

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT



## REPORT TO THE 2007 LEGISLATURE

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

Hawai‘i Revised Statutes 304A-3205

September 2007

# **Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)**

## **History and Membership**

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) was created by the Western Regional Education Compact, adopted in the 1950s by Western states, which the Hawai'i legislature approved in 1959 (Act 253, Session Laws of Hawai'i 1959; section 304A-3201, Hawai'i Revised Statutes). Fifteen western states comprise WICHE. The members listed in chronological order of membership are: New Mexico, Montana, Arizona, Utah, Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Alaska, Washington, California, Nevada, Hawai'i, North Dakota, and South Dakota. WICHE began operations in 1953 in Eugene, Oregon moving to its present location in Boulder, Colorado in 1965.

## **Governance**

WICHE is governed by three Commissioners from each state appointed by the Governor. The current Hawai'i Commissioners are: Mr. Roy Ogawa, Ms. Roberta Richards and Dr. Helene Sokugawa. Mr. Roy Ogawa is currently serving as Vice Chair of the WICHE Commission. Under the terms of the Compact, each state commits to support WICHE's basic operations through annual dues established by the full Commission. Legislators are also involved in the governance of WICHE through the Legislative Advisory Committee. The Legislative Advisory Committee engages legislators in the discussion of higher education issues and seeks their input on strategies for interstate collaboration and ways to strengthen state policy making in higher education. Senator Norman Sakamoto and Senator Brian Taniguchi represent Hawai'i on WICHE's Legislative Advisory Committee.

## **WICHE Programs**

WICHE was created to facilitate resource sharing among the higher education systems of the West to address the challenges of higher education today. Its programs include Student Exchange, Policy Analysis and Research, WCET, and Mental Health.

### **Programs and Services**

The Programs and Services unit administers WICHE's three Student Exchange Programs and numerous other initiatives. Rising tuition and fees mean that students and their families are paying a greater share of postsecondary education costs today. WICHE's three [Student Exchange Programs](#) help students to deal with rising tuition costs and the states to deal with increasing enrollments. The programs provide students in the West with opportunities to attend out-of-state institutions in the region at reduced costs, enable states to share educational resources, and allow higher education institutions to more effectively manage their enrollments. Last year, more than 22,000 students gained

affordable access to undergraduate, graduate, and professional level programs, including programs unavailable in the students' state of residence.

The [Western Undergraduate Exchange \(WUE\)](#), initiated in 1988, opened opportunities for undergraduate study in a wide range of programs in more than 130 public two-year and four-year colleges and universities in the West. It enrolled more than 21,500 allowing out-of-state students to pay 150 percent of the resident tuition rate, saving themselves and their families over \$131 million in tuition costs in 2006-2007. All 15 WICHE states participate in the WUE program.

Each state controls their level of participation in WUE. Some states set limits on the total number of students admitted. Each institution chooses which program they wish to make available to WUE students, and under what conditions. In many cases, institutions have opened all of their programs on a space available basis. In other cases, institutions have excluded some programs or have listed only specific programs that are open to WUE students.

WUE continues to grow because it offers states a way to greatly expand their range of educational opportunities available to their students at a minimal cost to the state. From a total of 642 students beginning in the fall of 1988, participation has grown to more than 21,000 students in the WUE program 2006. A complete report on WUE enrollments, including information about the specific programs in which students are enrolled, is available from WICHE at [www.wiche.edu/sep/wue](http://www.wiche.edu/sep/wue).

WUE also conducts research. Last year, WICHE completed a WUE study to analyze out-of-state student migration patterns to better understand how WUE might affect students' access and success and the states' diverse higher education and economic needs. The results are published in a report titled "[Student Migration: Relief Valve for State Enrollment and Demographic Pressures.](#)"

The [Professional Student Exchange Program \(PSEP\)](#), the oldest WICHE student exchange program, helps students in 12 WICHE states to participate in 14 professional education programs in other Western states. The programs are available in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, optometry, podiatry, osteopathic medicine, physician assistant, graduate nursing, graduate library studies, pharmacy, public health, and architecture. Students usually pay resident tuition (or reduced tuition in private institutions) and sending states pay an additional "support fee" established by WICHE. In 2006-2007, 750 students took advantage of this program. Each state determines the programs and the number of students it will support each year.

The [Western Regional Graduate Program \(WRGP\)](#) which came into operation in 1981 enables students to enroll and pay only resident tuition in over 175 distinctive graduate programs in 39 institutions in 14 WICHE states (all but California). To receive WRGP tuition status, students apply directly to the institutions of their choice and identify themselves as WICHE WRGP applicants.

To be included in WRGP, programs must undergo an extensive review intended to assure that they are distinctive and demonstrate high quality. WRGP programs must “be distinctive” with respect to total program, sub-specialization or resources and fill a need not met by more than their other (four total) programs in the participating states. As a result of these criteria, WRGP programs tend to be specialized or interdisciplinary and not commonly available in Western universities.

New programs are added to WRGP every two years. A nomination round was completed this spring and 34 new programs were added. The programs included were: early childhood education at University of Alaska, Anchorage; cancer biology at University of Arizona; interdisciplinary telecommunications and an M.B.A. dual degree at University of Colorado; intercultural youth and family development at University of Montana; educational linguistics at University of New Mexico; applied physics professional science masters at Oregon State University; materials engineering and science at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology; neonatal nurse practitioner at University of Utah; interdisciplinary resource management at Central Washington University; and a masters in social work at University of Wyoming.

A major new project overseen by Programs and Services is the [State Scholars Initiative \(SSI\)](#). In the fall of 2005, WICHE competed for and won the federal contract to oversee SSI. The SSI is a national program that taps business leaders to motivate high school students to complete a rigorous course of study, one that will help them succeed in college and their careers. The SSI course of study includes: four years of English, three years of math (algebra I and II and geometry), three years of science (biology, chemistry and physics), three and a half years of social studies (U.S. history, world history, geography, economics or government), and two years of a language other than English. WICHE issued a national request for proposals and added eight new states to the SSI network, which now totals 22 states. They are: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. WICHE assists the state business-education partnerships, each of which receives up to \$300,000 during a two-year period to implement SSI programs in at least four school districts. Local business-education partnerships work directly with students in those districts. The U.S. Education Departments’ Office of Vocational and Adult Education funds the project.

### **Policy Analysis and Research**

The Policy Analysis and Research unit offers analysis, support, and data to constituents on a variety of higher education issues. In fiscal year 2006, it continued its work on [Changing Direction: Integrating Higher Education Financial Aid and Financing Policy](#), which focuses on aligning policy dealing with financial aid, financing, and appropriations. This three-year continuation project, funded by Lumina Foundation for Education, has supported the restructuring of policies and practices to maximize participation, access, and success for all students. Last year, the project continued to engage policymakers and higher education leaders in key policy issues related to the

ability of states to sustain their investment in higher education. The project's activities included a multi-state policy forum for high-growth states and two invitational leadership institutes: one for legislators, co-sponsored with the National Conference of State Legislatures; and a second for governors' education policy advisors, co-sponsored with the National Governors Association Programs and Services.

### **The Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunication (WCET)**

The WCET is a national leader in helping states and institutions integrate new technologies into all aspects of higher education. Members, representing more than 45 U.S. states and four continents, cooperate in sharing information such as, identifying barriers to the use of telecommunications in education, evaluating technological approaches to education, and facilitating multi-institutional approaches to technology-based learning. Its research efforts have resulted in guidelines used by all U.S. regional accreditation agencies. WCET's annual conference, held last year in San Francisco, convened some of the world's most innovative thinkers on technology and education exchange programs.

### **Mental Health Program**

The Mental Health Program has a two-fold mission: (1) to assist states in improving systems of care for mental health consumers and their families; and 2) to advance the preparation of a qualified mental health workforce in the West. Dr. Thomas Hester, Chief, Adult Mental Health Division, State Department of Health, serves on the WICHE Mental Health Oversight Council. Michelle Hill, Deputy Director, State Department of Health for Behavioral Health Administration is also involved with this program.

### **Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) in Hawai'i**

The following paragraphs describe the most active WICHE programs in Hawai'i: the three Student Exchange Programs.

#### **Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)**

Hawai'i supports students enrolled in six disciplines. They are dentistry, occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, and veterinary medicine. When the pharmacy program at UH Hilo graduates its first class in 2011 and receives full accreditation, the WICHE support for Hawai'i students enrolling in pharmacy schools on the mainland will terminate.

WICHE-Boulder created a Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee to provide guidance in the coordination of the PSEP Veterinary Medicine Program. Hawai'i's representatives on the Advisory Committee are Dr. Andrew Hashimoto, Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at University of Hawai'i at Manoa and Senator Russell Kokubun.

Students participating in the PSEP program are required to be Hawai'i residents for at least five (5) consecutive years. Interested students submit their residency certification application to the WICHE-Hawai'i office. David Iha serves as the certifying officer for Hawai'i and certifies that the WICHE applicant has met the five consecutive year's residency requirement.

Beginning with the students enrolling in Fall 2008, students who receive support from WICHE-Hawai'i will be required to return to Hawai'i and serve in the state in their chosen profession. The students will be required to serve one year for each year of support. If a student is not able to fulfill the return of service commitment, the student will be required to pay back the entire amount of student support funds at 5% interest.

The support fee per student and the number of students supported for 2006-2007 in their respective fields were paid as follows:

<u>Professional Field</u>	<u>Support fee per student</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Total Paid</u>
Dentistry	\$19,900	10	\$232,165
Veterinary Medicine	\$25,400	9	\$215,900
Physical Therapy	\$ 9,400	18	\$200,531
Occupational Therapy	\$ 9,400	6	\$ 53,267
Optometry	\$13,600	10	\$122,400
Pharmacy	\$ 6,100	19	\$125,050
	<b>Total:</b>	72	\$949,313

Student demographics for the 72 students are: Male – 19; Female – 53  
Asian Americans – 64; Latino – 1; Native American – 1; White – 6

### **The Western Regional Graduate Program (WGRP)**

The programs that accept WGRP students in Hawai'i are at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. The programs include urban and regional planning, natural resources and environmental management, East Asian languages and literatures, biomedical sciences (tropical medicine), tropical entomology, oceanography, Asian and comparative philosophy, tropical plant and soil sciences, Asian theatre and dance, and second language acquisition. The State of Hawai'i does not provide WICHE funds for Hawai'i WRGP students going to the universities in the WICHE states.

In the fall of 2006, 23 graduate students enrolled at UH Manoa from other WICHE states. Twelve Hawai'i graduate students enrolled in mainland graduate programs.

## **The Western Undergraduate Exchange Program (WUE)**

In 2006-2007, Hawai'i students and their families saved nearly \$10.1 million in tuition by participating in the Western Undergraduate Exchange. In Fall 2006, 1,363 Hawai'i resident students enrolled in WICHE institutions on the mainland while 2,082 from the other 14 WICHE states enrolled at the two institutions that accept WUE students in Hawai'i: the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

### **WICHE – Hawai'i Administration**

WICHE-Hawai'i is assigned for administrative purposes to the University of Hawai'i. WICHE-Hawai'i expenditures include the following: Student Support Fees of \$949,313; Hawai'i state dues in the amount of \$116,000 for support of the Commissions' basic operation for the fiscal year 2007-2008; funding for a half-time clerk position; out-of-state travel expenses for the WICHE certifying officer; office supplies; postage; and communication expenses.