

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

\$1.4M

TOTAL SAVED

by CNMI students through
WICHE Student Access
Programs

\$1.3M

SAVED
through WUE

\$60,774

SAVED
through WRGP

\$19,950

SAVED
through PSEP

WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE



Saves **UNDERGRADUATE** students on out-of-state tuition. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top out-of-state WUE schools for CNMI undergraduate students:

- ▶ **University of Nevada, Las Vegas (32)**
- ▶ **Western Oregon University (17)**
- ▶ **Boise State University (13)**

WESTERN REGIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAM



Saves students on out-of-state **GRADUATE** certificate, master's, and doctoral programs. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top out-of-state WRGP schools for CNMI graduate students:

- ▶ **University of Alaska Anchorage (3)**
- ▶ **Arizona State University (1)**
- ▶ **Portland State University (1)**

PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM



Helps students pursuing careers in **10 HEALTH FIELDS**. They can enroll in programs in the WICHE region and receive substantial tuition support from their home state/territory.

1 CNMI student paid reduced tuition for health care studies not offered by public institutions in their home state.

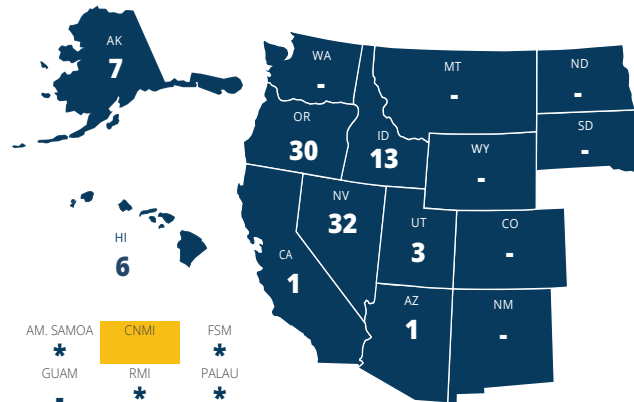
Residents can access affordable health care education at some 130 participating programs in the Western United States due to legislation passed by the CNMI in 2017.

CNMI considers applicants in the fields of allopathic medicine, dentistry, occupational therapy, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, and veterinary medicine.

2,862% ROI Gained on CNMI's WICHE annual dues (\$27,333/FY 2024)

WUE

WUE STUDENTS FROM CNMI: **93**

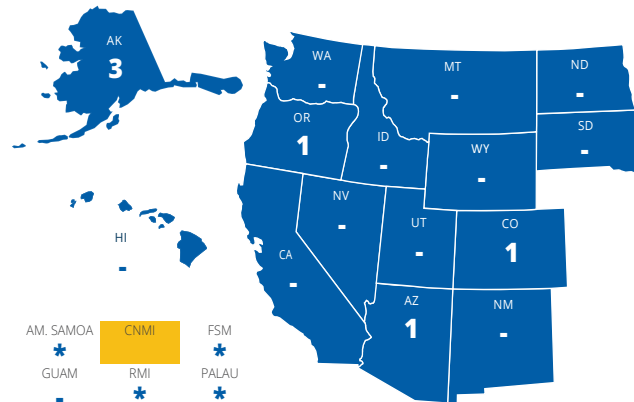


* Currently do not have any participating WUE schools.

Note: Students from American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and some Guam students are eligible for the University of Hawaii Pacific Islander rate, which is the equivalent of the WUE rate. These students are also reported here as WUE students.

WRGP

WRGP STUDENTS FROM CNMI: **6**



* Currently do not have any participating WRGP schools.

PSEP

FIELD	STUDENTS	FEES PAID
Physician Assistant	1	\$19,950
TOTAL	1	\$19,950

PSEP students from CNMI saved \$19,950 in tuition

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is a member of the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States membership. This membership allows more students access to tuition savings, workforce development, and behavioral health programs.

Other active members include Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and American Samoa. Generous grants from the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs have covered the annual dues for the Pacific Island members of WICHE for the past few years.

Regional collaboration

OUR GROWING PARTNERSHIP in the region is thanks in part to substantial collaboration and leadership, as well as a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, which was renewed for a second consecutive year in 2022 to cover WICHE's annual dues. Participation in WICHE is open to all the U.S. Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States, once they pass the necessary legislation; currently this includes American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WICHE brings together senior academic leaders to foster dialogue about issues facing individual institutions through its leadership and professional development networks.

- ▶ **Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders** – 2-year institutions
- ▶ **Western Academic Leadership Forum** – 4-year institutions
- ▶ **Western Academic Leadership Academy** is a yearlong professional development program for academic leaders aspiring to become chief academic officers in the WICHE region.

NO HOLDING BACK In 2022-23, 12 WICHE institutions analyzed data, policies, and practices to make improvements to how it used holds on registration or transcripts, and contributed to the development of tools for other institutions to undertake this work.

Optimal behavioral healthcare

WICHE Behavioral Health Program (BHP) administers the **RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM (RCORP)**, a multiyear initiative supported by the Health Resources & Services Administration to identify treatment barriers and best practices for preventing and treating substance use disorder. BHP provides technical assistance to 76 grantees across the U.S., supporting 36 grantees in the WICHE region.

HELPING OUR COMMUNITIES In 2014, WICHE helped the CNMI identify a significant shortage of social workers as part of a needs assessment of its Child and Family System of Care Grant. The only degree option available at the time required students to leave the CNMI which, for many, was cost prohibitive. In response, WICHE established a partnership between Northern Marianas College (NMC) and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks (UAF) to enable CNMI students to earn a Bachelor of Social Work degree. Through this program, students complete their first two years of study at NMC and then complete the upper-division study virtually through UAF. The UAF program was developed to serve students in remote Alaska villages and is specifically designed around Indigenous and rural/remote students and culture, making this unique program especially attractive to students from the Pacific region. Five students have graduated since 2022, and nine students are currently enrolled.

Sound public policy

KNOCKING AT THE COLLEGE DOOR is the leading U.S. resource for projections of college-ready students. *Knocking*, which includes a quadrennial publication with additional analysis, is essential for postsecondary policymakers, planning and workforce efforts, and economic development. Visit knocking.wiche.edu to access reports, interactive dashboards, webinars, presentations, as well as state-level data.

DATA RESOURCES WICHE offers curated data and policy resources to support better-informed decision-making. WICHE's research projects and collaborations cover postsecondary completion, health workforce development, behavioral health in postsecondary education, open educational resources (OER), state finance, prior learning assessment, and more.

- ▶ **Tuition and Fees in the West** includes tuition, fees, and enrollment data about 350+ public institutions in the West.
- ▶ **Benchmarks: WICHE Region** presents information on the West's progress in improving access to, success in, and financing of higher education.
- ▶ Data on over 35 indicators in WICHE's **Regional Fact Book for Higher Education in the West**.

DATA EXPERTS WICHE staff provide analysis on finance, financial aid, articulation and transfer, strategic planning, student demographics, and more, as well as host peer-to-peer calls of state, system, and institutional chief academic officers to identify areas of potential collaboration and resource sharing across the West.

SPECIAL PROJECTS WICHE staff continue to work with federal partners to ensure federal policy recognizes and accounts for the unique nature of the Pacific region.

Innovative solutions

WCET – THE WICHE COOPERATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES is the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education. Its growing membership includes institutions, higher education agencies and systems, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in all U.S. states and several Canadian provinces. Northern Marianas College is a member.

WICHE has convened the **OERWEST NETWORK**, which is part of a nationwide collaborative to scale the development and adoption of free course materials. Open educational resources (OER) have shown promise in improving student outcomes, particularly for poverty-affected students, for whom the high cost of textbooks can be a barrier to postsecondary success.

U.S. PACIFIC TERRITORIES AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES COMMISSIONERS



Frankie Eliptico
Representing CNMI,
Vice President,
Administration and
Advancement, Northern
Marianas College



Rodney Jacob
Representing Guam,
Attorney, Partner, Calvo
Fisher & Jacob LLP



Kalani Kaneko
Senator, Republic of the
Marshall Islands

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Manny Gregory Castro
Representative, CNMI

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Senator, Guam Legislature

Kalani Kaneko
Senator, Republic of the Marshall Islands

Amanda Shelton
Senator, Guam Legislature