



Responding Together

Recovery & Resilience in Uncertain Times

Agenda

Wednesday, September 23 | Finance
2:30-4:00 pm MDT

Welcome and Introductions

WICHE President Demi Michelau will provide a brief introduction to WICHE and the Legislative Advisory Committee, followed by a round of member introductions.

Facilitator:

Demarée Michelau, President, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Financial Impacts of the Pandemic

The session will explore the financial impacts of the pandemic on states, institutions, and students – ultimately focusing on how scarce resources from all levels—federal, state, and institutional—can be best leveraged and allocated to support student completion. The discussion will also consider the interrelated nature of appropriations, tuition, and financial aid in the state-level response to this question.

Moderator:

Demarée Michelau, President, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Speakers:

Steffon Gray, Assistant Director, Research and Policy Analysis, *National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO)*

Brian Prescott, Vice President, *National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)*

Rachelle Sharpe, Deputy Executive Director, *Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)*

Thursday, September 24 | Innovation
2:00-4:00 pm MDT

Innovative Approaches for Uncertain Times

Countless educational trajectories were interrupted by COVID-19 this spring, summer, and fall and the uncertainty around in-person instruction has forced higher education to reckon with new instructional models and modalities at an unprecedented pace and scale. What lessons have been learned so far and how might this shape higher education in the long-term? This session will explore this question across three different dimensions: institutional and system approaches, equity considerations, and inter-institutional efforts.

Part I: Institutional and System Approaches

Since the spring, institutions have made incredible strides in responding to an unprecedented challenge, managing an abrupt transition to remote learning and exploring an array of new approaches to educate students this fall. The discussion will feature expert perspectives on what worked well, what we need to change, and what we need to think about moving forward.

Moderator:

Russ Poulin, Executive Director, *WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET)*, Vice President for Technology-Enhanced Education, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Speakers:

Tina Parscal, Associate Vice Chancellor for CCCOnline and Academic Affairs, *Colorado Community College System*
Shannon Riggs, Executive Director of Academic Programs and Learning Innovation, *Oregon State University*

Part II: Equity Considerations

The pandemic's disparate impacts by race and ethnicity have magnified long-term concerns related to equity in postsecondary education. With a significant portion of all postsecondary education now occurring in an online format, how can we use student voice, data analysis, and thoughtful planning and resource deployment to ensure that this experience is working for all students – especially those our systems have historically struggled to serve?

Moderator:

Van Davis, Policy and Planning Consultant, *WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET)* and Principal, *Foghlam Consulting, LLC*

Speakers:

Jessica Rowland Williams, Director, Every Learner Everywhere, *WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET)*
Jory Hadsell, Executive Director, *California Virtual Campus – Online Education initiative*

Part III: Inter-institutional Efforts

This discussion will focus on inter-institutional initiatives that are developing critical supports for students across a range of institution types including transfer pathways, course exchanges, and more. Panelists will share how they are leveraging collaboration at the state level and beyond to meet student needs in innovative ways.

Moderator:

Christina Sedney, Director of Policy Initiatives and State Authorization, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Speakers:

TJ Bliss, Chief Academic Officer, *Idaho State Board of Education*
Veronica Dujon, Director, Office of Academic Policy and Authorization, *Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission*
Dave Woostenhulme, Commissioner, *Utah System of Higher Education*

Friday, September 25 | Data
2:00-4:00 pm MDT

Planning in the Face of Uncertainty

The pandemic is reshaping every aspect of our society, from demographics, to college-going trends, to labor markets. Each of these areas has real implications for what higher education will look like in the months and years to come. This session will provide an overview of available data resources that can help us think through both the short- and long-term implications of these changes.

Moderator:

Patrick Lane, Vice President, Policy Analysis & Research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Speakers:

Peace Bransberger, Senior Research Analyst, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Elizabeth Crofoot, Senior Economist, *The Conference Board*

Pearl Iboshi, Director, Institutional Research and Analysis Office, *University of Hawaii System*