

Western Academic Leadership Forum

2023 Forum Annual Meeting – Call for Proposals

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 – Friday, April 28, 2023

Marriott Tucson University Park
Tucson, Arizona



Western Academic Leadership Forum -- 2023 Annual Meeting A Time of Crises: Higher Education Creating the Conditions for A Different Future

The Western Academic Leadership Forum is an interstate membership group of higher education leaders at four-year institutions based in the West. Roughly 60 chief academic officers and provosts at WICHE-region public and private doctoral, master's, and bachelor's level institutions and related systems offices and state agencies gather each year for the Forum's annual meeting. This highly rated, intimate annual meeting leads to constant idea generation around pressing issues while also facilitating professional development.

The focus of the 2023 Forum Annual Meeting is on crisis response and the ways in which higher education can create conditions for a different future. Current students have lived and learned during a time of crisis - from post 9/11, school shootings, climate change, a global pandemic, and economic downturn. How have these experiences shaped their journey in postsecondary education? How are our institutions responding to these outside factors and supporting our students? The interactive sessions at this annual meeting will discuss the ways in which crises, while challenging, can create opportunity.

New this year, WICHE invites Forum members to submit proposals that will explore specific aspects of our theme such as:

- How do we define metrics and policy in a world of multi-institutional students?
 - o Students are not bound to a single institution and there is no "traditional" student. How does your institution measure success?
- How do we (re)engage students, staff, and faculty?

- Institutions have seen a sharp decline in enrollments over the last two years. What has your institution done to bring students back? What has your institution done to help faculty better relate to the evolving definition of what it means to be a student?
- How do we utilize advances in technology platforms to support students, faculty research, staff productivity, and streamline processes at your institution?
 - Has your institution had great success with a particular platform?
- How do we define the value proposition of higher education?
 - Has your institution or system thought about how we can use the knowledge and research produced by institutions to respond to crises?
 - What does the value of education mean to you? To students? If it is meant to be a public good, how do we fund education?

One of the greatest benefits we hear from meeting participants is the format of the meeting. General sessions that involve panels and follow-up small group discussions allow all participants to take actionable ideas back to campus. The opportunity to participate in round table discussions allows participants to dive into detail with small groups of colleagues. The format of the 2-day Forum Annual Meeting includes an invited keynote address as well as 3 x 90-minute general sessions, 4 x 45-minute general sessions, and 3 x 25-minute round tables.

We encourage proposers to work with their colleagues from other institutions to put together a panel presentation for a general session. We are also happy to create a panel from multiple proposals to address one of the four overarching questions from multiple perspectives.

Proposals should include:

1. Title
2. A brief description of your session (up to 50 words, to be used in meeting materials)
3. A longer statement describing the content and context of the session (up to 250 words)
4. Please list 3-4 discussion questions that relate to your session
5. Which overarching question does this session attempt to address:
 - a. How do we define Metrics and Policy in a World of Multi-Institutional Students?
 - b. How do we (re)engage Students and Faculty?
 - c. How do we utilize advances in technology to support students and faculty research and streamline our systems?
 - d. How do we unpack, understand, and shift the value proposition of higher education?
 - e. Other _____
6. Please select the type of session you are interested in:
 - a. Roundtable discussion – 20 minutes, we ask you stay at your table to facilitate the discussion 3 times. Participants will move between tables.
 - b. General session – 90 minutes; these sessions use the following format: 45 minutes for presentation or panel discussion followed by 15 minutes of Q and A; then 30 minute facilitated discussion in small groups.
 - c. General session – 45 minutes; these sessions use the following format: 30 minutes for presentation or panel discussion followed by 15 minutes of Q and A.
7. Please indicate if you would be interested in being assigned to a panel with other proposal submissions.
 - a. Yes

- b. No
8. Names, titles, institutional affiliation, and email addresses for session presenters (general sessions will ideally have 2-4 presenters or 1 moderator and 2-3 panelists; roundtable discussants will have 1 presenters). Clearly designate which presenter is the main point of contact for WICHE.

Important dates

- Call for proposals announced August 17, 2022
- Proposals due October 5, 2022 midnight MT
- Decisions will be made October 26, 2022

Please submit a proposal by [completing this form](#). If you have any questions about the process, please contact Kay Hulstrom, khulstrom@wiche.edu. Please visit the [Forum website](#) for more information.