Reconsidering the Postsecondary Landscape

Bridger Ballroom

States are confronting unprecedented shifts in demographics, workforce needs, fiscal realities, and federal priorities. In response, legislators and higher education leaders are taking a fresh look at how postsecondary institutions collaborate, adapt, and contribute to state goals. This session will highlight how states are working to align postsecondary systems with state priorities and build more responsive, resilient institutions for the future.

Moderator

Demarée Michelau, President, WICHE

Speakers

- Commissioner Ben Cannon, Executive Director, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission
- Commissioner Geoffrey Landward, Commissioner of Higher Education, Utah System of Higher Education
- Commissioner Ann Millner, Chair, and Senator, Utah State Legislature
- Senator Rob Wagner, Oregon State Senate

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Building Effective Outcomes-Based Funding Models for Postsecondary Education

Bridger Ballroom

As states across the West continue to explore outcomes-based funding models, this session will offer a deep dive into the legislative considerations of model elements. Presenters will review the available evidence on outcomes-based funding's impact, describe models used across the region, and explore key questions for legislative consideration using a case study approach.

Moderator

Colleen Falkenstern, Director of Evidence and Strategic Initiatives, WICHE

Speakers

- Commissioner Patricia Charlton, Senior Vice President, Finance and Administration, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Connor Jorgensen, Principal Analyst, Legislative Finance Committee, New Mexico Legislature

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch

Benchmark

1:15 – 2:30 p.m. <i>Bridger Ballroom</i>	Workforce Pell in Practice: Implementation and Next Steps The expansion of the federal Pell Grant to short-term programs went into effect this past July, putting states in the unprecedented position of determining whether or not their programs meet a host of federally mandated requirements for eligibility. The session will include examples of state processes to date and a discussion of what role legislators might play going forward. Moderator Christina Sedney, Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives, WICHE Speakers • Austin Reid, Federal Affairs Advisor, National Conference of State Legislatures • Tiffany Sanderson, President, Lake Area Technical College • Madeleine Thompson, Acting Executive Director, Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Break
2:45 – 4:15 p.m. <i>Bridger Ballroom and Saddle Board Room</i>	LAC Roundtable Discussions Legislators will participate in small group discussions led by WICHE staff to identify shared legislative priorities across four topics. These conversations will inform a report to the WICHE Commission on LAC members' top areas of focus in policy domains relevant to WICHE's core operations. <i>Behavioral Health Workforce</i> Facilitators • Tonya Horn, Director of Research and Evaluation, Behavioral Health Program, WICHE • Patrick Lane, Vice President, Policy Analysis and Research, WICHE <i>Federal Policy</i> Facilitators • Austin Reid, Federal Affairs Advisor, National Conference of State Legislatures • Christina Sedney, Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives, WICHE <i>Artificial Intelligence</i> Facilitator Van Davis, Executive Director, WCET – the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies and Vice President, Digital Learning, WICHE <i>Workforce Solutions</i> Facilitators • Raymonda Burgman Gallegos, Vice President, Programs and Services, WICHE • Colleen Falkenstern, Director of Evidence and Strategic Initiatives, WICHE
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. <i>AC Lounge</i>	Dinner LAC members, speakers, and their guests are invited to join an optional group dinner.

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast

Bridger Ballroom

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Beyond the Playing Field: The Future of Athletics in Postsecondary Education

Bridger Ballroom

College athletics is undergoing profound change, driven by evolving case law, a growing patchwork of state policies, the uncertain prospect of federal action, and new models for student-athlete compensation and participation. These developments are reshaping institutional finances and the student experience in ways that extend far beyond athletics programs themselves. This session will examine how these changes are affecting campuses, discuss the implications for postsecondary education policy, and consider the long-term role of athletics within public higher education.

Moderator

Christina Sedney, Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives, WICHE

Speakers

- David Kaufman, Partner, Thompson Coburn LLP
- Brock Tessman, President, Montana State University
- Tom Wistrill, Commissioner, Big Sky Conference

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Exploring Dual Enrollment: Program Design, Evidence, and Open Questions

Bridger Ballroom

Legislators have invested millions of dollars in dual and concurrent enrollment, offering secondary students the opportunity to earn state-subsidized college credit while in high school. However, the unique structure of each state's programs and the challenges of tracking long-term outcomes mean that many questions still remain regarding the most effective approaches to program design and funding strategy. The session will engage legislators in a conversation about what we know and what we still need to learn about dual enrollment in the West.

Moderator

Patrick Lane, Vice President, Policy Analysis and Research, WICHE

Speakers

- Commissioner JB Holston, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education
- Lisa Johnson, Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, North Dakota University System
- Amy Williams, Executive Director, National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships

11:45 a.m. – Noon

Final Reflections

Bridger Ballroom

Speakers



Raymonda Burgman Gallegos, Vice President, Programs and Services, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Raymonda “Ray” Burgman Gallegos serves as the Vice President, Programs and Services, at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). In this role, alongside a team of dedicated and knowledgeable professionals, she pursues increasing student access to postsecondary education and training, building and enhancing collaborations between institutions and their leadership, and efficient procurement and contracting for college and university staff. The Programs and Services unit impacts students, academic leaders, and operations team members. It has three regional tuition savings programs, which include the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP), and the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP). The unit also manages the Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (the Alliance) and the Western Academic Leadership Forum (the Forum). These two membership groups serve the leadership development and networking needs of chief academic officers in the region. The Alliance and Forum spurred the development of the innovative student transfer initiative, Interstate Passport®, and fostered the creation of the Western Academic Leadership Academy. Programs and Services recently added a program for humanities faculty interested in academic leadership. The unit also partners with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) to provide institutions with operational savings through two programs, MHECare Student Health Solutions and Technology Contracts. Previously, Burgman Gallegos served as Director of Programs and Research for eight years at HERS (Higher Education Resource Services), a nonprofit leadership development organization focused on women and gender-diverse leaders who work in postsecondary settings. She also served as an administrator at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and in academic affairs and the Office of the President at New College of Florida, in Sarasota, Florida. Burgman Gallegos was a tenured professor in economics and management at DePauw University. She also taught at two other institutions in Florida, Santa Fe College and the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. She received a bachelor’s degree in economics from New College of Florida and a doctorate in economics from the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida.



Ben Cannon, Executive Director, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and WICHE Commissioner (OR)

Ben Cannon has served as the Executive Director of the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission since 2013. In this position, Cannon oversees state funding allocations, policy-setting, and coordination for Oregon’s postsecondary education and training system, including community colleges, public universities, and various workforce boards. Cannon is a former teacher, state representative, and education policy advisor to the Governor. Elected three times to the Oregon House of Representatives (2006-2011), he chaired House committees with jurisdiction over environment, energy, and water policy. From 2003 to 2011, he taught humanities at a middle school near Portland. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Washington University, St. Louis, and attended Oxford University, England, on a Rhodes Scholarship, earning graduate degrees in comparative and international education and philosophy, politics, and economics.



Patricia Charlton, Senior Vice President, Finance & Administration, Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, and WICHE Commissioner (NV)

Patricia “Patty” Charlton, Senior Vice President, Finance & Administration, has served in higher education administrative and executive leadership for the past 30 years.

At the College of Southern Nevada, Patty served in a variety of positions including Senior Vice President of Finance & Administration/Chief of Staff; Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives & Administration; and Vice President/Provost Henderson Campus/Chief Facilities Officer. Charlton retired in 2022 and was recognized with the title of Emeritus Vice President.

In April 2023, Charlton was appointed acting Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs, responsible for coordinating higher education issues, policies, and programs for NSHE’s workforce and community colleges. In August 2023, she was appointed to serve as Interim Chancellor, where she served in the role of the Chief Executive Officer, Ex- Officio Treasurer within NSHE and represented the organization and institutions to the governor’s office and state legislature.

Patty holds undergraduate degrees from the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). She earned her Master of Public Administration Degree from UNLV and is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in public policy.



Van Davis, Executive Director, WCET – the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies and Vice President, Digital Learning, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Van joined WCET in 2021 as chief strategy officer, and in 2025, he became WCET’s Executive Director and the Vice President for Digital Learning at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). Van oversees all strategic and operational responsibilities of WCET’s membership, the State Authorization Network (SAN) that assists institutions with interstate compliance, and Every Learner Everywhere, which advocates for successful academic outcomes for all postsecondary education students through advances in digital learning.

Van has over 25 years of experience in higher education as a faculty member, academic administrator, state policy maker, and edtech leader. He holds a master’s degree and doctoral degree in 20th Century US history with an emphasis in civil rights from Vanderbilt University and a bachelor’s degree in history from Southwestern University. Prior to joining WCET and WICHE, Van served as principal at Foghlam Consulting, associate vice president at Blackboard Inc., director of innovation at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and a faculty member and academic administrator at several public and private universities with historically underrepresented student populations.

Van’s expertise includes artificial intelligence policy, federal and state distance education policy, degree completion initiatives, competency-based education, the cost and price of distance education, and the future of higher education and digital learning.

Van lives in Colorado with his beloved wife, Lisa, and their cat, Kody. When not working, Van collects Lego models and dreams of the day he can complete his Western U.S. camping trip.



Colleen Falkenstern, Director of Evidence and Strategic Initiatives, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Colleen Falkenstern serves as the Director of Evidence and Strategic Initiatives in the Policy Analysis and Research unit at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). In her role, she leads the unit's work on a range of postsecondary education data and research initiatives and the development of data resources to support better informed decision-making in the West. These resources include WICHE's annual collection of tuition and fees data and WICHE's quadrennial projections of high school graduates, *Knocking at the College Door*. In her time at WICHE, she has worked on projects supporting Native American Serving Nontribal Institutions, addressing healthcare workforce issues, promoting better alignment between higher education and workforce, and improving postsecondary completion. She received a bachelor's degree in marketing and management from the University of South Carolina-Columbia and a master's degree in higher education from the University of Denver.



JB Holston, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education, and WICHE Commissioner (CO)

JB Holston is the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education and a member of the governor's cabinet. Holston brings more than 30 years of experience spanning entrepreneurship, public policy, media, and innovation. Holston previously served as Dean of the Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Denver and has held senior executive roles in the private sector. He holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in business administration from Stanford University.



Tonya Horn, Director of Research and Evaluation, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Tonya Horn, MSW, Ph.D., is the Director of Research and Evaluation for the Behavioral Health Program at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). She received her Master of Social Work and doctorate in social work from the University of Minnesota. Tonya specializes in using participatory research methods to engage communities who are most impacted by problems to identify solutions. Her work also focuses on using data to drive behavioral health systems improvement. Prior to joining WICHE, Tonya was an Assistant Professor at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she led the development of new workforce training programs in integrated behavioral healthcare and treatment of co-occurring disorders.



Lisa Johnson, Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, North Dakota University System

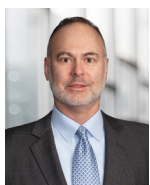
Lisa Johnson is the Deputy Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs for the North Dakota University System. Her work is concentrated in program approval, policy and procedures, transfer and articulation, and matters that affect the health, morale and well-being of the system's 44,000 students. She serves as the University System's liaison to councils, task forces, internal and external advisory groups, and several collaborative interagency partnerships.

Lisa began her undergraduate studies at Minot State University while serving in the United States Air Force. She completed associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees from the College of Business at Minot State University and has continued her studies at the doctoral level in institutional analysis at North Dakota State University. She served as a university registrar at Minot State University for six years and was instrumental in planning and transitioning to the current student information system before joining the University System in 2009.



Connor Jorgensen, Principal Analyst, Legislative Finance Committee, New Mexico Legislature

Connor Jorgensen is the principal fiscal analyst for the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee where he crafts the annual staff budget recommendation for higher education institutions. Connor has worked for the LFC for 15 years overseeing a number of different state agency budgets. Connor received his Bachelor of Arts from the Evergreen State College and his MBA from the University of New Mexico.



David J. Kaufman, Partner, Thompson Coburn LLP

David J. Kaufman serves as the national co-chair of the Corporate and Securities Practice Group of Thompson Coburn LLP, a 450-lawyer national law firm with offices in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Dallas, among others.

His practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions, public and private securities, private equity, and general corporate counseling in a variety of industries. He regularly represents both issuers and underwriters in primary and secondary public securities offerings of both equity and debt. He represents investors in their security investments in public companies and private equity participants, and investors, in their transactions. He also advises boards of directors, their committees and officers on their fiduciary duties and other obligations.

David serves on the Board (as Chair) of Zach Trust, an ETF and mutual fund family with an excess of \$1B in Assets Under Management and on the Board of Trustees of Cleary University. He previously served on the Board of Western International University (as Chairman), American Intercontinental University (as Vice Chairman) and Colorado Technical University (as Chairman).

He is a graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he earned his Juris Doctor, Master of Public Policy and Bachelor of Arts, with Honors and with Distinction.



Geoffrey Landward, Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education, and WICHE Commissioner (UT)

Geoffrey Landward was appointed Commissioner of Higher Education in March 2024 after having served as Interim Commissioner since September 2023. He previously served as deputy commissioner, general counsel, and secretary to the Utah Board of Higher Education. In addition to over fifteen years of public policy work, he has extensive executive leadership experience and over 20 years of legal expertise in administrative law, education law, and employment law. He is a graduate of the BYU J. Reuben Clark Law School.



Patrick Lane, Vice President, Policy Analysis and Research, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Patrick Lane is the Vice President of the Policy Analysis and Research unit at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). In this role, he oversees a range of work focused on improving access to and excellence in postsecondary education through sound public policy and research. This portfolio of work includes efforts to improve the value of postsecondary education, address students' behavioral health needs, increase affordability, and ensure robust regional collaboration. He previously was WICHE's Director of Data Initiatives, leading efforts to improve linkages between state data systems. Prior to this role, he coordinated WICHE's efforts on adult learners and improving postsecondary access for low-income students. He came to WICHE after spending several years working in education policy in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Lane completed a doctorate in public affairs at the University of Colorado Denver in 2015.



Demarée K. Michelau, President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Demarée K. Michelau is President of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), where she leads the organization's work to advance educational access and excellence across the West through innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy. In that role, she works with Western states, Pacific Island jurisdictions, postsecondary institutions, and regional and national partners to strengthen higher education's contributions to the region's social, economic, and civic life. Before becoming president, Michelau served as WICHE's Vice President, Policy Analysis and Research, contributing to the organization's policy and research agenda and leading externally funded initiatives. She is the author of numerous publications and brings deep expertise in higher education policy, governance, strategic planning, postsecondary attainment, transfer, affordability, and workforce issues. She also serves as a commissioner for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and on the boards of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), the Pacific Northwest Gigapop (PNWGP), and the Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC). Earlier in her career, she held positions with the National Conference of State Legislatures and former Colorado Congressman David Skaggs. Michelau earned her bachelor's degree in public law from Northern Illinois University and her master's and doctoral degrees in political science from the University of Colorado Boulder.



Ann Millner, Senator, Utah State Senate, and WICHE Commission Chair

Sen. F. Ann Millner represents Senate District 5, encompassing parts of Davis, Morgan and Weber counties. Elected to the Utah Senate in 2015, she chairs the Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee, Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, School Security Task Force and Senate Ethics Committee. She also serves in national leadership roles with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and other education policy organizations. Originally from Tennessee, Sen. Millner earned degrees from the University of Tennessee, Southwest Texas State University and Brigham Young University. She previously served as president of Weber State University from 2002 to 2012, overseeing significant enrollment growth and statewide expansion. Her legislative work focuses on education, workforce development, economic opportunity, energy, aerospace and defense and access to affordable healthcare.



Austin Reid, Federal Affairs Advisor, National Conference of State Legislatures

Austin Reid is a Federal Affairs Advisor for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), where he covers education and workforce issues and staffs the NCSL Task Force on Higher Education. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).

Prior to joining NCSL, Austin worked at the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET), where he was a Senior Policy Advisor. He also served as a legislative fellow for U.S. Senator Chris Coons and as summer education fellow for U.S. Senator Patty Murray.

He began his career as a high school teacher and has a Master of Education in Education Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Arkansas.



Tiffany Sanderson, President, Lake Area Technical College

Tiffany Sanderson is President of Lake Area Technical College, a nationally recognized technical college in Watertown, South Dakota. Since becoming the college's sixth president in 2023, she has helped advance growth in enrollment and graduates, expanded scholarship awards, added programs in high-demand fields, and modernized technical training facilities.

Before joining Lake Area Tech, Sanderson served as South Dakota's Secretary of Education and previously led the state's technical college system as Director of Career and Technical Education. Her career spans education and workforce development across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors; highlights include helping to develop the Build Dakota Scholarship program, South Dakota's reduced-tuition dual credit program, and investments in technical colleges and regional CTE facilities.



Christina Sedney, Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Christina Sedney is the Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives at the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), where she supports states and territories across the West in developing, implementing, and sharing solutions to postsecondary policy challenges. Her portfolio includes state-level approaches to short-term credentials, postsecondary behavioral health, and alignment between education and the workforce. Prior to WICHE, Sedney worked for international nonprofit Teach For All and completed a fellowship with the Kenneth Rainin Foundation. She also held multiple roles with the AmeriCorps program City Year. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley.



Brock Tessman, President, Montana State University

Brock Tessman is the 13th President of Montana State University. He's an energetic and dedicated supporter of students and their success, and he is known for his ability to communicate the value of public higher education for America and the world, and for his commitment to delivering better outcomes for the university and — importantly — its students.

President Tessman came to Montana State University most recently from the presidency of Northern Michigan University, but before Michigan he gained extensive experience as a leader within the Montana University System. He served for four years as the Montana Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education, and before that as a professor of political science and honors college dean within the state university system. He began his academic career at the University of Georgia and earned tenure as a faculty member at that institution's School of Public and International Affairs.

President Tessman has a bachelor's degree with honors in international relations from Brown University. He earned his master's degree in international affairs and his doctorate in political science, both from the University of Colorado Boulder. Originally from Michigan, President Tessman was a multisport high school athlete and competed in track and field at Brown and Colorado. He continues to be an avid trail runner, a self-described board game geek, and a lifelong Detroit Lions fan. His family of outdoor enthusiasts includes his wife, Kristin, and daughters, Frances and Leona.



Madeleine Thompson, Acting Executive Director, Washington Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

Madeleine “Maddy” Aroney Thompson is the Acting Executive Director of the Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (the state’s workforce board), appointed by Governor Bob Ferguson in January 2026. She has over 25 years of leadership experience in workforce development, higher education policy, and legislative affairs and has developed policies and innovative initiatives at the Workforce Board and as Policy and Government Affairs Director at the Washington Student Achievement Council. At the state House of Representatives, Thompson developed legislative proposals as the lead nonpartisan staff for the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee. Thompson has a track record of shaping equitable education systems to meet industry needs and advance economic opportunity. During her tenure as policy advisor for Gov. Jay Inslee, Thompson led the charge to convert Washington’s financial aid program to an entitlement that is recognized as the most generous and most equitable financial aid program in the nation and funded by a business surcharge. More recently, Thompson has been tapped as a state lead to advance implementation of the Workforce Pell program in Washington. Thompson has a master’s degree in public policy from The Evergreen State College.



Rob Wagner, Senator, Oregon State Senate

Sen. Rob Wagner has represented Oregon Senate District 19 since 2019 and serves as President of the Oregon Senate. His top priorities include balancing the government's budget, ensuring the Senate is focused on the state's top priorities, and empowering senators to do their best work on behalf of Oregonians. Under his leadership, the Senate has passed more than 90% of its legislation with bipartisan support, approved the largest K-12 and higher education budgets in state history, and tackled issues including housing affordability and future-proof job growth.

Previously, his passion for education led him to a position with the American Federation of Teachers – Oregon, where he spent a decade advocating for Oregon’s teachers, faculty, healthcare workers, and academic support professionals. He then went on to become the Associate Vice President of College Advancement for Portland Community College overseeing community outreach and working to secure student scholarship funding.

President Wagner earned his bachelor’s degree from Portland State University and master's degree in public policy from George Washington University. He and his wife, Laurie, share four wonderful kids. He is an avid hiker, and enjoys playing piano and guitar, and singing.



Amy Williams, Executive Director, National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships

Amy Williams' work with states centers on a fundamental question: What is dual enrollment supposed to achieve for your state, and how do you know if it's actually delivering? That question shaped a career spanning policy, systems, and practice. As Montana's former state CTE and dual enrollment director, Williams redesigned the state's approach by strengthening state oversight, expanding student access, improving program consistency, and implementing data systems to track impact and value for students and the state.

Williams now brings that state-level perspective to her national work as Executive Director of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP), the national home for the dual enrollment field, its sole accrediting body, and the only organization dedicated specifically to program quality. Direct work with states, programs, and their practitioners gives Williams a uniquely comprehensive view of where policy intent and practice align, where they diverge, and why. Drawing on analysis of policy across all 50 states, her recent research and publication, *Beyond Rigor: Closing the Quality Gap in State Dual Enrollment Policy*, challenges states to take responsibility for the quality of the programs their policies create and redesign policy around the results they want dual enrollment to achieve.



Tom Wistrick, Commissioner, Big Sky Conference

Tom Wistrick is the Commissioner of the Big Sky Conference, headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he leads the NCAA Division I Conference, which includes 11 institutions in eight Western states. A former Athletic Director at the University of Akron, Tom also worked at both the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin. He was also a Senior Vice President at Learfield Sports in Dallas, where he managed a portfolio of over 40 Division I schools and their multi-media athletic rights. Tom has a master's degree from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, and a bachelor's degree from Saint Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota, where he was the captain of the men's basketball team.



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.

About LAC

The WICHE Commissioners created the Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC) in 1995 to strengthen state-level postsecondary policymaking across the West. The LAC offers legislators interested in higher education a unique forum to explore policy issues affecting the region, to learn about relevant research, and to stay abreast of emerging policy developments at the state and federal levels.

On the cover: Fairy Lake in the Bridger Range of Montana

