

# Colorado

Working for the West

Since 1953 Colorado has partnered with and benefited from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) through regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation.

## Commissioners



**Jim Chavez**  
Executive Director,  
Latin American Educational



**Antwan Jefferson**  
Clinical Assistant Professor,  
University of Colorado Denver



**Angie Paccione**  
Executive Director,  
Department of Higher Education

## Legislative Advisory Committee



Vacancy



Vacancy

## WICHE ...

### Provides strong return on investment

- 3,601 Colorado residents saved \$30.8 million in 2019-20 through the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) and the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP), and Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP). These WICHE programs provide significant student savings on nonresident tuition at 170+ Western US public colleges and universities and select private health care programs.
- In 2019-20 WICHE Student Access Programs provided Colorado a 5,150 percent return on investment, relative to the state's annual WICHE dues.
- Colorado students and their families have saved \$328 million since the state began participating in WUE.
- The Master Property Program (MPP) helps institutions reduce their insurance premiums and improve their coverage. The MPP includes more than 170 campuses with total insured values of over \$100 billion.

### Helps Colorado attract students from other states

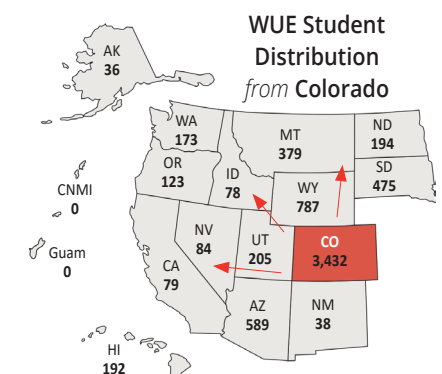
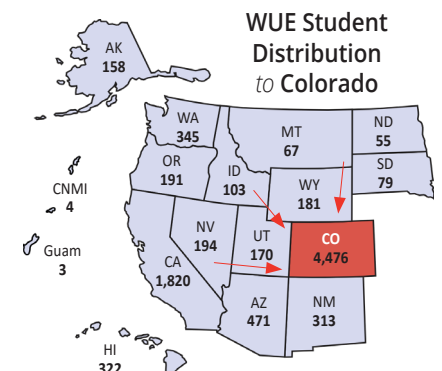
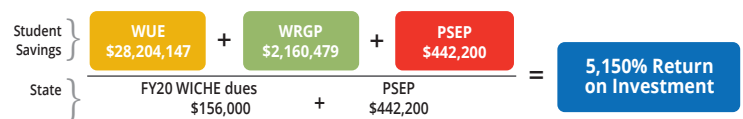
- WUE and WRGP incentivized 4,986 students this year to invest their tuition dollars in Colorado.

### Bolsters Colorado's health workforce

- WICHE's Behavioral Health Program (BHP) provided technical assistance to Beacon Health to enhance their effectiveness in serving rural and frontier populations.
- Through the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), students from Colorado can enroll in participating programs in another state while receiving substantial tuition support. Currently, Colorado supports students in optometry.
- Funded by the US Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Rural Health, **Together with Veterans (TWV)** is a partnership of the BHP, the VA Rocky Mountain Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC), and local organizations that are run by or serve veterans. In Colorado, there are currently two TWV sites: Northeast Colorado and San Luis Valley.
- WICHE, partnering with the University of North Dakota, administers the **Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC)**. The Mountain Plains MHTTC serves the states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming by establishing a collaborative network that strengthens the capacity of different systems, organizations, and treatment practitioners involved in the delivery of mental health services.

### Helps Colorado allocate resources efficiently with data and policy analysis

- WICHE offers various data and policy resources to support better-informed decision-making. WICHE's research projects and collaborations cover postsecondary completion, closing attainment gaps, adult learners, and multistate data-sharing to support educational planning and workforce development. WICHE staff serve as expert resources and provide technical assistance on finance, financial aid, articulation and transfer, strategic planning, student demographics, and more. WICHE's website features [Benchmarks](#), an interactive dashboard featuring the most recent data available on the West's progress in improving access to, success in, and the financing of higher education, as well as other useful resources.

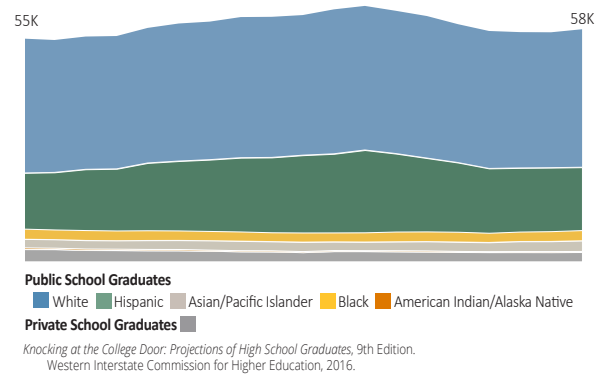


- WICHE's quadrennial *Knocking at the College Door* report is the foremost U.S. resource for projections of college-ready students. There is an abundance of information on [knocking.wiche.edu](http://knocking.wiche.edu), including the publication and other reports, projections data, interactive data dashboards, recorded webinars and presentations, and Colorado's state profile.

### Fosters idea sharing

- WICHE's **Legislative Advisory Committee** provides valuable insights on trends and promising practices to Colorado's legislative leaders as they build partnerships with leaders in other Western states.
- Three Colorado institutions are members of the **Western Academic Leadership Forum (the Forum)**, a consortium of academic officers at bachelor's, master's, and doctoral institutions and chief executives and chief academic officers for systems and state governing boards. Colorado members include *Metropolitan State University of Denver, Colorado State University, and Colorado State University - Pueblo*. Vicki Golich, MSU Denver, serves on the Forum executive committee. Academic leaders at community colleges (cc) and technical schools and at systems and state governing and coordinating boards associated with two-year institutions are members of the **Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (the Alliance)**. The Colorado members of the Alliance are *Aims CC, Arapahoe CC, Colorado CC System, Colorado Northwestern CC, CC of Aurora, CC of Denver, Front Range CC, Lamar CC, Morgan CC, Northeastern Junior College, Otero Junior College, Pikes Peak CC, Pueblo CC, Red Rocks CC, and Trinidad State Junior College*. Both the Forum and the Alliance exchange ideas and information, share resources and expertise, and collaborate on regional initiatives. Landon Pirius, Colorado CC System, serves on the Alliance executive committee.
- Eighteen higher education institutions in Colorado are members of **WCET (WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies)**, the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education. WCET's growing membership includes almost 400 institutions, higher education agencies and systems, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in all U.S. states and several Canadian provinces. Through its *Frontiers* blog, convenings, and active online discussions, WCET keeps members informed of the latest in policy change, regulations, and trends in educational technology. And WCET offers a host of resources related to educational technology and faculty support, including advice and guidance for institutions on how to transition their face-to-face offerings to emergency online alternatives and how to increase quality in these courses over time. See [wcet.wiche.edu/current-members](http://wcet.wiche.edu/current-members) for a list of WCET members.
- The **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)** is a voluntary, state-led initiative designed to establish comparable standards for US states and territories regulating postsecondary distance education. SARA expands access to postsecondary educational opportunities, while ensuring meaningful consumer protections for students and reducing regulatory red-tape for institutions. WICHE is responsible for coordinating the membership of SARA states in the West through the **WICHE State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (W-SARA)**. See [nc-sara.org/directory](http://nc-sara.org/directory) for a list of member institutions.
- The **State Authorization Network (SAN)** provides institutional support in managing regulations related to online courses and programs. Colorado's members are: *American Sentinel University, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Community College of Denver, Regis University & OCICU, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, University of Colorado Denver, and University of Colorado System*.
- At the outset of the recent outbreak of **COVID-19**, WICHE quickly reacted, shifted to remote work, and continues to advance our mission. WICHE is facilitating peer-to-peer videoconferences for higher education leaders to connect and identify solutions to common challenges; following legislation passed in response to the crisis; and identifying how emergency funding for students and higher education institutions, as well as block grants to states, can be best used to support education in the West. The Behavioral Health Program is hosting webinars that offer guidance to support the mental wellbeing of their students, and WCET is providing updates and resources to help institutions address issues that arise due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

### Colorado Projected High School Graduates, 2013-14 to 2031-32, Public by Race/Ethnicity, and Private



### About WICHE and the WICHE Commission

For more than 65 years, WICHE has served as a trusted partner for states and territories in the Western region in order to address some of society's most pressing needs. From promoting high-quality, affordable postsecondary education to helping states get the most from their technology investments and addressing behavioral health challenges, WICHE improves lives across the West through innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy.

The WICHE Commission oversees the development of WICHE programs and assures that the Western Regional Compact is carried out for the benefit of the citizens of the West. WICHE's 48 commissioners, who are appointed by the governors of the 15 Western states and the US Pacific Territories and Freely Associated States, are leaders in higher education; they include state higher education executive officers, college and university presidents, legislators, business and community leaders, and other key partners. Camille Preus from Oregon is the 2020 chair of the Commission.