

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT



REPORT TO THE 2010 LEGISLATURE

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

HRS 304A-3205

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# **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. (Dr. Sokugawa resigned in December 2009). Ms. Roberta Richards was reappointed to a second term as a WICHE commissioner. Under terms of the Compact, each state commits to support WICHE's basic operations through annual dues established by the full Commission. WICHE also established a Legislative Advisory Committee to the WICHE Commission to strengthen state policy making in higher education. The Legislative Advisory Committee engages legislators in the discussion of higher education issues and seeks their input on strategies for interstate collaboration. Representative Jerry Chang and Senator Jill Tokuda 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. WICHE's workplan for 2010 will focus on five areas of interest: finance, access and success, workforce issues, innovation and information technology and accountability. WICHE's four units which consists of Policy Analysis and Research, Program and Services, WCET and Mental Health are working on a variety of projects in these areas.

The following paragraphs describe some of the major activities of WICHE:

### **Policy Analysis and Research**

The Policy Analysis and Research unit offers analysis, support, and data to constituents on issues including access, finance and financial aid, accountability, workforce development, and information technology.

Current projects include:

- *Pathways to College Network*
- *Escalating Engagement: State Policy to Protect Access to Higher Education*
- *Tuition and Fees in Public Education in the West*
- *The WICHE Factbook: Policy Indicators for Higher Education*
- *Benchmarks: WICHE region*
- *SPIDO (State Policy Inventory Database Online)*
- *State-specific projects and activities*
- *Workforce certification feasibility*
- *Back in the Fold – degree completion activities for returning adults*
- *College access marketing environmental scans*
- *Examination of college-level learning measurements and costs*
- *Policy Insights – short reports on major policy issues*
- *Exchanges – bulletin on unit activities and initiatives*
- *Legislative Advisory Committee*

### **Programs and Services**

The Programs and Services unit administers WICHE's three Student Exchange Programs: the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP), and Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE).

The WUE program currently enrolls approximately 21,500 students resulting in a savings to students and their families of \$131.4 million last year.

Other Programs and Services initiatives include:

- *State Scholars Initiative (programs in 22 states)*
- *Northwest Academic Forum*
- *WICHE ICE (Internet Course Exchange) and NEON*
- *Western Rural Health Care Advisory Council*
- *Western Consortium for Rural Social Work*
- *Master Property Program (insurance and risk management consortium)*
- *Communications activities: NewsCap, fact sheets, website, annual reports, state briefings, commission agenda books*
- *WICHE Annual Workplan*

- *Workforce Briefs (by state and profession)*
- *Bridges to the Professoriate*
- *AT Alliance*

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

The Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunication is a non-profit organization founded by WICHE in 1989 to explore and advance innovative and effective uses of technology in higher education. We seek to leverage technology to enhance the effectiveness of instruction and student learning, improve access to higher education by underserved populations, and, where possible, lower the costs of high quality higher education.

WCET is a national and, increasingly, international organization, and membership is open to providers and users of educational technology, including higher education institutions; corporations; state or government agencies; non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations; and others approved by the WCET Executive Council.

WCET addresses pressing technology-related issues in higher education, helping member institutions and organizations achieve their individual and collective goals in areas such as:

- *Educational quality – including accountability, best practices, and professional development.*
- *Increased access to higher education opportunities for underserved populations.*
- *Academic services and administrative processes that support student success.*
- *Financial models for technology-delivered or supported education.*
- *Rapid student- and faculty-driven adoption of emerging and innovative technology services and tools, for use both on- and off-campus.*
- *Practical applications of technology to teaching and learning.*
- *Support for international education and exchange.*
- *Campus-based action and implementation.*

### **Mental Health Program**

The WICHE **Mental Health** Program seeks to enhance the public systems such as care for persons with mental illnesses, children with serious emotional disturbances, and their families. The program approaches this mission through partnerships with state mental health authorities, advocacy and consumer groups, federal agencies, and higher education institutions. Activities focus upon direct technical assistance to state and local agencies, policy analysis and research, support of state mental health agency data analysis, and liaison activities with higher education to enhance workforce development.

Current projects include the following:

- **WICHE Center for Rural Mental Health Research.** This federally funded research institute conducts studies that help inform health policy at multiple levels of decision making. Focused upon rural mental health, the center is one of seven rural health research centers in the United States funded by the Office of Rural Health Policy of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Since most rural Americans obtain their mental health care through primary care providers, rather than specialty mental health providers, the initial focus of the research seeks to expand knowledge round supporting adoption of evidence-based practices in primary care and the potential impact of such adoption on health outcomes for the consumer. (A resource for this work, the recently published *Mental Health and Rural America: 1994-2005: An Overview and Annotated Bibliography*, a reference book prepared under contract with HSRA, was edited by Mental Health Program Director Dennis F. Mohatt and staffers Scott J. Adams and Mimi M. Bradley, along with Chad D. Morris.)
- **Western States Decision Support Group (WSDSG).** Through a partnership in funding between the federal Center for Mental Health Services and 15 WICHE states, the Mental Health Program coordinates a regional effort to enhance and coordinate program evaluation and data-driven decision support in the public mental health systems of the WICHE West. WSDSG meets face to face three times yearly to focus on regional issues related to enhancing accountability through sound data management to support quality improvement, policy formation, and administration.

**Workforce Development.** The Mental Health Program is engaged in an array of activities to improve the preparation and continuing education of the public mental health workforce in the WICHE West. The program produces a monthly series of Rural Mental Health Grand Rounds Webcasts, funded by the federal Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). These webcasts enable rural professionals to obtain training on current issues in mental health practice and continuing education credit. Over the first two years of the series, the WICHE Mental Health Program developed 18 sessions on key topics; year three consists of four broadcasts. At the end of this series, the Mental Health Program will submit a report that identifies promising rural practices – including mental health promotion, prevention of mental illness and substance abuse, and treatment practices across the lifespan. The program continues to work on improving the behavioral health workforce of the rural West in regards to deaf and hard-of hearing populations. The Mental Health Program is routinely called upon by member states and others to offer state-specific technical assistance, facilitating activities focused upon system improvement, planning, and needs assessment. Staff members frequently work with states across the region in areas of needs assessment and gap analysis.

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

The following paragraphs describe the most active WICHE programs in Hawai'i. The three (3) Student Exchange Programs are as follows:

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

The Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) is the oldest of WICHE. In PSEP, students usually pay resident tuition (or reduced tuition in private institutions) and sending states pay an additional "support fee" established by WICHE. Over the years since the program began in 1953, PSEP has expanded beyond its original three disciplines – medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine – to total 14 professional fields. 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. Ching Yuan Hu, Associate Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and Senator Jill Tokuda.

Students participating in the PSEP program are required to be a Hawai'i resident for at least five (5) consecutive years. Interested students submit their residency certification application to the WICHE-Hawai'i office. David Iha was the certifying officer until his retirement at the end of September 2009. Since then the certifying function has been performed by Louise Miura.

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 2008-2009 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	\$21,300	7	\$149,100
Veterinary Medicine	\$27,200	10	\$272,000
Physical Therapy	\$10,300	16	\$169,998
Occupational Therapy	\$11,100	5	\$ 70,300
Optometry	\$14,600	4	\$ 87,600
Pharmacy	\$ 6,500	25	\$172,250
	<b>Total:</b>	75	\$921,248

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

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

The WGRP came into operation in 1981 and now includes designated graduate programs in all WICHE states except California. 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, WGRP programs tend to be specialized or interdisciplinary and not commonly available in Western universities. New programs are nominated for inclusion every two years. During the last round of nominations in the fall of 2006, 34 new programs were added. The nomination deadline for new 2008 programs will be in November 2007. New programs will be announced in spring 2008.

Participating students enrolled in available programs outside their home state pay resident tuition rates. To receive WRGP tuition status, students apply directly to the institutions of their choice and identify themselves as WICHE - WRGP applicants. As of fall 2006, 179 programs at 39 institutions in the WICHE region participate in the exchange. The programs that accept WGRP students in Hawai'i are at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. The State of Hawai'i does not have any additional payments for Hawai'i students participating in the WRGP program for the universities in the WICHE states.

In the fall of 2008, twenty four (24) graduate students enrolled at UH Mānoa from other WICHE states. Ten (10) Hawai'i graduate students enrolled in mainland graduate programs.

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

The Western Undergraduate Exchange Program, initiated in 1988, opened opportunities for undergraduate study in a wide range of programs in public two-year and four-year colleges and universities. In WUE, states include programs in which they are prepared to enroll resident of other participating states at a tuition rate equal to 150 percent of resident tuition. This special tuition rate is a significant savings over normal non-resident tuition. The WUE Online database now lists more than 130 two-year and four-year public participating institutions in all WICHE states. The State of Hawai'i does not have any additional payments for Hawai'i students participating in WUE program in the WICHE states.

Through WUE, the students from participating states may enroll in designated two-year and four- year public institutions in other participating states at a special reduced tuition level which is 150 percent of resident tuition. In all programs, this amount is substantially less than non-resident tuition.

All WICHE states now receive and send students through the Western Undergraduate Exchange program. They include: Alaska; Arizona; California; Colorado; Hawai'i; Idaho; Montana; Nevada; New Mexico; North Dakota; Oregon; South Dakota; Utah; Washington; and Wyoming. California became a fully reciprocal partner in November 2005, and an increasing number of California institutions are discovering the benefits of joining the WUE network.

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. Enrollment has grown from a total of 642 students beginning in the fall of 1988 to more than 21,000 students in the WUE program in 2008. 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).

In Fall 2008, 1,442 Hawai'i resident students enrolled in WICHE institutions on the mainland while 1,998 from the other 14 WICHE states enrolled at the two institutions that accept WUE students in Hawai'i: the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and University of Hawai'i at Hilo.



## **WICHE – Hawai'i**

WICHE-Hawai'i is assigned for administrative purposes to the University of Hawai'i. WICHE-Hawai'i expenditures for fiscal year 2008-2009 included the following: Student Support Fees of \$921,248; Hawai'i state dues in the amount of \$125,000 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.