

WICHE



ALASKA

ARIZONA

CALIFORNIA

COLORADO

COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

HAWAII

IDAHO

MONTANA

NEVADA

NEW MEXICO

NORTH DAKOTA

OREGON

SOUTH DAKOTA

UTAH

WASHINGTON

WYOMING



# Statistical Report

## Academic Year 2013-14

### Student Exchange Program

Coordinated by the  
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

[www.wiche.edu/sep](http://www.wiche.edu/sep)

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## WICHE's Student Exchange Program

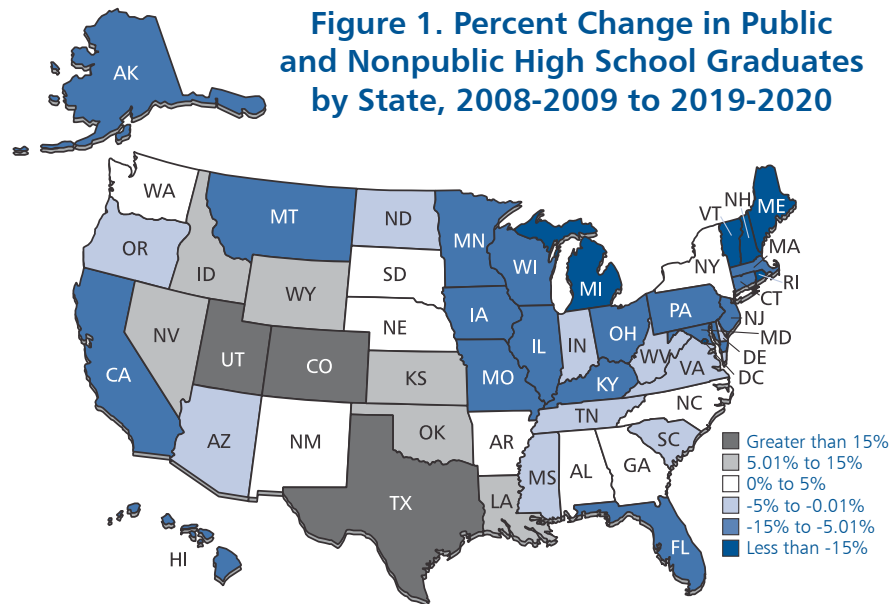
As the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) celebrates its 60th year, so does WICHE's Student Exchange Program ([www.wiche.edu/sep](http://www.wiche.edu/sep)). Western states formed the Western Regional Education Compact in the early 1950s to share higher education resources. WICHE's Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) was created out of this alliance. In its first year – 1953 – PSEP enrolled 48 students in three fields: allopathic medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine. The students hailed from five WICHE states: Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wyoming and enrolled at Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Colorado Denver's School of Medicine, and Oregon Health Science University's School of Dentistry. PSEP, and the two exchanges created in subsequent years, the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP) and the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), have experienced phenomenal growth. An estimated 133,000 students have benefited from WICHE's undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs over the past 60 years. To date, WICHE's student exchange alumni could fill an average football stadium twice!

The program has significantly helped Western states build workforces and strengthen their economies. It allows institutions in the region to maximize their resources by filling available capacity and reduce unnecessary duplication of programs. As a result critical, highly specialized programs remain robust, and all participating programs can attract the best and brightest students in the region and bring diverse perspectives into the classroom. Our regional partnerships help facilitate the creation of programs in emerging fields, such as robotics, data science and business analytics, biometrics, and homeland security and disaster management.

The map to the left illustrates how regional education exchanges such as WICHE's remain a critical tool in growing an educated workforce, particularly in the West, where some states are growing quickly while others have shrinking populations. Helping students migrate between states that face differing enrollment challenges provides a flexible, state-responsive solution.

Through the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP), and the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) – some 35,600 residents of 15 Western states and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are currently enrolled at reduced levels of tuition in a variety of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. This year WUE helped almost 34,000 students and their families save an estimated \$264.7 million by paying 150 percent of resident tuition, instead of the full nonresident rate at 154 participating WUE institutions. In fall 2013, more than 1,130 master's, doctoral, and graduate certificate students enrolled in programs of study through WRGP have saved an estimated \$15.9 million. They pay resident tuition, instead of nonresident, and can choose from 314 participating programs at 56 institutions. Finally, some 660 students paid significantly reduced tuition while preparing for their professional degree in 10 healthcare professions while enrolled through WICHE's PSEP. In addition, Western institutions are partnering to exchange courses virtually, through WICHE's Internet Course Exchange.

This report covers fall 2013 enrollments for WUE, WRGP, and PSEP and details the funds that flow between students' home states and the enrolling PSEP institutions that receive them.



Source: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates* (eighth edition). Boulder, CO: WICHE, 2012, available at [www.wiche.edu/knocking](http://www.wiche.edu/knocking).

## Professional Student Exchange Program

The nation's population continues to age and the number of insured individuals is growing with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in 2014. Health disparities – especially in the West's underserved rural areas – abound. Our healthcare system is becoming increasingly strained and addressing healthcare workforce shortages is crucial. State policymakers are looking for the smartest investment of limited public funds to educate healthcare professionals, and sharing educational resources within the West is a fiscally responsible approach. Given fiscal pressures and other factors, it doesn't always make sense for a state to create its own program in certain healthcare professions.

WICHE has provided Western residents with affordable access to the healthcare professions since the 1950s through its Professional Student Exchange Program ([www.wiche.edu/psep](http://www.wiche.edu/psep)). Students enrolled through WICHE's PSEP pay reduced tuition at out-of-state public and private institutions. Some 15,000 professionals have received their education through PSEP, most in the healthcare professions. They include dentists, physicians (allopathic and osteopathic), physician assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, optometrists, pharmacists, podiatrists, and veterinarians.

Results of WICHE's most recent return rate survey demonstrate that states participating in PSEP get an excellent return on their investment when they appropriate funds to educate students in the healthcare professions at other institutions within the WICHE region. Those funds are administered through PSEP and are sent directly to the enrolling institutions as a "support fee" to reduce tuition costs. Support fees are negotiated biannually between WICHE and the cooperating programs.

In PSEP students usually pay resident tuition at public institutions (except in pharmacy) or reduced tuition at private institutions. Effective this fall, new

students enrolling through PSEP in public programs where the support fee is not meeting the resident/nonresident tuition differential will pay nonresident tuition minus the support fee. Students who enrolled through PSEP prior to fall 2013 will continue to pay resident tuition.

**Table 1. Institution and Program Totals, 2013-14**

Number of Institutions		Number of Programs	
Within WICHE region		Within WICHE region	
Public	29	Public	64
Private	19	Private	58
Outside WICHE region		Outside WICHE region	
Public	2	Public	2
Private	5	Private	5
<b>TOTAL INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>TOTAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>129</b>

**Table 2. Summary of Enrollments and Support Fees, by Profession**

Professional Field	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15
	Number of Students	Support Fee Rate per Student	Number of Students	Support Fee Rate per Student	Approved Support Fee Rate
<b>Group A Fields</b>					
Dentistry	122	\$23,400	125	\$23,900	\$24,400
Medicine	31	30,200	31	30,800	31,500
Occupational Therapy	39	12,300	31	12,600	12,800
Optometry	122	16,100	121	16,400	16,800
Osteopathic Medicine	63	20,000	58	20,400	20,900
Physical Therapy	38	11,000	40	13,689	14,055
Physician Assistant	32	12,000	21	16,400	16,667
Podiatry	11	13,900	14	14,200	14,500
Veterinary Medicine	197	30,000	194	30,600	31,300
<b>Group B Field</b>					
Pharmacy	23	7,100	23	7,250	7,400
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>678</b>		<b>658</b>		
<b>Total Support Fees Paid</b>		<b>\$14,381,075</b>		<b>\$14,510,361</b>	



## Professional Student Exchange Program

Table 3. Student and Support Fee Totals, by State, 2013-14

State	Number of Students Sent	Total Fees Paid	Number of Students Received			Total Fees Received by Enrolling Institutions		
			Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total
Alaska	17	\$233,906	0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Arizona	175	3,977,494	2	136	138	61,600	2,537,959	2,599,559
California	0	0	7	71	78	140,550	1,309,354	1,449,904
Colorado	24	393,600	177	6	183	4,981,347	82,134	5,063,481
CNMI*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawai'i	55	1,021,557	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	0	0	2	0	2	30,089	0	30,089
Montana	82	2,174,725	5	0	5	42,689	0	42,689
Nevada	42	800,287	4	14	18	116,300	169,203	285,503
New Mexico	75	2,037,501	5	0	5	75,289	0	75,289
North Dakota	41	825,100	15	0	15	321,534	0	321,534
Oregon	0	0	28	71	99	682,450	1,098,068	1,780,518
South Dakota	0	0	2	0	2	25,200	0	25,200
Utah	36	694,000	2	0	2	27,378	0	27,378
Washington	0	0	80	3	83	2,166,117	41,400	2,207,517
Wyoming	111	2,352,191	0	0	0	0	0	0
Out of Region	n/a	n/a	6	22	28	135,900	465,800	601,700
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>\$14,510,361</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>\$8,806,443</b>	<b>\$5,703,918</b>	<b>\$14,510,361</b>

\* Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). CNMI joined WICHE in April 2013.



*“My parents left Cambodia during the Khmer Rouge. They were sponsored to come to America to start a new life. They came to the U.S. with no money or education—just the clothes on their backs. I’m the first college student in my family. WICHE’s PSEP program has allowed me to focus on my school work, rather than worry about debt. I am now one step away from creating the proudest moment of my and my parents’ journey.”*

*– Jenny, Nevada resident, Class of 2014,  
Roseman University of Health Sciences, College of Pharmacy*

## Professional Student Exchange Program

Table 4. Enrollment and Support Fees, by Profession, 2013-14

Sending State	Dentistry	Medicine	Occupational Therapy	Optometry	Osteopathic Medicine	Pharmacy	Physical Therapy	Physician Assistant	Podiatry	Veterinary Medicine	TOTALS
Alaska	4 \$95,600		0 \$0	1 \$16,400		7 \$50,750	4 \$54,756	1 \$16,400	0 \$0		17 \$233,906
Arizona	45 1,123,302		13 134,400	17 256,824	47 941,868			6 98,400		47 1,422,700	175 \$3,977,494
California											0 \$0
Colorado				24 393,600							24 \$393,600
CNMI											0 \$0
Hawai'i	9 215,100		5 54,600	13 202,267		2 14,500	14 198,490			12 336,600	55 \$1,021,557
Idaho											0 \$0
Montana	8 191,200	26 739,200	3 33,600	4 65,600	5 102,000				1 14,200	35 1,028,925	82 \$2,174,725
Nevada				7 114,800		14 128,087		6 98,400		15 459,000	42 \$800,287
New Mexico	42 1,027,701									33 1,009,800	75 \$2,037,501
North Dakota	9 215,100			26 426,400						6 183,600	41 \$825,100
Oregon											0 \$0
South Dakota											0 \$0
Utah				15 246,000					11 142,000	10 306,000	36 \$694,000
Washington											0 \$0
Wyoming	8 191,200	5 154,000	10 113,400	14 229,600	6 122,400		22 301,158	8 125,733	2 28,400	36 1,086,300	111 \$2,352,191
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>125</b> <b>\$3,059,203</b>	<b>31</b> <b>\$893,200</b>	<b>31</b> <b>\$336,000</b>	<b>121</b> <b>\$1,951,491</b>	<b>58</b> <b>\$1,166,268</b>	<b>23</b> <b>\$193,337</b>	<b>40</b> <b>\$554,404</b>	<b>21</b> <b>\$338,933</b>	<b>14</b> <b>\$184,600</b>	<b>194</b> <b>\$5,832,925</b>	<b>658</b> <b>\$14,510,361</b>

## Professional Student Exchange Program

Table 5. Student Distribution and Support Fee Payments, by Profession, 2013-14

Sending State	Receiving Schools*												Out of Region	Total Number Students	Total Fees Paid by Sending State				
	ATSU	MDWST	LLU	UCLA	UCSF	UOP	USC	WUHS	COLO	UNLV	OHSU	WASH							
Alaska									2	1	1							4	\$95,600
Arizona	9	11		1	2	6	1		11		1	3						45	1,123,302
Hawai'i							2		2		3	2						9	215,100
Montana		1							4			3						8	191,200
New Mexico	8	1				3			16			1					13	42	1,027,701
North Dakota		1							2		1						5	9	215,100
Wyoming		1							3		3						1	8	191,200
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>					<b>19</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>\$3,059,203</b>

Sending State	Receiving Schools*																	Total Number Students	Total Fees Paid by Sending State	
	AZ-TUC	AZ-PHX	LLU	STAN	UCB/SF	UCD	UCI	UCLA	UCSD	UCSF	USC	COLO	HAW	NEV	UNM	UND	OHSU			UTAH
Montana	1		2						1	2		7		2	1	6	4		26	\$739,200
Wyoming	1											1		1	1		1		5	154,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$893,200</b>

\* See Table 6, pp. 9-11, for full names of institutions.

*"I believe high student debt is one of the fundamental reasons why there are shortages of primary care physicians. Graduates with enormous amounts of debt decide to go with higher paying specialties even if they would rather practice in primary care. With PSEP support, my tuition is essentially equal to what I would pay at a public medical program. While medical school is still very expensive, my debt load is much lower than it could have been. I now feel reassured that I will be able to give back to my home state of Arizona through primary care."*

*– Bradley, Arizona resident, Class of 2016,  
Midwestern University, Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine*

## Professional Student Exchange Program

Table 5. Student Distribution and Support Fee Payments, by Profession, 2013-14 (continued)

Sending State	Receiving Schools*																Total Number Students	Total Fees Paid by Sending State
	ATSU	MDWST	LLU	SMU	USC	ISU	TOURO-NV	UNM	WNMU	UND	PACU	USD	UTAH	EWU	UPS	WASH		
Alaska																	0	\$0
Arizona	6	7															13	134,400
Hawai'i		1									3			1			5	54,600
Montana												1		1	1		3	33,600
Wyoming	1						1		2	3		1		1	1		10	113,400
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$336,000</b>

Sending State	Receiving Schools*					Out of Region	Total Number Students	Total Fees Paid by Sending State
	MDWST	MBKU	WUHS	PACU				
Alaska					1		1	\$16,400
Arizona	7	7	1	2			17	256,824
Colorado	5	1		11	7		24	393,600
Hawai'i	1	6	1	5			13	202,267
Montana				4			4	65,600
Nevada	1			6			7	114,800
North Dakota	1	2		21	2		26	426,400
Utah	4	6		5			15	246,000
Wyoming		9	1	4			14	229,600
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>121</b>	<b>\$1,951,491</b>

\* See Table 6, pp. 9-11, for full names of institutions.



*"I have been blessed as a WICHE PSEP recipient by having a huge financial burden lifted off of my shoulders. I'm currently a first-year student. Instead of working to support myself, I was able to volunteer extensively in both the local community and abroad. WICHE has given me the opportunity to make the most of my time in*

*California, truly focusing on my education and clinical experiences. I can't wait to share my skills and knowledge as an optometrist upon my return home to Hawai'i!"*

*– Ashley, Hawai'i resident, Class of 2016, Marshall B. Ketchum University, Southern California College of Optometry*



## Professional Student Exchange Program

Table 5. Student Distribution and Support Fee Payments, by Profession, 2013-14 (continued)

Sending State	Receiving Schools*							Total Number Students	Total Fees Paid by Sending State
	ATSU MESA	MDWST	TOURO-CA	WUHS	RVU	TOURO-NV	PNWHS		
Arizona	2	42	1	1		1		47	\$941,868
Montana	1	3		1				5	102,000
Wyoming	1	2		2			1	6	122,400
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>\$1,166,268</b>

*"I feel so grateful for the opportunity to study medicine at UCSD. WICHE's PSEP has enabled me to attend a top-notch medical school and pay a reasonable tuition rate. It's also given me the freedom to choose a specialization based on my own interests and talents, rather than more lucrative specialties that would easily pay off my loans. My interests lie in working with underserved populations and this would have been difficult to do with a sizable debt load. Thank you so very much to my home state of Montana and WICHE. I promise to make the most of this generous gift."*

*– Bryan, Montana resident, Class of 2016,  
University of California San Diego, School of Medicine*

Sending State	Receiving Schools*																			Total Number Students	Total Fees Paid by Sending State		
	ARIZ	MDWST	UCSF	UCSD	UOP	USC	WUHS	COLO	UH HILO	ISU	MONT	RUHS	UNM	NDSU	OSU	PACU	WASH	WSU	WYO				
Alaska											4				2		1				7	\$50,750	
Hawai'i			1														1					2	14,500
Nevada						1									9	1	2		1			14	128,087
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>\$193,337</b>	

Sending State	Receiving Schools*																					Total Number Students	Total Fees Paid by Sending State			
	ATSU	MDWST	CSF	CHAP	LLU	MSMC	SMU	UCSF/SFSU	UOP	USC	WUHS	COLO	REGIS	ISU	MONT	TOURO-NV	UNLV	UNM	UND	PACU	UTAH			UPS	EWU	WASH
Alaska										1	1				1				1						4	\$54,756
Hawai'i	1			4					1	2	1		1							4					14	198,490
Wyoming	1	1										1	5	1				1	6	1	2		3		22	301,158
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>\$554,404</b>

\* See Table 6, pp. 9-11, for full names of institutions.

## Professional Student Exchange Program

Table 5. Student Distribution and Support Fee Payments, by Profession, 2013-14 (continued)

Sending State	Receiving Schools*															Total Number Students	Total Fees Paid by Sending State
	ATSU	MDWST	LLU	SMU	TOURO-CA	USC	WUHS	COLO	RRCC	ISU	TOURO-NV	PACU	OHSU	UTAH	WASH		
Alaska															1	1	\$16,400
Arizona	3	2					1									6	98,400
Nevada					1	1					2	1	1			6	98,400
Wyoming		1						1	2	1	1				2	8	125,733
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$338,933</b>

Sending State	Receiving Schools*			Total Number Students	Total Fees Paid by Sending State
	MDWST	SMU	WUHS		
Alaska				0	\$0
Montana	1			1	14,200
Utah	7	4		11	142,000
Wyoming	2			2	28,400
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$184,600</b>

Sending State	Receiving Schools*				Total Number Students	Total Fees Paid by Sending State
	UCD	CSU	OSU	WSU		
Arizona		35	2	10	47	\$1,422,700
Hawai'i		9		3	12	336,600
Montana		20	2	13	35	1,028,925
Nevada		10	2	3	15	459,000
New Mexico		23	1	9	33	1,009,800
North Dakota		5		1	6	183,600
Utah		1	2	7	10	306,000
Wyoming		22	1	13	36	1,086,300
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>\$5,832,925</b>

\* See Table 6 or [www.wiche.edu/psep](http://www.wiche.edu/psep) for full names of institutions.



*"I'm in my first year of veterinary school at Colorado State University. My home state of North Dakota does not have a veterinary school, but I was fortunate to be sponsored through WICHE's PSEP program, so I pay in-state tuition. Without this support, tuition costs would have been double. North Dakota's participation in PSEP allows me to attend one of the top schools without the extra financial burden of paying out-of-state tuition. Thank you, North Dakota, for helping keep my tuition manageable! I encourage North Dakota legislators to continue their support of future veterinarians through WICHE's PSEP."*

*– Jessie, North Dakota resident, Class of 2016, Colorado State University, College of Veterinary Medicine*

*"I am from Wyoming, which does not have a medical school or a physician assistant program. WICHE's PSEP has allowed me to pursue physician assistant studies at a reasonable price. Since I will graduate with fewer student loans, I can return to Wyoming and practice in primary care. I was also fortunate to receive the WUE scholarship for my undergraduate degree at the University of New Mexico. It was a wonderful experience to attend college outside of Wyoming and experience new opportunities while preparing for my medical career. Without WICHE's WUE and PSEP programs, I wouldn't be where I am today. I am so grateful for WICHE and the outstanding opportunities it provides students."*

*– Bailey, Wyoming resident, Class of 2014, Red Rocks Community College, Physician Assistant Studies*

## Professional Student Exchange Program

### Table 6. Receipt of Support Fees, by State and Institution, 2013-14

ARIZONA			CALIFORNIA (continued)			CALIFORNIA (continued)		
Institution	Number of Students	Support Fees by Field	Institution	Number of Students	Support Fees by Field	Institution	Number of Students	Support Fees by Field
<b>PUBLIC</b>			<b>University of California, Irvine (UCI)</b>			<b>Samuel Merritt University (SMU)</b>		
University of Arizona, Phoenix (ARIZ-PHX)			Medicine	0	\$0	Occupational Therapy	0	\$0
Medicine	0	\$0	<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	Physical Therapy	0	0
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)</b>			Physician Assistant	0	0
<b>University of Arizona, Tucson (ARIZ-TUC)</b>			Dentistry	1	\$23,900	Podiatry	4	56,800
Medicine	2	\$61,600	Medicine	0	0	<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$56,800</b>
Pharmacy	0	0	<b>Institution Total</b>			<b>Stanford University (STAN)</b>		
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$61,600</b>	Medicine	1	\$30,800	Medicine	0	\$0
<b>Public Institution Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$61,600</b>	Pharmacy	0	0	<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>PRIVATE</b>			<b>University of California, San Diego (UCSD)</b>			<b>Touro University - California (TOURO-CA)</b>		
<b>A.T. Still University Mesa Campus (ATSU MESA)</b>			Medicine	1	\$30,800	Osteopathic Medicine	1	\$20,400
Dentistry	17	\$406,300	Pharmacy	0	0	Physician Assistant	1	\$16,400
Occupational Therapy	7	88,200	<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$30,800</b>	<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$36,800</b>
Osteopathic Medicine	4	81,600	<b>University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)</b>			<b>University of the Pacific (UOP)</b>		
Physical Therapy	2	27,378	Dentistry	2	\$47,800	Dentistry	9	\$286,803
Physician Assistant	3	49,200	Medicine (UCSF)	2	30,800	Pharmacy	0	0
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>\$652,678</b>	Medicine (UCB/UCSF)	0	0	Physical Therapy	1	20,533
<b>Midwestern University (MDWST)</b>			Pharmacy	1	7,250	<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$307,336</b>
Dentistry	15	\$358,500	Physical Therapy (UCSF/SFSU)	0	0	<b>University of Southern California (USC)</b>		
Occupational Therapy	8	88,200	<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$85,850</b>	Dentistry	3	\$71,700
Optometry	19	306,024	<b>Public Institution Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$140,550</b>	Medicine	0	0
Osteopathic Medicine	47	941,868	<b>PRIVATE</b>			Occupational Therapy	0	0
Pharmacy	0	0	<b>Chapman University (CHAP)</b>			Pharmacy	1	7,250
Physical Therapy	1	13,689	Physical Therapy	4	\$54,756	Physical Therapy	3	41,067
Physician Assistant	3	49,200	<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$54,756</b>	Physician Assistant	1	16,400
Podiatry	10	127,800	<b>Loma Linda University (LLU)</b>			<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$136,417</b>
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>\$1,885,281</b>	Dentistry	0	\$0	<b>Western University of Health Sciences (WUHS)</b>		
<b>Private Institution Total</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>\$2,537,959</b>	Medicine	2	61,600	Dentistry	0	\$0
<b>ARIZONA TOTAL</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>\$2,599,559</b>	Occupational Therapy	0	0	Optometry	3	49,200
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>			Physical Therapy	0	0	Osteopathic Medicine	4	81,600
<b>PUBLIC</b>			Physician Assistant	0	0	Pharmacy	0	0
<b>California State University, Fresno (CSF)</b>			<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$61,600</b>	Physical Therapy	2	27,378
Physical Therapy	0	\$0	<b>Marshall B. Ketchum University (MBKU)</b>			Physician Assistant	1	16,400
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	Optometry	31	\$481,067	<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$174,578</b>
<b>University of California, Davis (UCD)</b>			<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>\$481,067</b>	<b>Private Institution Total</b>		
Medicine	0	\$0	<b>Mount St. Mary's College (MSMC)</b>			<b>71</b>	<b>\$1,309,354</b>	
Veterinary Medicine	0	0	Physical Therapy	0	\$0	<b>CALIFORNIA TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>\$1,449,904</b>
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>			

## Professional Student Exchange Program

### Table 6. Receipt of Support Fees by State and Institution, 2013-14 (continued)

COLORADO		
Institution	Number of Students	Support Fees by Field
<b>PUBLIC</b>		
Colorado State University (CSU)		
Veterinary Medicine	125	\$3,721,525
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>\$3,721,525</b>
Red Rocks Community College (RRCC)		
Physician Assistant	2	\$27,333
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$27,333</b>
University of Colorado Denver (COLO)		
Dentistry	40	\$956,000
Medicine	8	246,400
Pharmacy	0	0
Physical Therapy	1	13,689
Physician Assistant	1	16,400
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$1,232,489</b>
<b>Public Institution Total</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>\$4,981,347</b>
<b>PRIVATE</b>		
Regis University (REGIS)		
Physical Therapy	6	\$82,134
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$82,134</b>
Rocky Vista University		
Osteopathic Medicine	0	\$0
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Private Institution Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$82,134</b>
<b>COLORADO TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>\$5,063,481</b>
<b>HAWAI'I</b>		
University of Hawai'i at Manoa (HAW)		
Medicine	0	\$0
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
University of Hawai'i at Hilo (HI-HILO)		
Pharmacy	0	0
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>HAWAI'I TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

IDAHO		
Institution	Number of Students	Support Fees by Field
Idaho State University (ISU)		
Occupational Therapy	0	\$0
Pharmacy	0	0
Physical Therapy	1	13,689
Physician Assistant	1	16,400
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$30,089</b>
<b>IDAHO TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$30,089</b>
<b>MONTANA</b>		
University of Montana (MONT)		
Pharmacy	4	\$29,000
Physical Therapy	1	13,689
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$42,689</b>
<b>MONTANA TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$42,689</b>
<b>NEVADA</b>		
<b>PUBLIC</b>		
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)		
Dentistry	1	\$23,900
Physical Therapy	0	\$0
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$23,900</b>
University of Nevada, Reno (NEV)		
Medicine	3	\$92,400
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$92,400</b>
<b>Public Institution Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$116,300</b>
<b>PRIVATE</b>		
Roseman University of Health Sciences (RUHS)		
Pharmacy	9	\$87,003
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$87,003</b>
Touro University, Nevada (TOURO-NV)		
Occupational Therapy	1	\$12,600
Osteopathic Medicine	1	20,400
Physical Therapy	0	0
Physician Assistant	3	49,200
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$82,200</b>
<b>Private Institution Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$169,203</b>
<b>NEVADA TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>\$285,503</b>

NEW MEXICO		
Institution	Number of Students	Support Fees by Field
University of New Mexico (UNM)		
Medicine	2	\$61,600
Occupational Therapy	0	0
Pharmacy	0	0
Physical Therapy	1	13,689
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$75,289</b>
Western New Mexico University (WNMU)		
Occupational Therapy	2	0
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>NEW MEXICO TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$75,289</b>
<b>NORTH DAKOTA</b>		
North Dakota State University (NDSU)		
Pharmacy	0	\$0
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
University of North Dakota (UND)		
Medicine	6	\$184,800
Occupational Therapy	3	54,600
Pharmacy	0	0
Physical Therapy	6	82,134
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$321,534</b>
<b>NORTH DAKOTA TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$321,534</b>
<b>OREGON</b>		
<b>PUBLIC</b>		
Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)		
Dentistry	9	\$215,100
Medicine	5	123,200
Physician Assistant	1	16,400
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$354,700</b>
Oregon State University (OSU)		
Pharmacy	3	\$21,750
Veterinary Medicine	10	306,000
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>\$327,750</b>
<b>Public Institution Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>\$682,450</b>

## Professional Student Exchange Program

### Table 6. Receipt of Support Fees by State and Institution, 2013-14 (continued)

OREGON (continued)			WASHINGTON (continued)			OUT OF REGION		
Institution	Number of Students	Support Fees by Field	Institution	Number of Students	Support Fees by Field	PUBLIC		
<b>PRIVATE</b>			<b>University of Washington (WASH)</b>			University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), MO		
Pacific University (PACU)			Dentistry	9	\$215,100	Dentistry	5	\$119,500
Occupational Therapy	3	\$12,600	Occupational Therapy	0	0	Institution total	5	\$119,500
Optometry	59	967,600	Pharmacy	2	14,500	<b>Northeastern State University (NSU), OK</b>		
Pharmacy	2	19,334	Physical Therapy	0	0	Optometry	1	\$16,400
Physical Therapy	6	82,134	Physician Assistant	3	49,200	Institution Total	1	\$16,400
Physician Assistant	1	16,400	<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$278,800</b>	<b>Public Institution Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$135,900</b>
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>\$1,098,068</b>	<b>Washington State University (WSU)</b>			<b>PRIVATE</b>		
<b>Private Institution Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>\$1,098,068</b>	Pharmacy	1	\$7,250	Creighton University (CREI), NE		
<b>OREGON TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>\$1,780,518</b>	Veterinary Medicine	59	1,805,400	Dentistry	14	\$334,600
			<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>\$1,812,650</b>	Institution Total	14	\$334,600
			<b>Public Institution Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$2,166,117</b>	<b>Illinois College of Optometry (ILCO), IL</b>		
			<b>PRIVATE</b>			Optometry	5	\$82,000
			Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences			Institution Total	5	\$82,000
			Osteopathic Medicine	1	\$20,400	<b>Nova Southeastern University (NOVA), FL</b>		
			<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$20,400</b>	Optometry	1	\$16,400
			<b>University of Puget Sound (UPS)</b>			<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$16,400</b>
			Occupational Therapy	2	\$21,000	<b>Salus University (SALUS), PA</b>		
			Physical Therapy	0	0	Optometry	1	\$16,400
			<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>	<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$16,400</b>
			<b>Private Institution Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$41,400</b>	<b>Southern College of Optometry (SCO), TN</b>		
			<b>WASHINGTON TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>\$2,207,517</b>	Optometry	1	\$16,400
			<b>WYOMING</b>			<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$16,400</b>
			University of Wyoming (WYO)			<b>Private Institution Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>\$465,800</b>
			Pharmacy	0	\$0	<b>OUT OF REGION TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>\$601,700</b>
			<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		
			<b>WYOMING TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>658</b>	<b>\$14,510,361</b>
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>								
University of South Dakota (USD)								
Occupational Therapy	2	\$25,200						
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$25,200</b>						
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$25,200</b>						
<b>UTAH</b>								
University of Utah (UTAH)								
Medicine	0	\$0						
Occupational Therapy	0	0						
Physical Therapy	2	27,378						
Physician Assistant	0	0						
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$27,378</b>						
<b>UTAH TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$27,378</b>						
<b>WASHINGTON</b>								
<b>PUBLIC</b>								
Eastern Washington University (EWU)								
Occupational Therapy	3	\$36,600						
Physical Therapy	3	41,067						
<b>Institution Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$74,667</b>						



## Professional Student Exchange Program

**Table 7. New and Continuing Students,  
by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, 2013-14**

State	Total	Gender		Race/Ethnicity					
		Male	Female	AA	BL	LA	NA	WH	UK
<b>Alaska</b>	17	7	10						17
<b>Arizona</b>	175	74	101	22	1	10	1	140	1
<b>Colorado</b>	24	12	12	5				18	1
<b>Hawai'i</b>	55	16	39	50				3	2
<b>Montana</b>	82	28	54				1	80	1
<b>Nevada</b>	42	11	31	1				3	38
<b>New Mexico</b>	75	35	40	4		16	1	49	5
<b>North Dakota</b>	41	12	29					38	3
<b>Utah</b>	36	27	9	1		2		27	6
<b>Wyoming</b>	111	43	68	2	1	1		101	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>80</b>

NOTE: Abbreviations: AA = Asian American; BL = black; LA = Latino/a; NA = Native American; WH = white; UK = unknown. Race/ethnicity information is self-reported by applicants for state certification.



*"I am currently studying podiatry at Midwestern University. My wife and I are so grateful for the assistance that WICHE has given us. The stresses of school are many, but it gives us peace of mind knowing that our indebtedness will be greatly reduced! Thanks to Utah's participation in WICHE's PSEP, I will soon be the doctor I want to be and can return to Utah to practice. I plan to 'pay it forward' as soon as I can! Thanks WICHE!"*

*— James, Utah resident, Class of 2015,  
Midwestern University, Arizona School of Podiatric Medicine*



*"WICHE's PSEP program has been instrumental in allowing me to pursue my biggest dream yet – becoming an optometrist. It's no secret that professional school is an expensive undertaking, but North Dakota's assistance through PSEP has helped immensely in alleviating this financial burden. I'm now able to fully focus on my studies, rather than being preoccupied by debt. When our legislators choose to continue PSEP support, they are choosing to invest in the future of quality medical care for our entire state. I am so very grateful to have been given this opportunity, and it is my sincere hope that this support will continue so that a quality professional education is within arm's reach for future healthcare professionals."*

*— Casey, North Dakota resident, Class of 2016,  
Pacific University, College of Optometry*

# Professional Student Exchange Program

## Return Rates of WICHE PSEP Graduates, 2002-2011

WICHE states' return rates have improved considerably since last measured. In fall 2012, states that supported students through the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) collected return rate data on their PSEP graduates. The average return rate for all reporting WICHE states is now 68 percent (up from 59 percent in 2006). Return rates for payback states are still the highest, now averaging 85 percent and ranging as high as 89 percent, depending on the state and the profession. Five years ago, 74 percent of graduates from payback states returned home. Return rates for honor system states have improved too. They now average 52 percent, compared to only 39 percent five years ago.

During the period for which data was collected, five states contractually required their PSEP graduates to return and serve their home state residents: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Washington (these are the "contractual payback states" listed in Table 8. Alaska, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming are listed as "honor system states": they encourage their graduates to return to their home state but do not contractually require them to do so. Effective Fall 2013, Wyoming implemented a service payback requirement for new students in all healthcare professions except veterinary medicine. The State of Hawai'i has also approved legislation for a payback obligation for its future PSEP graduates, but the exact terms and implementation timeline are still being determined. Alaska's participation in PSEP remains distinctive: to make the benefits of PSEP available to its residents in the absence of state funding, Alaska treats the support fee as a loan to each PSEP student. Graduates must repay the loan, whether or not they return to Alaska.

Given the increased reliability of data, WICHE asked states to collect the return rate data over a 10-year period for the majority of the healthcare professions. Table 8 gives a "snapshot" in time of PSEP alumni who graduated between 2002 and 2011 and who were licensed or practicing in their home state as of 2012. Graduates who had fulfilled their practice obligations in their home state earlier were also counted as returned. Our return rates are conservative;

payback states that measure return rates over a longer timeframe will demonstrate higher return rates than shown in our calculations. This is especially true for fields where graduates may be completing a residency, internship, or clinical experience, or may be on deferment for other reasons, though they will ultimately return to serve their state at a later date.

Allopathic and osteopathic medicine graduates are required to complete three- to four-year residencies. For these professions WICHE counted PSEP alumni who graduated between 2002 and 2006, in order to allow time for them to complete their residencies and set up practice in their home state.

We hope this information will prompt our member states to consider:

- Establishing a service payback requirement if your state does not currently require one. Although there is an administrative cost to tracking graduates, it may be in the state's best interest to build its healthcare workforce.
- Creating or increasing rural or underserved incentives, such as loan repayment programs that make it affordable for newly graduated healthcare professionals to live and work in these areas.
- Using repayment monies paid by nonreturning graduates to fund loan repayment incentives for graduates who return to their home state to practice in rural and underserved areas (for states with service payback requirements).

Policies for student eligibility and graduate service payback requirements vary by WICHE state. To learn more, see the appendices in our updated PSEP Administrative Manual, available online at [www.wiche.edu/info/publications/PSEP\\_adminManual.pdf](http://www.wiche.edu/info/publications/PSEP_adminManual.pdf).

For any questions you might have about WICHE PSEP return rate data, please call WICHE's Student Exchange Program director at 303.541.0214.



## Professional Student Exchange Program

**Table 8. Return Rates of PSEP Graduates, by State and Profession**  
5-year D.O. and M.D. Rates (2002-06) and 10-year Rates for All Other Professions (2002-11)

	Total Number Students	Number Returning to State	Percent Returning		Total Number Students	Number Returning to State	Percent Returning		Total Number Students	Number Returning to State	Percent Returning
<b>Alaska</b>				<b>Montana</b>				<b>Wyoming</b>			
Dentistry	16	13	81%	Dentistry	17	11	65%	Dentistry	44	27	61%
Occupational Therapy	5	3	60	Medicine **	31	12	39	Medicine **	27	2	7
Optometry	3	0	0	Occupational Therapy	9	4	44	Occupational Therapy	11	1	9
Pharmacy	10	5	50	Optometry	12	7	58	Optometry	54	17	31
Physical Therapy	19	10	53	Osteopathic Medicine **	4	2	50	Osteopathic Medicine **	5	2	40
Physician Assistant	3	2	67	Podiatry	0	0	0	Physical Therapy	65	21	32
Podiatry	0	0	0	Veterinary Medicine	86	60	70	Physician Assistant	14	6	43
<b>Alaska TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>Montana TOTAL</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>60%</b>	Podiatry	4	0	0
<b>Arizona*</b>				<b>Nevada*</b>				<b>Wyoming TOTAL</b>			
Dentistry	115	88	77%	Optometry	22	18	82%	<b>291</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>36%</b>	
Occupational Therapy	49	44	90	Pharmacy	39	33	85	<b>WICHE Return Rates by Field</b>			
Optometry	52	43	83	Physician Assistant	24	22	92	Dentistry	329	243	74%
Osteopathic Medicine **	20	12	60	Veterinary Medicine	38	36	95	Medicine **	58	14	24
Physician Assistant	83	77	93	<b>Nevada TOTAL</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>89%</b>	Occupational Therapy	97	70	72
Veterinary Medicine	157	132	84	<b>New Mexico*</b>				Optometry	366	222	61
<b>Arizona TOTAL</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>83%</b>	Dentistry	78	72	92%	Osteopathic Medicine **	34	19	56
<b>Colorado*</b>				Veterinary Medicine	90	75	83	Pharmacy	109	80	73
Optometry	62	54	87%	<b>New Mexico TOTAL</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>88%</b>	Physical Therapy	139	68	49
<b>Colorado TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>North Dakota</b>				Physician Assistant	124	107	86
<b>Hawai'i</b>				Dentistry	29	12	41%	Podiatry	13	7	54
Dentistry	30	20	67%	Optometry	59	12	20	Veterinary Medicine	535	390	73
Occupational Therapy	23	18	78	Veterinary Medicine	13	7	54	<b>TOTAL for all Reporting WICHE PSEP States</b>			
Optometry	23	19	83	<b>North Dakota TOTAL</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>1,804</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>68%</b>	
Pharmacy	60	42	70	<b>Utah</b>				<b>TOTAL for Contractual Payback States</b>			
Physical Therapy	55	37	67	Optometry	30	20	67%	<b>861</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>85%</b>	
Veterinary Medicine	27	11	41	Podiatry	9	7	78	<b>TOTAL for Honor System States</b>			
<b>Hawai'i TOTAL</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>67%</b>	Veterinary Medicine	57	39	68	<b>943</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>52%</b>	
<b>Idaho</b>				<b>Utah TOTAL</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>IMPORTANT:</b> Return rates reported by state offices may vary from WICHE calculations, due to different timeframes over which the return is measured.			
Optometry	22	9	41%	<b>Washington*</b>				* Contractual payback states during time periods measured.			
<b>Idaho TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>41%</b>	Optometry	27	23	85%	** Graduates of allopathic and osteopathic medical programs are required to do residencies of three years or more after graduation. Residencies can be located outside of the graduate's home state. In order to give residents time to return to their home state to practice, we are using return data for 2002-2006 for graduates of allopathic and osteopathic medicine.			
				Osteopathic Medicine **	5	3	60				
				<b>Washington TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>81%</b>				

## Western Regional Graduate Program

The Western Regional Graduate Program ([www.wiche.edu/wrgp](http://www.wiche.edu/wrgp)) is an exceptional educational resource for the West, allowing master's, graduate certificate, and Ph.D. students who are residents of WICHE's states to enroll in 314 high-quality programs at 56 institutions and pay resident tuition. In fall 2013, 1,133 students enrolled through WRGP and saved an estimated \$15.9 million in tuition overall – an average of \$14,000 per student. This spring approximately 30 new graduate programs will be added, creating more opportunities for students from our Western states.

WRGP students pay resident tuition and can enroll directly in the program through WRGP. It is a tuition reciprocity program. Students are not dependent upon the approval of their home state to participate because the home state does not provide funding for each student. This represents a tremendous opportunity for WICHE states to share distinctive programs (and the faculty who teach them) and build their workforce in a variety of disciplines, particularly healthcare.

If you know of a particular program that would be a good candidate for the WRGP network, have them contact the director of the Student Exchange Program. The next request for proposals will be announced in fall 2014. Graduate deans, provosts, and chief academic officers at all public institutions and systems in the WICHE region will be notified.

To be eligible for WRGP, programs that aren't related to health must be "distinctive" or respond to a significant workforce need. Healthcare-related programs are not subject to the distinctiveness criteria, but must be of high quality. WICHE is particularly interested in reviewing nominations for high-need programs and those in new fields. These include professional science master's degrees and graduate certificate programs, as well as graduate degrees in robotics, data science and business analytics, biometrics, emerging media and communications, biomedical engineering, alternative energy technology, homeland security and disaster management, among others.

Visit [www.wiche.edu/wrgp](http://www.wiche.edu/wrgp) for more information.

*"The University of Arizona's College of Optical Sciences has enjoyed a long relationship with WICHE. Over the years, WRGP has allowed more than 70 students to pursue their dreams of a graduate degree in optics. The significant savings provided to students makes their educational goals more accessible and attainable. We're also happy to see many underrepresented groups in our field take advantage of the WRGP program. Thank you for providing this amazing service!"*

*– H. Brown, Graduate Academic Progress Coordinator,  
University of Arizona, College of Optical Sciences*



## Western Regional Graduate Program

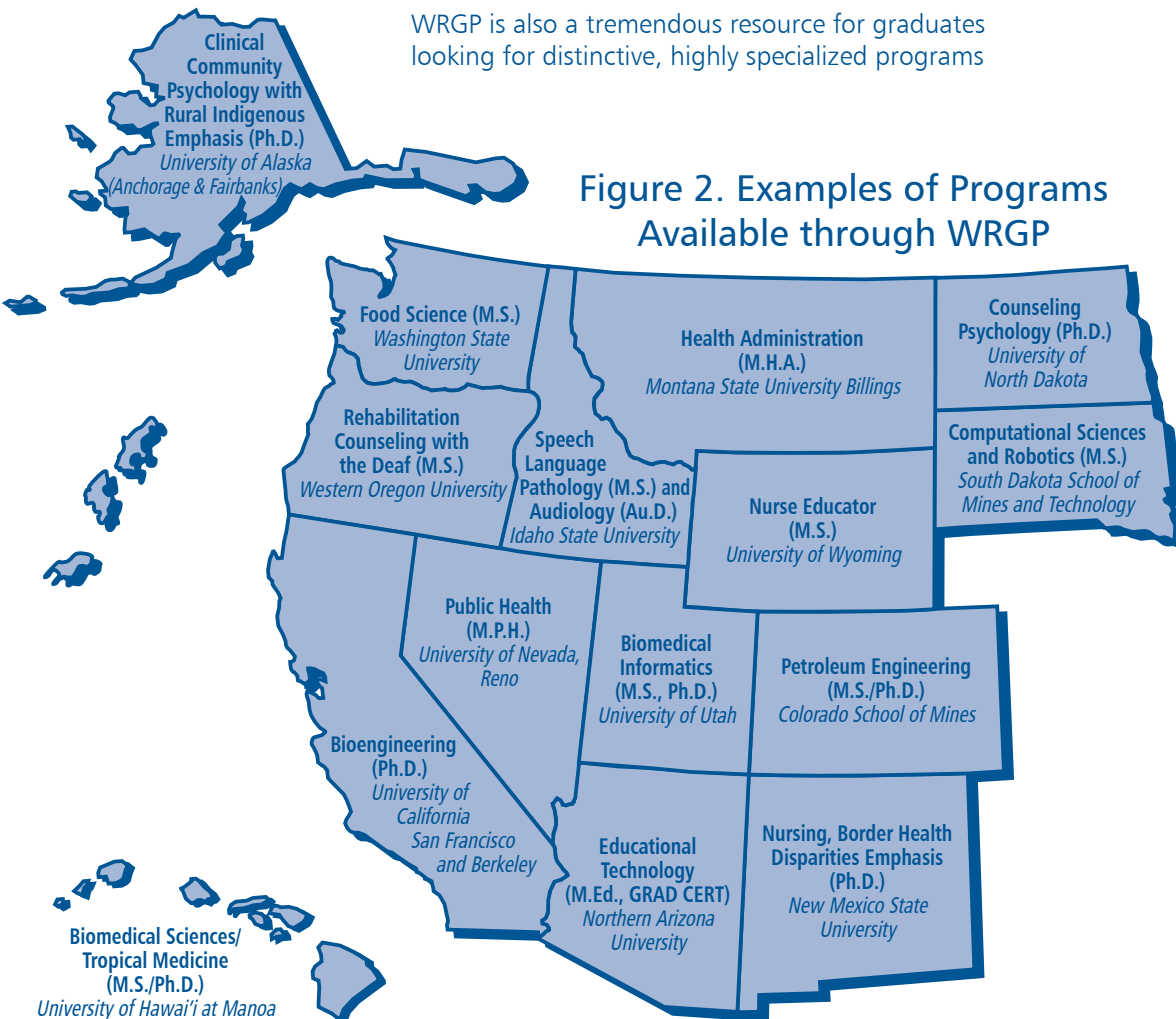
If a healthcare profession is not offered through PSEP, WRGP is an excellent option, offering some 110 healthcare-related programs, including those in graduate nursing, public health, mental health and psychology, audiology and speech pathology, and biomedical informatics. WRGP even offers advanced degrees to train future faculty members, including a doctorate in occupational therapy and a master's in dental hygiene.

in business, education, liberal arts, and the sciences – programs that may not be available in the student's home state. The map below shows some examples of programs offered through WRGP.

Check our website in spring 2014 and see the 30 new programs that will be available through the WRGP network, effective for fall 2014 enrollment.

WRGP is also a tremendous resource for graduates looking for distinctive, highly specialized programs

Figure 2. Examples of Programs Available through WRGP



*"My decision on where to attend graduate school came down to the University of Montana and another state school in the South. Montana was a better fit and the school I really wanted to attend, but the other school was offering me more money. WRGP leveled the playing field and allowed me to make a decision based on my career aspirations, instead of my wallet. Now I'm studying what I want, where I want, and I haven't looked back."*

*– Kevin, California resident, Class of 2015, University of Montana, Environmental Science & Natural Resource Journalism*

*"I appreciate this program for the flexibility it has offered me and my family. I needed to get an official endorsement to be a teacher of the visually impaired, which is not offered in the State of Alaska. I have a family and a job, so leaving the state was not an option. Portland State University offers one of only three online programs that would allow me to get my endorsement and not leave Alaska. WRGP solidified my decision to study with PSU; it made my pursuit affordable, and I did not need to pay for housing or leave my family. I could also continue to serve the visually impaired community in my state while working. Thank you for this opportunity."*

*– Phillis, Alaska resident, Class of 2013, Portland State University, Teacher of the Visually Impaired*



## Western Regional Graduate Program

**Table 9. Five-year Enrollment Summary, New and Continuing Students, 2009-2013**

State (Number of Programs)	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	Received	Sent	Received	Sent	Received	Sent	Received	Sent	Received	Sent
<b>Alaska (7)</b>	17	23	10	25	14	19	15	27	8	33
<b>Arizona (52)</b>	56	41	121	46	199	53	235	57	274	56
<b>California (13)</b>	0	67	1	153	2	224	5	269	15	330
<b>Colorado (86)</b>	134	45	199	56	210	67	330	60	345	67
<b>CNMI (0)*</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Hawai'i (12)</b>	36	13	41	16	49	17	47	24	41	22
<b>Idaho (13)</b>	8	37	7	48	21	56	35	72	56	70
<b>Montana (14)</b>	13	25	22	31	45	35	26	47	32	44
<b>Nevada (7)</b>	20	19	21	24	23	31	18	35	21	45
<b>New Mexico (24)</b>	38	34	41	44	62	46	31	55	26	70
<b>North Dakota (8)</b>	22	8	7	11	9	15	4	14	16	16
<b>Oregon (11)</b>	35	43	66	53	24	84	79	78	112	80
<b>South Dakota (9)</b>	5	8	4	9	10	20	8	19	12	26
<b>Utah (35)</b>	56	35	91	42	118	58	119	49	102	63
<b>Washington (17)</b>	57	84	44	97	71	92	54	154	71	160
<b>Wyoming (6)</b>	5	20	6	26	2	42	2	48	2	51
<b>TOTAL (314)</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>1,133</b>

\* CNMI joined WICHE in April 2013.

*“As an undergrad I was constantly stressed about money. Even with loans to cover my tuition, I still had to work nearly 30 hours a week to pay for my rent and living expenses. In four years I racked up a debt of nearly \$40,000. With debt looming over my head and my busy work schedule, my grades were subpar. I knew that I didn’t want to repeat the same mistake for grad school. WRGP has given me an opportunity to fully dedicate myself to my studies and my teaching. Utah State University has one of the best cost-to-education quality ratios in the country, and the WRGP resident tuition rate reduced my master’s tuition from nearly \$10,000 to only \$3,000. My teaching stipends and scholarships have reduced my costs even further. It has been a wonderful experience being able to study without financial concerns.”*

*– Frederick, Colorado resident, Class of 2014,  
Utah State University, Second Language Teaching*

## Western Undergraduate Exchange

The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE; [www.wiche.edu/wue](http://www.wiche.edu/wue)), is a regional tuition-reciprocity agreement that enables students from WICHE states to enroll in participating two- and four-year public institutions at 150 percent of the enrolling institution's resident tuition. The multilateral exchange has been operating for 25 years and is the largest program of its kind in the nation. In 2013-14 more than 33,800 WUE students and their families saved more than \$264.7 million in tuition costs. Residents of WICHE member states can choose from 154 participating WUE institutions.

Since the first exchanges began in 1988, WUE has provided WICHE students and their parents with discounts on almost 394,000 annual tuition bills – saving them, overall, more than \$2.2 billion.

Figure 3 below shows the continued growth of the program over the past five years. Table 11 shows the number of WUE students received in and sent from each state over the last five years.

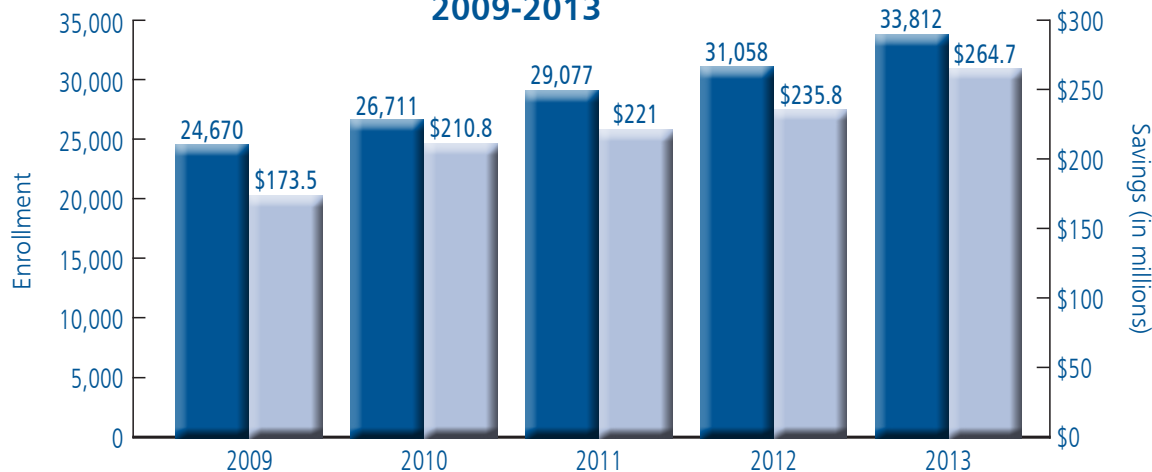
2013 was a banner year for new institutions joining the WUE network. They include California State University, Northridge; California State University San Marcos; University of California, Merced; Colorado Mountain College; Northern Marianas College; University of Hawai'i West O'ahu; Spokane Community College; Spokane Falls College; and, Washington State University Tri-cities. In addition, Colorado's Adams State University re-joined WUE. WICHE encourages nonparticipating institutions to consider joining the WUE network as a tool to meet their recruitment and enrollment goals.

The majority of institutions make all or most of their majors available at the WUE rate. Two commonly excluded programs are nursing and dental hygiene, due to high demand by in-state residents. About 20 percent of institutions use WUE as a merit scholarship but more than half automatically award the discounted rate to applicants from a WICHE state. Most WUE institutions offer the discounted rate to transfer students. Institutions like WUE because they can attract high-caliber students, maximize their student housing capacity, increase student diversity, and give students an affordable education in their major. For students, WUE is especially important when their program of study is not offered in their home state.

*"I'm interested in computer security and information assurance, a field vital to our continued national security. No universities in my home state offer a program that fit my needs. WUE allowed me to attend one of the leading universities in the field in New Mexico. Not only am I able to attend one of the few universities certified by the National Security Administration as a Center for Academic Excellence in both information security education and research, but I'm living in a vastly different part of the U.S. than I grew up in."*

*– Jesse, Oregon resident, Class of 2014,  
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Computer Science*

**Figure 3. WUE Enrollment and Savings (in millions), 2009-2013**



*"When I decided to pursue a career in audiology, I knew I was going to have to go out of state for school because there are no programs in Alaska. Even though I had no doubts that this was the right choice for me, I was not sure how the finances would work out. It wasn't until I received notice about WUE that I knew I was going to be able to afford school. WUE has been a huge blessing, and I am extremely grateful. It's given me the chance to get the education I need so that someday I can return home and provide medical services to the people in my home state. Thank you so very much!"*

*– Caitie, Alaska resident, Class of 2018,  
Idaho State University, Audiology*

## Western Undergraduate Exchange

Table 10. Fall 2013 Enrollment Summary, New and Continuing Students

State of Attendance (Number of WUE Institutions)	State of Residence																Attendance Totals
	AK	AZ	CA	CO	CNMI	HI	ID	MT	NV	NM	ND	OR	SD	UT	WA	WY	
Alaska (4)	–	37	190	46	0	23	26	14	21	5	2	52	2	23	139	7	587
Arizona (26)	222	–	4,319	432	0	308	96	36	473	151	16	157	26	178	350	24	6,788
California (13)	56	67	–	112	1	127	35	14	71	21	1	136	6	27	219	8	901
Colorado (24)	199	370	1,315	–	0	361	86	65	177	283	38	148	88	182	222	252	3,786
CNMI (1)	0	0	0	0	–	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hawai'i (4)	48	72	1,671	194	0	–	23	11	48	17	6	103	9	33	341	10	2,586
Idaho (6)	107	30	456	63	1	31	–	149	104	4	5	159	6	37	855	24	2,031
Montana (13)	151	35	334	291	0	15	307	–	65	19	45	189	47	67	566	179	2,310
Nevada (7)	63	96	2,709	79	0	311	48	22	–	18	2	89	5	48	127	7	3,624
New Mexico (10)	23	227	569	75	0	29	10	15	51	–	0	26	8	8	61	14	1,116
North Dakota (11)	76	120	570	210	0	35	69	203	72	22	–	75	166	72	214	173	2,077
Oregon (5)	173	46	1,003	54	0	322	96	29	109	15	4	–	3	23	524	8	2,409
South Dakota (5)	35	115	273	312	0	10	29	105	37	18	209	34	–	23	96	336	1,632
Utah (9)	24	60	201	69	0	44	118	27	127	10	1	35	2	–	65	31	814
Washington (7)	151	30	288	94	0	103	223	74	52	23	6	208	2	21	–	14	1,289
Wyoming (9)	27	31	94	644	0	15	108	447	42	15	27	36	147	171	58	–	1,862
Two-Year (70)	152	153	1,000	790	0	199	214	613	357	159	70	184	184	506	647	79	5,307
Four-Year (84)	1,203	1,183	12,992	1,885	2	1,535	1,060	598	1,092	462	292	1,263	333	407	3,190	1,008	28,505
Grand Total (154)	1,355	1,336	13,992	2,675	2	1,734	1,274	1,211	1,449	621	362	1,447	517	913	3,837	1,087	33,812

For answers to all your questions about WUE, visit [www.wiche.edu/askWICHE](http://www.wiche.edu/askWICHE)

## Western Undergraduate Exchange

Table 11. Five-year Enrollment Summary, New and Continuing Students, 2009-2013

State	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	Received	Sent	Received	Sent	Received	Sent	Received	Sent	Received	Sent
Alaska	534	1,631	546	1,534	562	1,496	588	1,421	587	1,355
Arizona	3,480	1,032	4,321	1,045	5,208	1,173	5,946	1,256	6,788	1,336
California	916	5,698	1,026	7,667	987	9,717	907	11,677	901	13,992
Colorado	1,734	2,457	2,074	2,345	2,912	2,312	3,419	2,374	3,786	2,675
CNMI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hawai'i	1,968	1,455	1,838	1,508	2,253	1,596	2,431	1,634	2,586	1,734
Idaho	2,756	1,215	2,807	1,175	2,380	1,235	2,272	1,189	2,031	1,274
Montana	1,754	1,257	2,012	1,130	2,097	1,273	2,158	1,230	2,310	1,211
Nevada	2,955	1,084	2,625	1,104	2,795	1,256	2,974	1,266	3,624	1,449
New Mexico	581	610	715	624	942	630	1,069	643	1,116	621
North Dakota	1,466	361	1,604	367	1,876	394	2,074	366	2,077	362
Oregon	1,626	1,614	2,238	1,586	2,147	1,490	2,239	1,536	2,409	1,447
South Dakota	1,303	596	1,407	594	1,435	546	1,554	505	1,632	517
Utah	757	780	682	867	661	885	629	898	814	913
Washington	890	3,721	1,028	3,986	1,124	3,848	1,136	3,800	1,289	3,837
Wyoming	1,950	1,159	1,788	1,179	1,698	1,226	1,662	1,263	1,862	1,087
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,670</b>	<b>24,670</b>	<b>26,711</b>	<b>26,711</b>	<b>29,077</b>	<b>29,077</b>	<b>31,058</b>	<b>31,058</b>	<b>33,812</b>	<b>33,812</b>

NOTE: University of Wyoming's WUE enrollment numbers are based on end-of-fall data from the previous year.



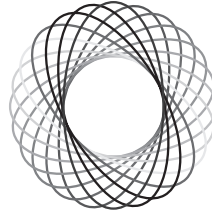
*"I've wanted to study in Montana since high school, but out-of-state tuition made that difficult. When my family learned about the WUE program, a lot of the burden was taken away. It also acts as an additional motivator to do my best in my classes, to keep up my GPA so that I remain qualified for the WUE discount. I am very indebted for the opportunity I have been given by WUE."*

*– Brenna, Washington resident, Class of 2016,  
University of Montana Western, Mathematics Education*

## Internet Course Exchange

### WICHE Internet Course Exchange (ICE): The Next Generation of Student Exchange

The WICHE Internet Course Exchange (ICE, [www.wiche.edu/ice](http://www.wiche.edu/ice)) is a robust administrative tool institutions can leverage to operate more efficiently and to advance strategic initiatives during these tight financial times. Through ICE member institutions exchange seats in online courses to provide more selection to their students and give faculty the opportunity to collaborate with their colleagues at other institutions. Consider these scenarios:



- Your institution has a strong online program in a specialty area. But it is underenrolled and you do not know if you can justify the expense. ICE allows you to export empty seats to other institutions and generate revenue.
- A vacancy on your faculty leaves you with a course that no one on campus is qualified to teach. ICE allows you to see if other institutions have vacant seats in online versions of the same course that you can import and make available to your students.
- There is pressing need in your region to develop and deliver a program to help professionals meet certification requirements. But new resources are scarce. ICE allows you to identify other institutions in the same situation, to pool faculty expertise and to share the work and expense of developing a new online program. The resulting program is more robust because it garners enrollments across multiple institutions.
- Your institution's new strategic plan calls for creating an organization that is responsive to change and that better utilizes technology to expand and enhance its academic offerings. Rather than watching this vision fade while waiting for "a better day," you can tap ICE for affordable opportunities to push forward.
- Your budget constraints necessitate cutting low-enrollment programs. ICE allows you to import seats in courses from other institutions to meet your teach-out requirements.

While the possibilities for academic collaborations are infinite, the behind-the-scenes work necessary to make a consortium function are time-consuming. Institutions that have launched such programs without utilizing ICE can attest to the countless hours spent wrangling the details of admission, registration, financial aid, fee payment, credit transfer, and

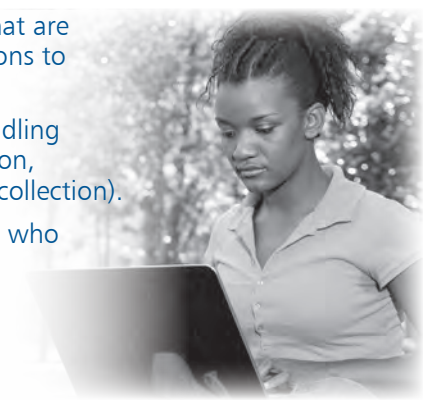
other issues. If not managed correctly, such details can be the undoing of an otherwise good academic collaboration. Oftentimes, students suffer because institutions cannot get their processes to align. Fortunately, ICE offers a robust administrative solution.

ICE is a comprehensive model and set of tools for institutions looking to expand online offerings through collaboration. WICHE has already negotiated the necessary framework to facilitate exchanges and handles the financial transactions between institutions. ICE includes:

- A database that displays detailed information about individual online courses and the number of seats in them available for exchange.
- Support for entire academic programs that are jointly developed and delivered by institutions to fulfill common curricular needs.
- Detailed policies that ensure smooth handling of important administrative issues (admission, registration, financial aid, and student fee collection).
- Contacts at each participating institution who facilitate the exchange of course seats, answer questions, and act as liaisons.
- A forum for jointly addressing common educational needs.

All participating institutions must be regionally accredited and can be either two-year or four-year schools. Systems and consortia whose member institutions meet the same criteria may also belong. As members, all pay annual dues. ICE offers three types of exchanges: seat exchange, course exchange, and program exchange. Institutions can participate in one or more. In addition, they can be a teaching institution (TI) or an enrolling institution (EI), or both.

As colleges and universities offer courses and programs to students at WICHE ICE member institutions, students benefit from richer, more specialized, and relevant course and program options. Faculty members enjoy teaching more courses in their areas of specialization. Advisors are able to counsel students and articulate courses for quality and transferability before students enroll in them. And institutions can make wiser uses of their limited resources.

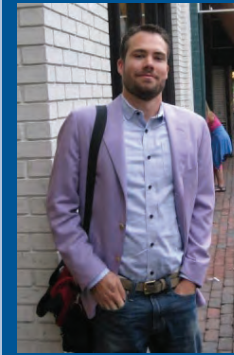






*“WICHE has helped me to pursue my professional goals as a healthcare provider. The burden of debt hangs over so many who pursue a professional career, but I was able to decrease the amount of debt significantly with the tuition support provided. Private schools can be extremely expensive, and I was concerned about supporting not only myself through school, but my wife and children as well. Thank you Arizona and WICHE!”*

*– Charlie, Arizona resident, Class of 2014,  
A. T. Still University, Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health*



*“I have been enrolled in the University of Arizona’s distance learning program for three years now. WRGP has allowed me to continue my education without putting a large financial burden on my household. It’s a great way for non-resident Western students enrolled in distance learning programs to obtain an affordable education.”*

*– Scott, Hawai’i resident, Class of 2014,  
University of Arizona, Optical Sciences*

The WICHE Commission’s 16 members include representatives from 15 states – Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai’i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming – and the Pacific Island U.S. territories and free-standing states (The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is the first to join).

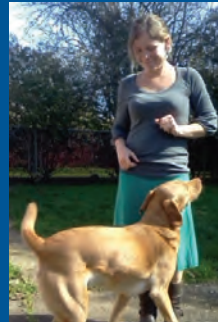
By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy among states and institutions, WICHE strengthens higher education’s contributions to the region’s social, economic, and civic life.

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education  
3035 Center Green Drive, Suite 200  
Boulder, Colorado 80301-2204  
Tel.: 303.541.0214  
www.wiche.edu  
September 2014

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**Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education**



*“I am currently enrolled in Oregon State University’s veterinary medical program through PSEP. I grew up in Montana wondering how I was going to be able to accomplish my goal of becoming a veterinarian. I started work with the U.S. Forest Service as a firefighter right out of high school to try and save enough money to pay out-of-state tuition. Had it not been for WICHE, I’d still be fighting fires! Thank you, Montana, for this amazing opportunity. I look forward to returning to my home state to provide care for Montana residents’ companion animals and livestock.”*

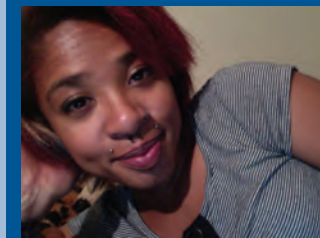
*– Heather, Montana resident, Class of 2015,  
Oregon State University, College of Veterinary Medicine*



*“Thanks to WRGP, I was able to accept a spot for the clinical doctorate of audiology program at the University of Utah. With no program in Wyoming, enrolling out-of-state was my only option. The University of Utah was my top choice due to its unique clinical training opportunities, excellent reputation, and nationally recognized medical and health science graduate programs. I am*

*forever thankful for WRGP. Without it, I would not have been able to attend such an outstanding institution or to reach my dream career. Thanks to WICHE, I am able to give the gift of hearing – an intangible experience that won’t soon be forgotten!”*

*– Lauren, Wyoming resident, Class of 2015,  
University of Utah, Doctorate of Audiology*



*“I was not going to attend a university because tuition and fees were just too expensive.*

*WUE gave me access to a less expensive education and an experience that I will always take with me. I am a first-generation college student and my family is proud. Thank you WUE!”*

*– Tara, California resident, Class of 2013,  
Northern Arizona University, Psychology*