



Adjusting & Adapting: What's Next for Postsecondary Education?

WICHE LAC Meeting

September 21-22, 2022 | The Citizen Hotel | Sacramento, CA

Agenda

Wednesday, September 21

7:30-8:30 am

Plaza Park Ballroom

Breakfast

8:30-9:30 am

Metropolitan Terrace

Welcome, Introductions, and Legislative Priorities

WICHE staff will provide a brief overview of WICHE and the Legislative Advisory Committee, followed by an opportunity for LAC members to introduce themselves and share their postsecondary policy priorities.

Facilitator:

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

9:30-10:45 am

Metropolitan Terrace

Looking Back and Looking Ahead: COVID-19 Impacts and an Uncertain Future for Postsecondary Education

We know that the pandemic has significantly impacted higher education. The key question will be how those changes continue to impact postsecondary education. This session will explore the changes to the postsecondary landscape between the onset of the pandemic and now, highlighting regional, state, and territorial shifts and concluding with a discussion of which changes are short-term and which may last longer. Additionally, discussion will focus on the key future trends for postsecondary education and workforce development. WICHE senior leadership will also share insights in their areas of expertise.

Moderator:

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

Speakers:

Raymonda Burgman, vice president, programs and services, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Patrick Lane, vice president, policy analysis and research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Todd Helvig, director of education and training, behavioral health program, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Russell Poulin, executive director, WCET; vice president, technology enhanced education, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

10:45-11:00 am

Break

11:00-11:45 am

Metropolitan Terrace

Bending the Trends Part I: Addressing enrollment challenges

Stark enrollment declines—especially in the community college sector—and troubling decreases in FAFSA completions since the beginning of the pandemic suggest that many potential students are opting not to pursue or continue their education. This has implications not only for potential students missing out on the benefits of postsecondary credentials, but also for states trying to meet current and future workforce demands. The data points shared in this session will help frame key issues of focus in this meeting by identifying important indicators for legislators to consider as they examine postsecondary policy.

Moderator:

Patrick Lane, vice president, policy analysis and research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Speakers:

Bill DeBaun, senior director of data and strategic initiatives, *National College Attainment Network*

Marty Alvarado, executive vice chancellor, equitable student learning, experience, and impact office, *California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office*

11:45 am-12:15 pm

Metropolitan Terrace

Facilitated Discussion: Addressing enrollment challenges

Following the presentation focused on data and key points of interest, LAC members will engage in a facilitated discussion about approaches in their states and territories for addressing enrollment challenges. This can include a focus on previously passed legislation, as well as potential plans for the future.

Facilitator:

Patrick Lane, vice president, policy analysis and research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

12:15-1:30 pm

Plaza Park Ballroom

Lunch

1:30-2:45 pm
Metropolitan Terrace

Bending the Trends Part II: Meeting workforce needs in diverse fields

As states and territories emerge from the pandemic with different contexts and priorities, one common thread is clear. Concerns about meeting workforce needs are no longer theoretical or long-term discussions. Shortages across a raft of key occupations are impacting everyday life for Western residents and forcing legislators and other policymakers to think creatively to address these shortages. Depending on the occupation and industry, there could be straightforward policy solutions, or issues could be deep and complex requiring a range of interventions to shift policy and practice with the hope of bending the workforce trends in the long-term. This session will examine some policy approaches, including those developed by Western states and territories, to identify usable potential solutions.

Moderator:

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

Speakers:

Tara Kini, chief of staff and director of state policy, *Learning Policy Institute*

Carl Sims, deputy program director, *The Council of State Governments Center of Innovation*

John Cordova, director of workforce development and clinical partnerships, *Futuro Health*

2:45-3:00 pm

Break

3:00-3:45 pm
Metropolitan Terrace

Supporting students to boost retention and completion

While developing new incentives and programs to meet current and future state workforce needs is crucial, thinking about state strategies to support retention and completion is another way to shore up the pipeline of educated and trained workers. There is not a single “silver-bullet” approach, but comprehensive, broad-based strategies have the potential to move the needle. While research supports many of these programs, and several states and territories in the West have adopted many of them, there is still certainly room for improvement. This session will examine some of these approaches and the research behind them, with examples drawn from legislative bodies across the West.

Moderator:

Patrick Lane, vice president, policy analysis and research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Speakers:

Alexander Mayer, director, postsecondary education, *MDRC*

Michelle Ware, senior associate, postsecondary education, *MDRC*

3:45-4:30 pm
Metropolitan Terrace

Facilitated Discussion: Legislative action to support retention and completion

Legislators across the west have proposed and passed numerous state approaches to improving student retention and completion. In this facilitated discussion, LAC members will have the opportunity to share and discuss legislation on this important topic.

Facilitator:

Patrick Lane, vice president, policy analysis and research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

6:00 pm
Lobby

Dinner for LAC Members & Invited Guests

Meet in the hotel lobby to travel to an optional group dinner for LAC attendees at local restaurant Cafeteria 15L.

Thursday, September 22

7:30-8:30 am
Plaza Park Ballroom

Breakfast

8:30-9:45 am
Metropolitan Terrace

Behavioral Health in Postsecondary Education

Although behavioral health was an issue prior to the pandemic, COVID-19 has clearly exacerbated issues for students, faculty, and staff alike. In addition to being a key issue for promoting well-being on campus, there are very clear and real implications for credential completion and the efficiency of our postsecondary systems. While data are somewhat murky, it is clear that behavioral health issues impact student completion, which has implications for meeting future workforce needs and ensuring students have positive outcomes. This session will examine potential legislative approaches to supporting enhanced behavioral health care in postsecondary education.

Moderator:

Patrick Lane, vice president, policy analysis and research, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

Speakers:

David Arnold, assistant vice president for health, safety, and well-being initiatives, *NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education*

Todd Helvig, director of education and training, behavioral health program, *Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education*

9:45-10:15 am

Break

An extended break so that attendees may check out of their hotel rooms prior to the final sessions.

10:15-11:30 am
Metropolitan Terrace

State Authorization: The impact on student protection and access in a changing environment

The Regulatory Triad – consisting of states/territories, accreditors, and the federal government – looks clean and neat on paper, but is much more complicated in reality. In this session, we will examine state authorization – the process through which states and territories set criteria for institutions that educate their residents in greater detail, including how state and territorial polices on authorization interact with the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, and can be tailored to find the right balance for ensuring student protections and promoting student access.

Moderator:

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

Speakers:

Deborah Cochrane, chief, *Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education*

Cheryl Dowd, senior director, state authorization network and WCET policy innovations, *WCET*

Amanda Winters, program director, postsecondary education, *National Governors Association*

11:30 am-12:00 pm
Metropolitan Terrace

Looking Ahead to 2023

With 2023 rapidly approaching, what are your higher education priorities for the upcoming session? LAC members will share what bills they hope to work on and what they hope to accomplish in the coming year.

Facilitator:

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