# WICHE

## Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

*partnering with the West **since 1953***

### $613M
**TOTAL SAVED**

by students through WICHE Student Access Programs

### $559.1M
**SAVED**
through WUE

### $39.2M
**SAVED**
through WRGP

### $14.5M
**SAVED**
through PSEP

---

## WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE

### WUE

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

### 47,248
**STUDENTS**
chose WUE schools in the West

### $11,834
**AVERAGE SAVINGS**
for undergraduate students

---

## WESTERN REGIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAM

### WRGP

**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.**

### 2,877
**STUDENTS**
chose WRGP schools in the West

### $13,637
**AVERAGE SAVINGS**
for graduate students

---

## PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

### PSEP

**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.**

10 WICHE states and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **invested $14.5 million to grow their healthcare workforce and reduced the educational costs of 557 students**.

More than **130 accredited programs are offered through PSEP at 63 institutions**.

**A student can save between $35,700 and $139,800 on tuition** over the lifespan of a professional health degree program, depending on the field of study.

# Regional collaboration 🤝

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** The Alliance is a consortium of leaders at community colleges, technical schools, and systems and state governing and coordinating boards associated with two-year institutions.

**WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM** The Forum is a consortium of academic officers at four-year institutions, including those awarding bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, as well as chief executives and chief academic officers for systems and state governing boards.

**WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY** is a yearlong professional development program for academic leaders aspiring to become chief academic officers in the WICHE region's postsecondary sector.

**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.

**COSTS-SAVINGS PROGRAMS** Thanks to collaboration with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), one of four U.S. regional higher education compacts, WICHE-region educational institutions, nonprofits, and public education entities can benefit from three programs: MHECtech, which provides competitively bid purchasing contracts for an array of hardware, software, and technology services; MHECare, which provides a student health insurance plan and teletherapy services; and a MHEC Cyber Insurance Program, which offers risk transfer and advisory solutions.

**STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT (SARA)** is a voluntary agreement that provides reciprocity for the state authorization of distance education. WICHE Commissioners have been strong advocates for protecting the state voice in important governance decisions affecting this agreement and staff continue to support participating states and improving student protections while bolstering access.

# Optimal behavioral health care 🏥

WICHE Behavioral Health Program's (BHP) fastest-growing initiative is the **PSYCHOLOGY INTERNSHIP CONSORTIA**, which helps build the behavioral health workforce pipeline, particularly in rural or remote areas. WICHE contributes an administrative framework, American Psychological Association accreditation, and other support for consortia across the WICHE region, which include:

▶ Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium (AK-PIC)

▶ Guam Psychology Internship Consortium (GU-PIC)

▶ Hawai'i Psychology Internship Consortium (HI-PIC)

▶ Idaho Psychology Internship Consortium (Idaho-PIC)

▶ Nevada Psychology Internship Consortium (NV-PIC)

▶ New Mexico Psychology Internship Consortium (NM-PIC)

▶ Oregon State Hospital Psychology Internship Program (OSH-PIP)

▶ Sanford Health Psychology Internship Consortium (SH-PIC)

▶ South Dakota Psychology Internship Consortium (SD-PIC)

▶ Utah Psychology Internship Consortium (UT-PIC)

**RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM (RCORP)** is 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.

**TOGETHER WITH VETERANS (TWV) – RURAL VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM** enlists rural Veterans and local partners to join forces to reduce Veteran suicide in their own community. Funded by the US Department of Veterans Affairs and administered by the WICHE BHP, TWV provides communities with individualized coaching, tools, training, technical assistance, and resources to implement the program in their own communities. The BHP supports 38 rural communities as far east as New Hampshire and as far west as Guam, and of those, supports 18 rural communities in the WICHE region.

WICHE BHP, in partnership with the University of North Dakota College of Education and Human Development and with funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), co-administers the **MOUNTAIN PLAINS MENTAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER (MP-MHTTC)**. The MP-MHTTC provides comprehensive training, resources, and technical assistance to mental health providers and other practitioners in the SAMHSA Region 8. Region 8 is comprised of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

In October 2022, WICHE BHP was awarded a multiyear grant from SAMHSA to establish the **MOUNTAIN PLAINS RURAL OPIOID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (MP ROTAC)**. The MP ROTAC develops and disseminates resources, training, and technical assistance that focuses on opioid and stimulant misuse in rural areas throughout SAMHSA's Region 8.

## 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.

WICHE has convened staff from across the region in a collaborative network to identify challenges and promising practices to help address workforce shortages in the health sector. Through this effort, WICHE members are able to share innovative approaches and collaborate to solve the complex challenges in this sector.
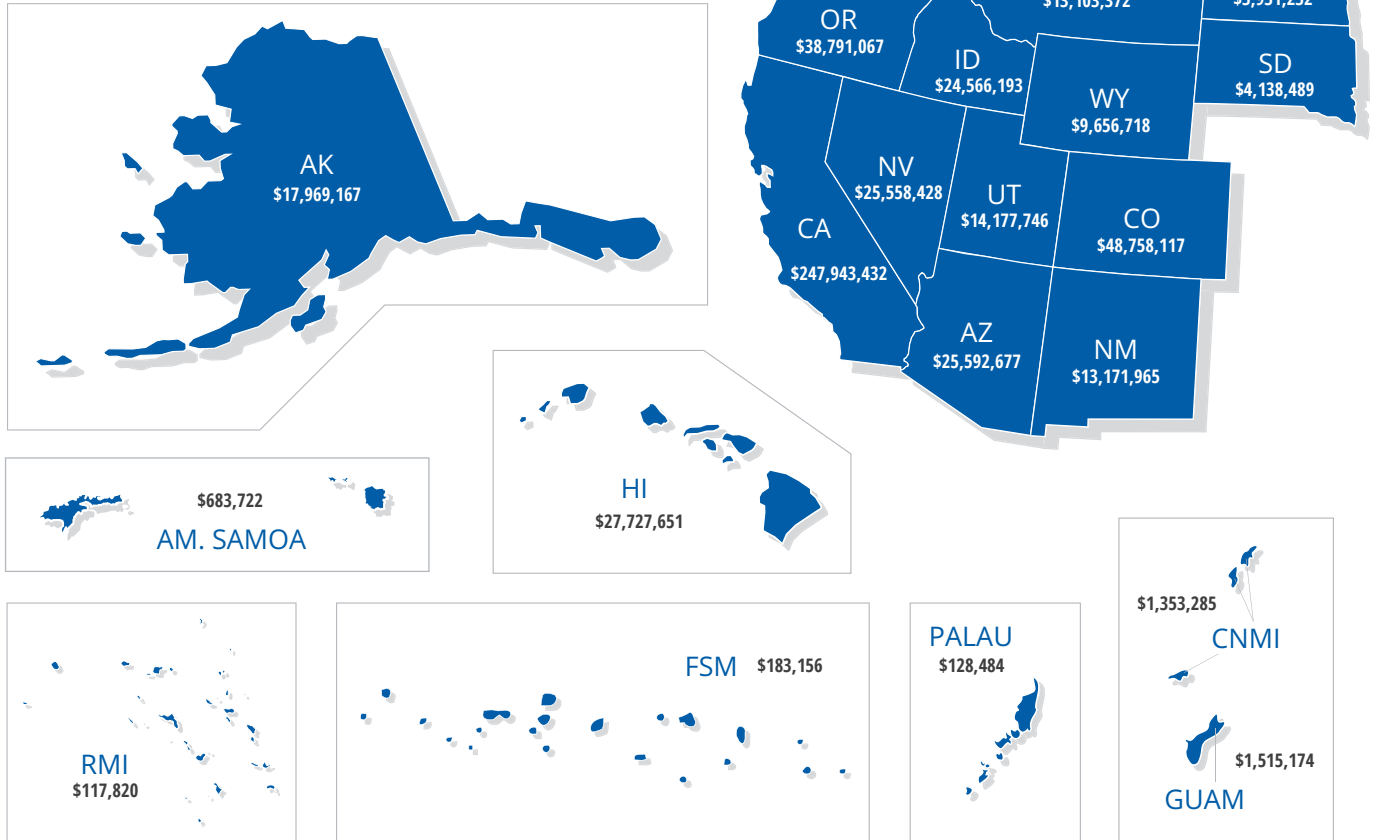
## Innovative solutions

**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. See wcet.wiche.edu/current-members for a complete list.

**STATE AUTHORIZATION NETWORK (SAN)** helps guide institutions through state regulations around online courses and programs. See wcetsan.wiche.edu/member-institutions-organizations for a complete list.

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.

## WICHE Region

**$612,874,718** = **Total student savings through WICHE's Student Access Programs** AY 2023

WA
$93,807,103

OR
$38,791,067

MT
$13,103,372

ND
$3,931,232

ID
$24,566,193

WY
$9,656,718

SD
$4,138,489

NV
$25,558,428

UT
$14,177,746

CO
$48,758,117

CA
$247,943,432

AZ
$25,592,677

NM
$13,171,965

AK
$17,969,167

AM. SAMOA
$683,722

HI
$27,727,651

RMI
$117,820

FSM $183,156

PALAU
$128,484

CNMI
$1,353,285

GUAM
$1,515,174

---

## WICHE Commission  February 2024

**ALASKA**
Tom Begich
Pearl Brower
Sean Parnell

**ARIZONA**
John Arnold
Kathleen Goeppinger
Todd Haynie

**CALIFORNIA**
Christopher Cabaldon
Ellen Junn
Robert Shireman

**COLORADO**
Jim Chavez
Antwan Jefferson *(Chair)*
Angie Paccione

**HAWAI'I**
David Lassner
John Morton
Colleen Sathre

**IDAHO**
Rick Aman
Matt Freeman
  *(Immediate Past Chair)*
Dave Lent

**MONTANA**
Maryrose Beasley
Clayton Christian
Llew Jones

**NEVADA**
Catherine (Cathy) Dinauer
Dale Erquiaga
Fred Lokken

**NEW MEXICO**
Barbara Damron *(Vice Chair)*
Bill Soules
Patricia Sullivan

**NORTH DAKOTA**
Danita Bye
Kyle Davison
Mark Hagerott

**OREGON**
Ben Cannon
Hilda Rosselli
Lisa Skari

**SOUTH DAKOTA**
Nathan Lukkes
Larry Tidemann
Diana VanderWoude

**U.S. PACIFIC TERRITORIES & FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES**
Frankie Eliptico (CNMI)
Rodney Jacob (Guam)
Kalani R. Kaneko (RMI)

**UTAH**
Patricia Jones
Geoffrey Landward
Ann Millner

**WASHINGTON**
John Carmichael
Michael Meotti
Gerry Pollet

**WYOMING**
Fred Baldwin
Kevin Carman
Joseph Schaffer

**WICHE.EDU**