

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT



## REPORT TO THE 2017 LEGISLATURE

Annual Report on  
the University of Hawai'i's Continued Participation in the  
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

HRS 304A-3205

December 2016

Annual Report to the 2017 Hawai'i State Legislature on  
the University of Hawai'i's Continued Participation in the  
Western Interstate Commission For Higher Education  
HRS 304A-3205

### **History and Membership**

The **Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)** was created in the 1950s by the Western Regional Education Compact to facilitate resource sharing among the higher education systems of the West. The WICHE Commission's 16 members include representatives from 15 Western states – Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming – and the U.S. Pacific territories and freely associated states (with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands being the first to participate). Members work collaboratively to provide educational access and excellence for all citizens. WICHE and its staff are headquartered in Boulder, CO, and operate out of the State Higher Education Policy Center, which WICHE owns with the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. Hawai'i joined in June 1959.

### **Governance**

The WICHE Commission, with three commissioners from each state, molds the organization's mission and sets its priorities. Each Commissioner is appointed by the Governor and serves a four year term. Hawai'i's commissioners are Carol Mon Lee, attorney, retired associate dean, University of Hawai'i Richardson School of Law and former member, Hawai'i State Board of Education, Honolulu; David Lassner, president, University of Hawai'i; and Colleen Sathre, Vice President Emeritus, University of Hawai'i. WICHE also seeks assistance and advice from policymakers, educators, administrators and legislators. WICHE's Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC), composed of legislator-members from each state – including Representative Isaac Choy and Senator Brian Taniguchi – has been crucial in this regard. The LAC works to keep the commission's Executive Committee and staff current on significant legislative issues related to higher education, provides input on WICHE initiatives, and advises staff on a host of issues. WICHE staff also serves the LAC, by informing its members about emerging policy issues in the West. WICHE Hawaii is assigned for administrative purposes to the University of Hawai'i.

### **WICHE's Added Value**

Hawai'i gains added value from WICHE's programs in the areas described below related to policy, workforce development, technology, mental health, and enriched student learning experiences.

## Policy and Workforce Development

Hawai'i has participated in projects supporting better-informed decision making at the state level. WICHE initiatives have been sponsored by the Ford Foundation, Lumina Foundation for Education, the U.S. Department of Education, and others. In addition, WICHE policy experts often visit the state to present or consult on a number of vital issues, including the state's workforce needs and balancing the financial aid portfolio between grants, loans, and scholarships, as well as between merit- and need-based aid.

Hawai'i was one of four states chosen to participate in the Gates-funded Facilitating Development of a Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange pilot project (the others were Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). The project attempts to enable a more comprehensive regional view of the creation of human capital and its flow among multiple states by exchanging data across K-12 education, postsecondary education, and the workforce. Hawai'i is receiving customized technical assistance, including a Hawai'i-specific report, to aid the state in its examination of the data governance in place for each of those sectors, how data governance might be improved, and how the state can advance its efforts in developing its statewide longitudinal data system to meet state needs and fulfill commitments it made to the federal government as part of its successful Race to the Top application. The success of that pilot led Gates to fund a second phase in which the MLDE project will expand to other states.

The implementation of the Common Core Standards (CCSS) or other similar academic standards is well underway in most states, and the corresponding assessment systems went live this academic year. As implementation continues, there are a variety of challenges that K-12 and higher education leaders will face in the coming years related to student movement across state lines. To begin the conversation about these challenges, WICHE, with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, convened higher education and K-12 leaders from the Western region and additional bordering states in October 2014. Hawai'i was one of 17 states along with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to participate.

The Adult College Completion (ACC) Network, funded by Lumina Foundation, is a 750-member learning network that unites organizations and agencies working to increase college completion by adults with prior college credits but no degree. Activities include an annual workshop, a webinar series, publications, a listserv, and other resources. The ACC Network and WICHE have become national leaders in the area of adult learners and continue to be an important resource to those who strive to better serve non-traditional students.

The State Higher Education Policy Database (SHEPD) is WICHE's online searchable database. It provides state and national policymakers, education leaders, practitioners, and education consumers with an inventory of state-level policies and resources in key issue areas related to access and success in higher education. It contains a blog and an electronic SHEPD alert distribution list to keep subscribers current on important updates. A related resource is the Policy Publications Clearinghouse, a depository of publications, reports, and briefs related to higher education.

The state also participated in a Gates-funded meeting that brought together the stewards of the data systems in 14 of the WICHE states for discussions around linking data internally and with other states. A central topic of conversation was how to address the challenges to data sharing presented by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

WICHE President David Longanecker has worked with the Governor's Office and Senate Higher Education Committee to help them develop a state authorization process to certify nonpublic institutions to operate in Hawai'i.

Additionally, Hawai'i has participated in the Western Academic Leadership Forum (the Forum), whose members address regional higher education issues and engage in resource sharing. The Western Alliance for Community College Academic Leaders (the Alliance), brings academic leaders of community colleges and technical schools and systems together with state governing and coordinating boards associated with two-year institutions to exchange ideas and information, share resources and expertise, and collaborate on regional initiatives. Hawai'i Community College, Honolulu Community College, Kapi'olani Community College, Kaua'i Community College, Leeward Community College, University of Hawai'i Maui College, University of Hawai'i System, and Windward Community College are members.

### **Technology**

Several Hawai'i colleges and universities are active participants in the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET), the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education. WCET is widely recognized as one of the most informative, reliable, and forward-thinking organizations regarding the role of technology and innovation in higher education. WCET's growing membership includes more than 350 institutions, state and system-wide higher education agencies, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in nearly all U.S. states and many Canadian provinces. WCET member institutions actively serve more than 4 million college students taking all or part of their academic programs via technology. WCET members have access to trusted information on emerging trends, policies, and exemplars of successful learning technology innovation in practice. Key WCET activities include an annual meeting, leadership summits, national webcasts, and email list-based discussions among members. Major topics of interest to the WCET membership include student success, faculty success, managing e-learning, emerging technologies and evolving policy issues.

### **Mental Health**

WICHE has been very active in Hawai'i, focusing on issues of behavioral health workforce development. In FY15, the Hawai'i Psychology Internship Consortium (HI-PIC) graduated its first cohort, and matriculated its second cohort of doctoral psychology clinical interns. This very successful partnership between WICHE, the Hawai'i Children's Mental Health Division, Hawai'i Department of Education, and Hawai'i Public Safety Department also achieved contingency accreditation by the American Psychological Association in FY15. WICHE provides

administrative support, technical assistance, and data collection to HI-PIC. During FY15, WICHE and the Hawai'i Department of Education launched a partnership to recruit a range of behavioral health professionals to fill vacancies across the public school system in Hawai'i.

## **WICHE's Enriched Student Learning Experiences**

### **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)**

SARA is a voluntary, nationwide initiative of states that will make distance education courses more accessible to students across state lines and make it easier for states to regulate and institutions to participate in interstate distance education. The effort initially was funded by \$3.2 million in grants from Lumina Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and is now supported by fees paid by institutions. The initiative is administered by the country's four regional higher education compacts – the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) – and overseen by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). States and institutions that choose to participate agree to operate under common standards and procedures, providing a more uniform and less costly regulatory environment for institutions, more focused oversight responsibilities for states, and better resolution of student complaints. Hawai'i became a member of W-SARA in 2016.

Hawai'i is active in all three WICHE **Student Exchange Programs**: the Western Undergraduate Exchange, the Professional Student Exchange Program, and the Western Regional Graduate Program. In 2015-16 Hawai'i's students and families saved \$17.2 million in tuition. Hawai'i saved money, too, through not having to establish and maintain costly programs in a number of areas, including some in healthcare. WICHE-Hawai'i's 2015–2016 academic year expenditures are as follows: 1) \$ 981,633 for Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) "support fees", 2) \$ 141,000 for annual state dues, and 3) \$ 2,061 for WICHE-Hawai'i's operating costs.

### **Professional Student Exchange Program**

Hawai'i has sent 1,280 students to professional programs through the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), with students studying in a host of critical fields, including dentistry, occupational therapy, optometry, physical therapy, and veterinary medicine. In addition, in 2015-16 the state received one student and \$32,070 in support fees from other Western states.

**Table 1. Professional Student Exchange Program Use**

Professional Field	2015-2016			2014-2015			2013-2014		
	Support Fee per Student	# of Stu	Total Paid	Support Fee per Student	# of Stu	Paid	Support Fee per Student	# of Stu	Total Paid
Dentistry	\$24,850 - \$33,133*	8	\$207,083	\$24,400 - \$32,533*	8	\$203,333	\$23,900*	9	\$215,100
Occupational Therapy	\$13,050 - \$21,750*	3	\$ 47,850	\$12,800 - \$21,333*	3	\$ 55,466	\$12,600 – \$21,000*	3	\$ 54,600
Optometry	\$17,100*	14	\$239,400	\$16,800*	15	\$252,000	\$16,400*	13	\$202,267
Pharmacy	Support discontinued			\$ 7,400*	1	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,250*	2	\$ 14,500
Physical Therapy	\$14,300*	14	\$200,200	\$14,055*	14	\$196,770	\$13,689*	14	\$198,490
Veterinary Med	\$31,900*	9	\$287,100	\$31,300*	11	\$306,845	\$30,600*	12	\$351,900
TOTAL		48	\$ 981,633		52	\$1,021,814		53	\$1,036,857

\* Support fee for certain fields vary depending on the academic curriculum.

**Western Regional Graduate Program**

Hawai'i's postgraduates also participate in graduate programs through the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP), which offers access to 380 high-quality, distinctive programs ("distinctive" meaning they're offered at only four or fewer institutions in the WICHE region) at 60 institutions in all WICHE states. WRGP programs run the gamut, but emerging social, environmental, and resource-management fields are particular strengths, as are innovative interdisciplinary programs. In 2015-16 Hawai'i sent 21 students to out-of-state institutions, while receiving 37.

**Table 2. Western Regional Graduate Program Use**

Academic Year	Hawai'i Graduate Students Out-Bound to Continent	US Continent Students In-Bound to Hawai'i
2015-2016	21	37
2014-2015	19	39
2013-2014	22	41
TOTAL	62	117

## **Western Undergraduate Exchange**

Hawai'i students have enrolled in undergraduate programs on the mainland through the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) since 1988. In 2015-16, 1,861 students from Hawai'i are enrolled in out-of-state programs at reduced rates (150 percent of resident tuition), saving \$16 million in tuition and fees – the average student savings amounted to \$8,605. In the last 10 years, students have saved nearly \$128.4 million.

Hawai'i benefits from WUE in another way: by receiving students from out of state. Hawai'i's institutions can choose how many out-of-state slots to offer and in which areas, allowing them to make the best use of their resources by accepting students in underenrolled programs. There's a workforce benefit for the state, too, as students often stay in Hawai'i after graduating. In 2015-16 Hawai'i received 2,672 students through WUE.

**Table 3. Western Undergraduate Exchange Program Use**

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Hawai'i Students Out-Bound to Continental US</b>	<b>Total Savings in Tuition &amp; Fees</b>	<b>Average Savings in Tuition &amp; Fees</b>	<b>US Continental Students In-Bound to Hawai'i</b>
2015-2016	1,861 students	\$16 million	\$ 8,605	2,672 students
2014-2015	1,788 students	\$14.9 million	\$ 8,341	2,574 students
2013-2014	1,734 students	\$14 million	\$ 8,182	2,586 students
TOTAL	5,383 students	\$44.9 million		7,832 students

## **Summary**

Since 1959, Hawai'i has been a member of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. WICHE membership has many benefits for our state, institutions and residents. Our state policy makers and institutions benefit from WICHE initiatives and regional collaboration. Hawai'i has received funding to participate in numerous WICHE projects. Our residents are our real beneficiaries; students benefit from affordable access to higher education through WICHE's three Student Exchange Programs. In 2015-16 Hawai'i, its institutions, and its students saved or brought in some \$17.3 million through WICHE and spent \$141,000 for membership in the commission. In addition, the State also saves money by not incurring start-up or maintenance costs for programs that are already accessible to our residents through the exchange programs. Therefore, WICHE-Hawai'i respectfully requests the legislature's continued support and participation in the WICHE programs. WICHE-Hawai'i's projected budget request for the 2017-18 academic year is for \$1,162,566 which includes estimated expenses for 1) Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) "support fees", 2) annual WICHE state dues, and 3) WICHE-Hawai'i operating costs.