

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

ANNUAL REPORT



REPORT TO THE 2014 LEGISLATURE

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

Hawai‘i Revised Statutes 304A-3205

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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 (the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is 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 set its priorities. Each Commissioner is appointed by the Governor and serves a four year term. Hawai'i's commissioners are Francisco Hernandez, vice chancellor for students, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu; 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; and Steven Wheelwright, president, Brigham Young University-Hawaii, Laie. 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's Added Value

Hawai'i gains added value from WICHE's programs in policy, workforce development, technology, mental health, and other areas. The following sections describe some of the major initiatives of the WICHE units during 2013:

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.

WICHE has assisted in Hawai'i with its planning around tuition-setting and financial aid policy at the University of Hawai'i (UH) system. WICHE staff discussed options and shared ideas from other states.

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 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. Another meeting was the Western Summit on Workforce Certification and Higher Education for policymakers in the West, held in response to the national demand for more highly skilled workers in a host of fields, from healthcare to high tech. Participants explored how states might use a workforce certification system – which would allow business and higher education to communicate with a common language about workforce demand and supply – to improve their ability to prepare individuals for productive careers and enhance the health of their economies.

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.

WICHE's Lumina-funded project Getting What You Pay For: Understanding Higher Education Appropriations, Tuition, and Financial Aid promoted informed decision making and the alignment of higher education appropriations, tuition, and financial aid policy by state legislators, to improve student access and success. WICHE sent copies of the project's eight policy briefs to all members of the Hawai'i Legislature. Hawai'i also participated in another Lumina project, Best Practices in Statewide Articulation

and Transfer Systems, which seeks to develop a deeper understanding of how states coordinate their articulation and transfer programs for students who move from two-year to four-year institutions.

Additionally, Hawai'i has participated in the Western Academic Leadership Forum, whose members address regional higher education issues and engage in resource sharing. Another WICHE initiative, the Western Alliance for Community College Academic Leaders, 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. The University of Hawai'i System, Hawai'i Community College, Honolulu Community College, Leeward Community College, Kapiolani Community College, Kauai Community College, University of Hawai'i Maui College, and Windward Community College are members.

Technology

Several Hawai'i colleges and universities are active participants in the **WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET)**, a membership cooperative that accelerates the adoption of effective practices and policies to advance excellence in technology-enhanced teaching and learning in higher education. Hae Okimoto, director of academic technology services for the University of Hawai'i System, serves as chair of WCET's Steering Committee, ensuring its programs and services are relevant to the higher education community at large. In addition, Okimoto and her colleague, University of Hawai'i Interim President David Lassner, both have received WCET's highest honor, the Richard Jonsen Award, for their contributions to educational technology developments in higher education.

WCET members have access to trusted information on emerging trends, policies, and exemplars of successful learning technology innovation in practice. WCET provides access to peers, colleagues, common interest groups, experts, and decision makers; communications tools that enable members to stay informed about developments affecting technology-enabled teaching and learning; and information about key developments affecting e-learning providers, such as new federal rules pertaining to distance education. WCET also manages multi-institutional projects, one aimed at adult online learners and another on large-scale student data aggregation and predictive analytics to improve student outcomes.

Mental Health

A nucleus for researching mental health policy and a provider of technical assistance in such areas as service innovation, system reform, workforce development, program evaluation, and other areas, WICHE's Mental Health Program is another well-used resource. Program staff recently wrote a successful application to receive funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration

Network Development Planning Grant to develop a rural psychology internship consortium in Hawai'i. WICHE staff will lead the planning phase with local partners.

Other Initiatives

The Master Property Program (MPP) helps institutions reduce their insurance premiums and improve their coverage. Created by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) and expanded to the WICHE region, the MPP includes 50 member institutions with total insured values of \$83.1 billion; it has generated some \$65.4 million in savings for the participating institutions while expanding their coverage. WICHE is also partnering with MHEC to offer MHECare, a new health program providing vetted, competitively priced medical benefits for students. Underwritten by UnitedHealthcare StudentResources, MHECare offers a variety of plans

WICHE's Student Exchange

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 2012-13 Hawai'i's students and families saved \$14.4 million. Hawai'i saved money, too, through not having to establish and maintain costly programs in a number of areas, including some in healthcare.

Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)

The **Professional Student Exchange Program** is the oldest of WICHE programs. In PSEP, students generally pay resident tuition (or reduced levels of tuition at private institutions) and sending states pay a "support fee" to the host institutions. 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 healthcare fields with more than 14,500 residents in the West who received their professional healthcare degrees through PSEP. Currently, Hawai'i receives incoming WICHE PSEP medical students through the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine, a field that receives support from Montana and Wyoming. Additionally, Hawai'i accepts WICHE pharmacy students through the University of Hawai'i at Hilo which receives students from Alaska and Nevada. Hawai'i supports outgoing Hawai'i residents enrolled in six (6) fields: Dentistry, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy and Veterinary Medicine. However, now that the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's College of Pharmacy program has received full accreditation, support for outgoing Hawai'i residents will be limited to only continuing Pharmacy students who were already enrolled and previously supported through WICHE PSEP.

The support fee per student and the number of students supported for the 2012-2013 academic year are as follows:

<u>Professional Field</u>	<u>Support Fee per student*</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>	<u>Total Paid</u>
Dentistry	\$ 23,400*	8	\$ 187,200
Veterinary Medicine	\$ 30,000	13	\$ 390,000
Physical Therapy	\$ 11,000*	15	\$ 203,502
Occupational Therapy	\$ 12,300*	4	\$ 65,600
Optometry	\$ 16,100*	11	\$ 171,733
Pharmacy	\$ 7,100*	3	\$ 21,300
	Total:	54	\$1,039,335

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

Students participating in the PSEP program are required to be a Hawai'i resident for at least five (5) consecutive years prior to enrolling in a professional healthcare program. Interested students submit their residency certification application to the WICHE-Hawai'i office. WICHE-Hawai'i is assigned for administrative purposes to the University of Hawai'i. WICHE-Hawai'i's 2012–2013 academic year expenditures are as follows: 1) \$ 1,039,335 for Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) "support fees", 2) \$ 125,000 for annual state dues, and 3) \$ 671.00 for WICHE-Hawai'i's operating costs.

The Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)

The **Western Regional Graduate Program** began in 1981 and now includes select graduate programs in all fifteen WICHE states. To be included in WRGP, programs (not related to health care) must undergo an extensive review intended to insure that they are distinctive and demonstrate high quality. To be considered "distinctive" it must fill a need not met by more than four (4) institutions in the WICHE region with respect to total program, specialization or resources. Graduate deans, provosts, and chief academic affair officers are contacted annually for nominations. The nomination deadline for new programs is November 1st with new programs announced in March.

To receive the WRGP tuition rates, interested students apply directly to the institutions of their choice and identify themselves as a WRGP applicant. WRGP applicants do not need to demonstrate financial need. WICHE does ask participating institutions to give some degree of admissions preference to qualified WRGP applicants. Students enrolled in WRGP pay resident tuition rates at the host institution. Unlike PSEP, receiving WRGP institutions do not receive "support fees" from the sending states; it is purely a tuition reciprocity agreement, similar to the Western Undergraduate Exchange Program (WUE). Therefore, WRGP students can enroll and are not dependent upon their home state's funding limitations and the State of Hawai'i does not incur any additional costs for Hawai'i residents who participate in the WRGP program.

The Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP), which offers access to over 275 high-quality, distinctive programs ("distinctive" meaning that they're offered at only four or fewer institutions in the WICHE region) at 52 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 2012-13 Hawai'i sent 24 students to out-of-state institutions, while receiving 47.

The Western Undergraduate Exchange Program (WUE)

The **Western Undergraduate Exchange** Program has opened opportunities for undergraduate students in virtually all undergraduate fields through participating WICHE institutions. WUE is offered at more than 150 two-year and four-year public participating institutions in all fifteen WICHE states. WUE continues to grow because it offers states a way to greatly expand their range of educational opportunities available to students at a minimal cost to the state

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 charges. Each institution has the ability to control their level of participation in WUE. Institutions choose which programs they wish to make available to WUE students, and under what conditions. Some institutions have opened all of their programs on a space available basis or first-come, first-serve basis, while others have excluded some programs.

To apply for the WUE tuition 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, although WUE students do not need to demonstrate financial need to enroll for the discounted rate. 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.

As of January 2008, Hawai'i students gained eligibility to enroll as WUE students in both two-year and four-year institutions in the West. Prior to January 2008, Hawai'i residents were only eligible to enroll in four-year programs because prior WUE policy only allowed students to receive the WUE tuition rate at degree levels (associate, baccalaureate and related certificates) in which their home state offered programs to WUE students from other states. Hawai'i students have enrolled in undergraduate programs on the mainland through the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) since 1988, saving on 24,113 annual tuition bills. In 2012-13, 1,634 students from Hawai'i are enrolled in out-of-state programs at reduced rates (150 percent of resident tuition), saving \$13 million in tuition and fees – the average student savings amounted to \$7,990. In the last 10 years, students have saved \$110 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 2012-13 Hawai'i received 2,431 students through WUE.

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 2012, Hawai'i's savings and revenue totaled \$14,434,760 from WICHE's Student Exchange Programs. 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, Hawai'i WICHE respectfully requests the legislature's continued support and participation in the WICHE and PSEP program. The WICHE-Hawai'i's projected budget request for the 2014-15 academic year will be \$1,162,566; which includes estimated expenses for 1) Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) "support fees", 2) annual state dues, and 3) WICHE-Hawai'i's operating costs.