

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT



REPORT TO THE 2011 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. Steven Wheelwright. Dr. Wheelwright was appointed in April 2010. 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 2011 will focus on five areas of interest: 1) finance, 2) access and success, 3) workforce and society, 4) technology and innovation, and 5) accountability. WICHE's five departments (Policy Analysis and Research, Programs and Services, WICHE Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications {WCET}, Technology and Innovation, and Mental Health Program) are working on a variety of projects in these areas. The following paragraphs describe some of the major activities of the WICHE departments.

Policy Analysis and Research

The **Policy Analysis and Research** department offers analysis, support and data to legislators and decision makers on issues including: K-12 and postsecondary education, demography, labor market information and higher education finances.

Current projects include:

- *Best Practices in Statewide Articulations and Transfer Systems*
- *College Access Challenge Grant Consortium and Network*
- *Fostering Collaborative State-Level Education and Workforce Database Development*
- *Getting What You Pay For*
- *Non-Traditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners*

Programs and Services

The **Programs and Services** department administers WICHE's three Student Exchange Programs: the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP) and Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE). Their other initiatives help improve access to students, help states and institutions better manage their resources and keep policy makers in the West informed of issues related to higher education.

Other Programs and Services initiatives include:

- *State Scholars Initiative (programs in 24 states)*
- *Cost-Savings Purchasing Options*
- *Master Property Program (insurance and risk management consortium)*
- *WICHE ICE (Internet Course Exchange)*
- *Western Academic Leadership Forum*

WICHE Cooperative for Educational Telecommunication (WCET)

The **WICHE Cooperative for Educational Telecommunication** (known as the Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunication prior to 2010) is a non-profit organization founded by WICHE in 1989 to explore and advance innovative and effective uses of technology in higher education. WCET seeks 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 international organization, where membership is open to providers and users of educational technology. Its membership includes higher education institutions, corporations, state or government agencies, non-governmental and non-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:

- *Edutools*
- *E-Learning Common Interest Groups*
- *E-Learning Membership Organization*
- *ELearning News Digest*
- *ELearning Professional Development*
- *Innovations in ELearning*

- *No Significant Difference*
- *Technology Costing Methodology*
- *Transparency by Design*

Mental Health Program

The WICHE **Mental Health Programs** seek to advance the preparation of qualified mental health workforce in the West and to enhance the public systems 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:

- *Behavioral Health Research and Evaluation*
- *Behavioral Health Training*
- *Behavioral Health Workforce Development*
- *Population-Specific Behavioral Health Support*
- *Rural Behavioral Health*
- *State-Specific Behavioral Health Support*
- *Rural Mental Health Symposium*
- *Higher Education for Military and Veteran Students*
- *Challenge Grant*
- *Suicide Prevention Toolkit for Rural Primary Care*

Technology and Innovation

The **Technology and Innovation** Program is WICHE's newest department which strives to promote access to utilization of broadband networks for education, research and health care in the West. The program approaches this mission by informing, advocating and creating partnerships between institutional, state, regional and national organizations to leverage the technical, policy and planning resources of these groups for a comprehensive impact.

Current projects include the following:

- *"Can you Hear Us Now" – new directions for federal and foundation funding agencies*
- *Unleashing Waves of Innovation: Transformative Broadband for America's future*
- *Working closely with Internet2 to extend broadband to the K12 community*
- *Overview of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Broadband Provisions*

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 programs. 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 (3) disciplines (medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine) and currently supports ten (10) professional fields. Hawai’i currently supports students enrolled in six (6) fields: 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 PSEP 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 Senator Jill Tokuda and Dr. Ching Yuan Hu, Associate Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at University of Hawai’i at Manoa. However, Dr. Ching Yuan Hu was unable to fulfill his term and asked Ashley Stokes to replace him.

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.

Students who receive support from WICHE-PSEP will be required to return to Hawaii to practice in their profession. The requirement for students to fulfill this commitment was to begin this year, in 2010. However, the statute does not currently reflect this condition. Thus, the WICHE-Hawai’i Office will seek statutory authorization in the 2011 legislative session to require WICHE-PSEP recipients to return to the state to practice their profession as a condition of their financial support.

The support fee per student and the number of students supported for 2009-2010 in their respective fields were paid as follows:

<u>Professional Field</u>	<u>Support Fee per student*</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>	<u>Total Paid</u>
Dentistry	\$22,000	6	\$153,999
Veterinary Medicine	\$28,100	12	\$337,200
Physical Therapy	\$10,300	15	\$171,665
Occupational Therapy	\$11,500	8	\$115,001
Optometry	\$15,100	7	\$105,700
Pharmacy	\$ 6,700	25	\$180,900
	Total:	73	\$1,064,465

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

The Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)

The **Western Regional Graduate Program** came into operation in 1981 and now includes designated graduate programs in all fifteen WICHE states (effective fall 2010, California now offers programs at the WRGP tuition rate). To be included in WRGP, programs must undergo an extensive review intended to insure that they are distinctive and demonstrate high quality. WRGP programs (not related to health care) must “be distinctive” with respect to total program, specialization or resources and fill a need not met by more than four institutions in the WICHE region (excluding California). Considering the severe workforce shortages in the health care professions, in May 2007, the WICHE commission has waived the four-program limitation for health care programs not offered through WICHE-PSEP. WRGP currently offers 52 high quality health care-related programs (i.e. Nursing, public health, mental health, speech pathology and post-professional doctorate in physical therapy and master’s in dental hygiene).

New programs are nominated for inclusion every two years and approval is made by the academic affairs officers of the western regional State Higher Education Offices. The nomination deadline for new programs will be on November 1, 2010. New programs will be announced in spring 2011. WICHE recently added 28 new programs for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic year. Currently, there are over 200 programs available from 45 institutions within the western states. Hawaii currently offers 10 programs for the 2010-11 academic year.

Participating students enrolled in available programs outside their home state pay resident tuition rates. Unlike PSEP, receiving WRGP institutions do not receive support fees from the sending states; it is purely a tuition reciprocity agreement, similar to WUE. Therefore, WRGP students can enroll and are not dependent upon the approval of their home state funding limitations. Hence, the State of Hawai’i does not incur any additional costs for Hawai’i students participating in the WRGP program.

To receive WRGP tuition status, students apply directly to the institutions of their choice and identify themselves as WICHE - WRGP applicants. In fall 2009, 502 students were enrolled (savings an estimated \$5 million dollars in tuition costs) in 223 programs at 45 institutions in the WICHE region through the WRGP exchange. WICHE does ask to give some degree of admissions preference to qualified students applying as WRGP applicants. To participate in WRGP, programs must offer the WRGP discounted tuition rate to at least one qualified new applicant each academic year; however, programs are encouraged to offer more WRGP seats to help build a robust program that offers diversity to its students. WRGP student do not need to demonstrate financial need.

Hawai’i currently offers ten (10) WRGP programs through the University of Hawaii at Manoa. In 2009, thirty four (34) graduate students enrolled at UH Manoa from other WICHE states. Thirteen (13) Hawai’i graduate students enrolled in mainland graduate programs.

The Western Undergraduate Exchange Program (WUE)

The **Western Undergraduate Exchange** Program, initiated in 1987, opened opportunities for undergraduate study in a wide range of programs through participating WICHE institutions. In WUE, states include programs in which they are prepared to enroll residents of other WICHE states at a tuition rate equal to 150 percent of their resident tuition charge. This special tuition rate is a significant savings over normal non-resident tuition for the students. WUE students do not need to demonstrate financial need to enroll for the discounted rate. The WUE Online database now lists more than 145 two-year and four-year public participating institutions in all fifteen WICHE states.

All fifteen WICHE states now send and receive students through the WUE program. Virtually all undergraduate fields are available to WUE students at WICHE participating institutions. However, each institution controls their level of participation in WUE. Institutions choose which programs they wish to make available to WUE students, and under what conditions. A student's residency alone does not guarantee they will be charged the WUE rate. Some institutions have additional criteria to qualify for the WUE rate, such as ACT/SAT scores and/or high school grade point average. Furthermore, although some institutions have opened all of their programs on a space available basis or first-come, first-serve basis, other 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 24,670 students in the WUE program in 2009. 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.

To apply for the WUE reduced rate, students must be a resident of a WICHE state and apply for admissions directly to the WUE institution of their choice. Although some schools automatically consider students from WICHE states for WUE tuition rates, most schools require that the student request the WUE rate on the admissions application, scholarship application and/or through the financial aid office. The WUE program enrolled 24,670 students resulting in a savings to students and their families of \$174.4 million in the 2009-2010 academic year; the largest program of its kind.

As of January 2008, Hawai'i students gained eligibility to enroll as WUE students in both two-year and four-year institutions. Prior to January 2008, Hawai'i residents were only eligible to enroll in four-year programs in other WICHE states because prior WUE policy only allowed students to receive the WUE tuition rate only at degree levels (associate, baccalaureate and related certificates) in which their home state offered programs to WUE students from other states. In fall 2009, WUE had 1,455 Hawai'i resident students enrolled in WICHE institutions on the mainland while 1,968 students from the other WICHE states enrolled at the two institutions that accept WUE students in Hawai'i (University of Hawai'i at Manoa and University of Hawai'i at Hilo). In 2009-

2010, WUE's estimated fiscal savings for WUE students and Hawai'i residents are estimated at \$12.2 million.

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

WICHE-Hawai'i is assigned to the University of Hawai'i for administrative purposes. For academic year 2009-2010, WICHE-Hawai'i spent \$1,064,465 for Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) "support fees", \$125,000 for WICHE state dues and \$5,591.49 for operating costs (including travel expenses, office equipment/supplies and outreach/postage/communication expenses).