

Developing the Postsecondary Education System Your State Needs

WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting | September 12-13, 2023 | Phoenix, AZ

Agenda

Tuesday, September 12

7:30 – 8:30 am Breakfast
Dreamcatcher III

8:30 – 9:15 am Welcome & Introductions
Dreamcatcher I & II
Facilitator
Demarée Michelau, President, WICHE

9:15 – 9:45 am **EXPLORING THE CONCEPT OF VALUE IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**
Dreamcatcher I & II
The discussion will begin with an examination of how different entities are defining the term “value” in higher education and culminate with LAC members sharing how they think about the definition of a valuable higher education to students, as well as for their state/territory as a whole.

Facilitator
Christina Sedney, Director of Policy & Strategic Initiatives, WICHE

9:45 -10:00 am Break

10:00 am – 12:00 pm **BREAKING DOWN THE COSTS & BENEFITS TO STATES**
Dreamcatcher I & II
This two-part discussion will focus on the inputs (costs) and the outputs (benefits) to higher education at the state/territory level.

Higher Education Funding Models
This session will look at different ways that states and territories fund higher education, including performance-based funding, available evidence regarding the impact of different approaches, and key questions to consider when thinking about state investment.

Moderator
Demarée Michelau, President, WICHE

Speakers
Robert Kelchen, Professor, Department Head, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, University of Tennessee Knoxville
Brian Prescott, President, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)

Higher Education’s Role in Workforce & Economic Development
How is higher education playing a role in developing the workforce your state needs? This conversation will explore initiatives in the West that have begun to explicitly link higher education efforts with their state’s broader economic development agendas.

Moderator

Colleen Falkenstern, Senior Research Analyst, WICHE

Speaker

Lauren Schoenfeld, Executive Director, Wyoming Innovation Partnership,
and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Mark Gordon

12:00 – 1:00 pm
Dreamcatcher III

Lunch

1:00 – 4:15 pm
Dreamcatcher I & II

BREAKING DOWN THE COSTS AND BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

This three-part discussion will focus on the key components of the “value equation” from the student perspective, including affordability, completion, and ultimately return on investment.

Moderator

Ray Burgman Gallegos, Vice President, Programs and Services, WICHE

Affordability (1:00-2:00 pm)

A key component in any value equation must include cost to the student for the education they receive. How are states and territories thinking about affordability in an era of inflation and rising costs?

Speaker

Colleen Falkenstern, Senior Research Analyst, WICHE

Completion (2:00-3:00 pm)

For higher education to go from cost to investment for a student, they must get to and through programs that result in a credential of value. How can states and territories support this imperative? This session will include an in-depth look at WICHE’s work on Open Educational Resources (OER) including how new research is exploring the link between OER and time to completion for students and how this is playing out in practice in our host state of Arizona.

Speakers

Debbie Baker, OER Coordinator, Instructional Designer, Maricopa County
Community College District

Megan Crossfield, Manager, Academic Initiatives, Yavapai College

Liliana Diaz, Senior Policy Analyst, WICHE

Lisa Young, Faculty Administrator, Open Education and Innovation,
Maricopa County Community College District

BREAK (3:00-3:15 pm)

Return on Investment (3:15-4:15 pm)

How are institutions, systems, and states supporting students in transitioning from education to the workforce, ensuring the investment in postsecondary education generates value for the student, and how are they measuring their progress? What do we know about the ROI of higher education and what questions remain unanswered?

Speaker

Patrick Lane, Vice President, Policy Analysis and Research, WICHE

6:30 pm

Fresco Room Patio

Dinner

Please join us for an optional group dinner on the patio of the Fresco Room.

Wednesday, September 13

8:00 – 9:00 am

Dreamcatcher III

Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 am

Dreamcatcher I & II

WHAT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS COULD SHIFT THE PARADIGM OF OUR VALUE DISCUSSIONS?

The final day will focus on exploring developments in policy and technology that have the potential to shift how we have previously thought about the value of higher education.

Federal Policy Considerations

What federal policy changes—whether recent, in-process, or possible—have the potential to impact how states think about higher education accountability, funding, and impact?

Moderator

Christina Sedney, Director of Policy & Strategic Initiatives, WICHE

Speaker

Austin Reid, Senior Legislative Director, State-Federal Affairs, National Conference of State Legislatures

Artificial Intelligence

Over the past year, AI has exploded into the consciousness of the broader higher education world. What impacts is it having already and what issues might we expect it to raise moving forward?

Moderator

Ray Burgman Gallegos, Vice President, Programs and Services, WICHE

Speaker

Van Davis, Chief Strategy Officer, WCET and Service Design and Strategy Officer, Every Learner Everywhere

10:30 – 11:00 am

Extended break (check out of hotel)

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Dreamcatcher I & II

Looking Ahead to the 2024 Sessions & Closing Reflections

Facilitator

Christina Sedney, Director of Policy & Strategic Initiatives, WICHE