

South Dakota | Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

A trusted partner in regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy, and innovation since 1988

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Legislative Advisory Committee



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Representative, South Dakota State Legislature



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Senator, South Dakota State Legislature

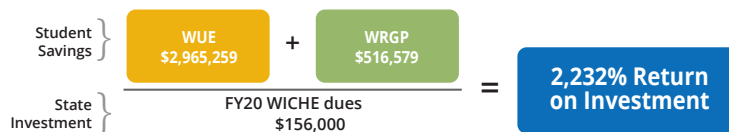


Tim Reed
Representative, South Dakota State Legislature

WICHE ...

Provides strong return on investment

- 559 South Dakota residents saved \$3.48 million in 2019-20 through the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) and the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP). These WICHE programs provide significant student savings on nonresident tuition at 170+ Western U.S. public colleges and universities.
- WICHE's Student Access Programs provide Oregon:



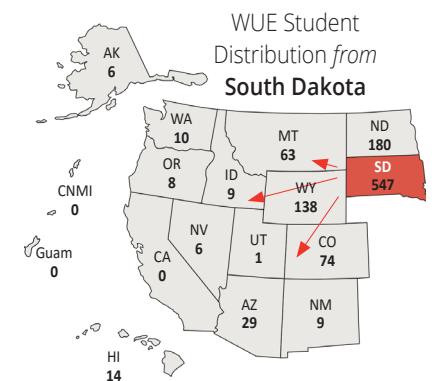
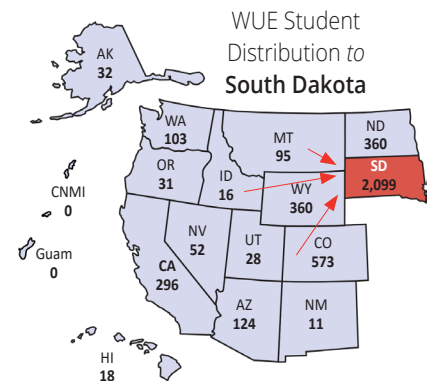
- In 2019-20 WICHE Student Access Programs provided South Dakota a 2,232 percent return on investment, relative to the state's annual WICHE dues.
- South Dakota students and their families have saved \$90.4 million since the state first began participating in WUE.
- The Master Property Program (MPP) 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 South Dakota attract students from other states

- WUE and WRGP incentivized 2,034 students this year to invest their tuition dollars in South Dakota.

Bolsters South Dakota's health workforce

- The Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC), a partnership between WICHE and the University of North Dakota working to provide training, resources, and technical assistance to mental health providers and other practitioners in the region, launched a tribal school-based program in February 2020, to advance capacity and skill building to address the mental health needs of American Indian students through the development of Communities of Practice. The Every Moment Counts curriculum has been adapted for use among educators working in tribal communities. The schools that have agreed to participate include Harlem School District Number 12 serving Aaniiih and Nakoda Nations in Montana, *Todd County Spring Creek serving the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota*, Turtle Mountain Elementary School serving the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in North Dakota.



About WICHE

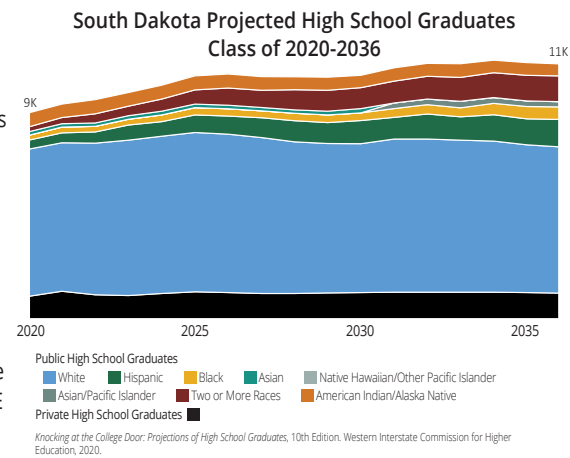
Since 1953, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) has been strengthening higher education, workforce development, and behavioral health throughout the region. As an interstate compact, WICHE partners with states, territories, and postsecondary institutions to share knowledge, create resources, and develop innovative solutions that address some of our 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.

Increases South Dakota's higher education access and affordability

- *Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, South Dakota State University, and University of South Dakota* are six of more than 30 college and university members of **Interstate Passport® Network**, which – by enabling block transfer of lower-division general education – reduces barriers to non-transfer of credits that students may encounter when transferring out-of-state.

Helps South Dakota 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, including the publication and other reports, projections data, interactive data dashboards, recorded webinars and presentations, and South Dakota's state profile.



Fosters idea sharing

- WICHE's **Legislative Advisory Committee** provides valuable insights on trends and promising practices to South Dakota's legislative leaders as they build partnerships with leaders in other Western states.
- Several South Dakota 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 (South Dakota members include *Black Hills State University, Northern State University, South Dakota State University, South Dakota Board of Regents, Dakota State University, and University of South Dakota*). Jay Perry, South Dakota Board of Regents, serves on the Forum executive committee. Likewise, academic leaders at community colleges 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)**—South Dakota members are *Mitchell Technical Institute, Western Dakota Technical Institute, Southeast Technical Institute, Lake Area Technical Institute, and South Dakota Board of Technical Education*. Michael Cartney, Lake Area Technical Institute, serves on the Alliance executive committee. Both the Forum and the Alliance exchange ideas and information, share resources and expertise, and collaborate on regional initiatives.
- *Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota Board of Regents, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, South Dakota State University, and University of South Dakota* are all 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.
- 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)**.
- The **State Authorization Network (SAN)** helps guide institutions through state regulations around online courses and programs. *Black Hills State University, Northern State University, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, South Dakota State University, and University of South Dakota* are all members.

Responds to urgent priorities

- WICHE is partnering with our states, institutions, and partners to respond and be proactive during the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

January 2021

About the WICHE Commission

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 U.S. 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. Susan Anderson from Alaska is the 2021 Chair of the Commission.