

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT



REPORT TO THE 2016 LEGISLATURE

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

HRS 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 (with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands being 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 sets its priorities. Each Commissioner is appointed by the Governor and serves a four year term. Hawai'i's commissioners are 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 David Lassner, president, University of Hawai'i. There is one vacancy on the Commission with the resignation of Francisco Hernandez, former vice chancellor of students, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. 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 Hawai'i is assigned for administrative purposes to the University of Hawai'i.

WICHE's Added Value

Hawai'i gains added value from WICHE's programs in the areas described below related to policy, workforce development, technology, mental health, and enriched student learning experiences.

Policy and Workforce Development

- Hawai'i participates 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.
- 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.
- The State Higher Education Policy Database (SHEPD) is WICHE's online searchable database that provides state and national policymakers, education leaders, practitioners, and education consumers with an inventory of state-level policies and resources in key issue areas related to access and success in higher education. It contains a blog and an electronic SHEPD alert distribution list to keep subscribers current on important updates. A related resource is the Policy Publications Clearinghouse, a depository of publications, reports, and briefs related to higher education.
- Additionally, Hawai'i has participated in the Western Academic Leadership Forum (the Forum) whose members address regional higher education issues and engage in resource sharing.
- The Western Alliance for Community College Academic Leaders (the Alliance) 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. Hawai'i Community College, Honolulu Community College, Kapi'olani Community College, Kaua'i Community College, Leeward Community College, University of Hawai'i Maui College, University of Hawai'i System, and Windward Community College are members.

Technology

- Several Hawai'i colleges and universities are active participants in the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET), the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education. WCET is widely recognized as one of the most informative, reliable, and forward-thinking organizations regarding the role of technology and innovation in higher education.
- WCET member institutions actively serve more than 4 million college students taking all or part of their academic programs via technology. WCET members have access to trusted information on emerging trends, policies, and exemplars of successful learning technology innovation in practice.
- Major topics of interest to the WCET membership include student success, managing e-learning, faculty success, emerging technologies, adaptive learning and its innovative

pilots across the nation, the implications of accessibility across campus, interesting statewide technology collaborations, evolving policy issues, and the high-school-to-higher-education transition.

Mental Health

- WICHE has been very active in Hawai'i, focusing on issues of behavioral health workforce development. In FY15, the Hawai'i Psychology Internship Consortium graduated its first cohort, and matriculated its second cohort of doctoral psychology clinical interns. This very successful partnership between WICHE, the Hawai'i Children's Mental Health Division, Hawai'i Department of Education, and Hawai'i Public Safety Department also achieved contingency accreditation by the American Psychological Association in FY15.
- WICHE provides administrative support, technical assistance, and data collection to HI-PIC. During FY15, WICHE and the Hawai'i Department of Education launched a partnership to recruit a range of behavioral health professionals to fill vacancies across the public school system in Hawai'i.

WICHE's Enriched Student Learning Experiences

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 2014-15 Hawai'i's students and families saved \$16.2 million in tuition. Hawai'i also saved money by not having to establish and maintain costly programs in a number of areas, including some in healthcare. WICHE-Hawai'i's 2014–2015 academic year expenditures are as follows: 1) \$ 1,021,814 for Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) "support fees", 2) \$ 137,000 for annual state dues, and 3) \$ 333 for WICHE-Hawai'i's operating costs.

- **Professional Student Exchange Program** is the oldest of WICHE programs and allows students to generally pay resident tuition (or reduced levels of tuition at private institutions) with sending states paying a "support fee" to the host receiving 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 15,000 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. 2014-15 will be the final year of support for Pharmacy students.

- Hawai'i has sent 1,265 students to professional programs through the PSEP program. The number of students and support for students supported for the last three academic years are displayed in Table 1 below.
- 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.

Table 1. Professional Student Exchange Program Use

Professional Field	2014-2015			2013-2014			2012-2013		
	Support Fee per Student	# of Stu	Total Paid	Support Total Fee per Student	# of Stu	Paid	Support Fee per Student	# of Stu	Total Paid
Dentistry	\$24,400 - \$32,533*	8	\$203,333	\$23,900*	9	\$215,100	\$23,400*	8	\$187,200
Occupational Therapy	\$12,800 - \$21,333*	3	\$ 55,466	\$12,600 – \$21,000*	3	\$ 54,600	\$12,300*	4	\$ 65,600
Optometry	\$16,800*	15	\$252,000	\$16,400*	13	\$202,267	\$16,100*	11	\$171,733
Pharmacy	\$ 7,400*	1	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,250*	2	\$ 14,500	\$ 7,100*	3	\$ 21,300
Physical Therapy	\$14,055*	14	\$196,770	\$13,689*	14	\$198,490	\$11,000*	15	\$203,502
Veterinary Med	\$31,300*	11	\$306,845	\$30,600*	12	\$351,900	\$30,000*	13	\$390,000
TOTAL		52	\$1,021,814		53	\$1,036,857		54	\$1,039,335

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

- The Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP) allows Hawai'i's graduate students to participate in an excess of over 383 high-quality, distinctive programs that are offered at only four or fewer institutions in the WICHE region. WRGP programs run the gamut, but emerging social, environmental, and resource-management fields are particular strengths, as are innovative interdisciplinary programs. The number of graduate students who participated in WRGP are listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Western Regional Graduate Program Use

Academic Year	Hawai'i Graduate Students Out-Bound to Continent	US Continent Students In-Bound to Hawai'i
2014-2015	19	39
2013-2014	22	41
2012-2013	24	47
TOTAL	65	127

- The Western Undergraduate Exchange Program (WUE) allows undergraduate students from Hawai'i to enroll in undergraduate programs in the fourteen western WICHE states at reduced tuition rates. WUE also affords undergraduate students from the continental US to attend college at the baccalaureate UH campuses. By receiving students from out-of-state, UH campuses may choose to make the best use of their resources by allowing in-bound students to Hawai'i to participate in under-enrolled programs. The Hawai'i workforce also benefits as many of these in-bound students to Hawai'i often stay after graduating. Table 3 below displays the number of undergraduates who participated in WUE.

Table 3. Western Undergraduate Program Use

Academic Year	Hawai'i Students Out-Bound to Continental US	Total Savings in Tuition & Fees	Average Savings in Tuition & Fees	US Continental Students In-Bound to Hawai'i
2014-2015	1,788 students	\$14.9 million	\$ 8,341	2,574 students
2013-2014	1,734 students	\$14 million	\$ 8,182	2,586 students
2012-2013	1,634 students	\$13 million	\$ 7,990	2,431 students
TOTAL	5,156 students	\$41.9 million	Average \$ 8,171	7,591 students

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 2014-15, Hawai'i's savings and revenue totaled \$16.2 million 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, WICHE-Hawai'i respectfully requests the legislature's continued support and participation in the WICHE programs. The WICHE-Hawai'i's projected budget request for the 2016-17 academic year is for \$1,162,566 which includes estimated expenses for 1) Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) "support fees", 2) annual WICHE state dues, and 3) WICHE-Hawai'i operating costs.