

WICHE Commission Code of Ethics

The Western Regional Education Compact calls upon commissioners appointed by each participating state to oversee the development of WICHE's programs in order to strengthen higher education's contribution to the social and economic life of the region. Ethical practices are essential to the creation, implementation, and continued operation of effective, equitable programs that benefit the citizens of the West.

It is essential that WICHE espouse its own standards of ethical conduct since codes differ by state and do not apply to an interstate agency such as WICHE. In this regard, each WICHE commissioner agrees individually to:

- Fulfill his or her responsibilities in a professional manner, with honesty, integrity, dignity, fairness, and civility.
- Act in an informed, competent, and responsible manner, and with due diligence to provisions of the Western Regional Education Compact, the WICHE Bylaws, and the approved policies and procedures of the organization.
- Avoid possible conflicts of interest between his or her responsibilities as a state-appointed official and the policies, procedures, and operations of the multistate organization. Should a potential conflict arise, a commissioner has the responsibility to disclose this to the commission and to recuse herself or himself for any discussion or actions with regard to the potential conflict of interest.
- Foster high standards of professional and ethical conduct within WICHE and the Commission.
- Support the principles of due process and civil and human rights of all individuals while being vigilant to resolve circumstances of discrimination, inequity, inappropriate behavior, harassment, or abuse within WICHE.
- Assure that allegations of ethics violations raised by any staff person or citizen served by WICHE concerning a member of the staff or the Commission are thoroughly investigated and resolved.
- Refrain from accepting duties, incurring obligations, accepting gifts or favors of monetary value, or engaging in private business or professional activities where there is, or would appear to be, a conflict between the commissioner's personal interests and the interests of WICHE or its member or affiliated states.
- Avoid exploiting his or her position for personal gain through the use of political, social, religious, economic, or other influence.
- Obey local, state, and national laws and to pursue any changes in those laws, policies, and regulations only through legal, ethical, and otherwise appropriate means.
- Support this WICHE Code of Ethics (Conduct) as a fundamental underpinning for the values, the decisions, and the actions of the commission and the organization.