

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24**

**\$48.8M**

**TOTAL SAVED**

by Colorado students through WICHE Student Access Programs

**\$46.2M**

**SAVED**  
through WUE

**\$2.2M**

**SAVED**  
through WRGP

**\$382,375**

**SAVED**  
through PSEP

**WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE**



Saves **UNDERGRADUATE** students on out-of-state tuition. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top Colorado WUE schools for out-of-state undergraduate students:

- ▶ **Colorado State University (2,481)**
- ▶ **Colorado Mesa University (591)**
- ▶ **University of Colorado Denver (437)**

Top out-of-state WUE schools for Colorado undergraduate students:

- ▶ **Northern Arizona University (508)**
- ▶ **Montana State University, Bozeman (418)**
- ▶ **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (321)**

**WESTERN REGIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAM**



Saves **GRADUATE** students on out-of-state certificate, master's, and doctoral programs. They pay no more than 150% of in-state tuition at partner institutions across the West.

Top Colorado WRGP schools for out-of-state graduate students:

- ▶ **University of Colorado Denver (193)**
- ▶ **University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus (165)**
- ▶ **University of Northern Colorado (98)**

Top out-of-state WRGP schools for Colorado graduate students:

- ▶ **University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (26)**
- ▶ **Eastern New Mexico University (19)**
- ▶ **South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (15)**

**PROFESSIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM**



Helps students pursuing careers in **10 HEALTH FIELDS**. They can enroll in programs in the WICHE region and receive substantial tuition support from their home state/territory.

**19 Colorado students paid reduced tuition** for health care studies not offered by public institutions in their home state.

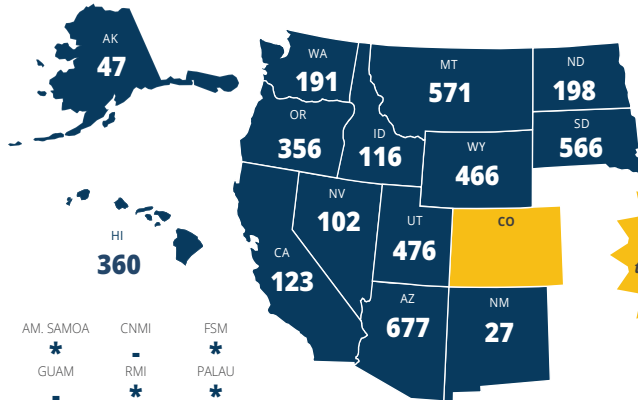
**80% of Colorado's PSEP graduates returned home to practice** (2012-21). Students are contractually required to return.

**Colorado institutions and their local economies benefit too.** This year, 89 PSEP students enrolled in programs located in Colorado. Institutions received \$2.7M in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.

**8,924% ROI** Gained on Colorado's WICHE annual dues (\$164,000/FY 2024)

## WUE

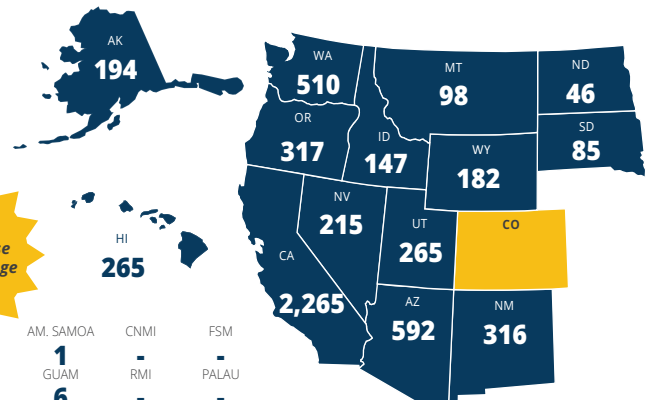
WUE STUDENTS FROM COLORADO: **4,276**



AM. SAMOA \*  
GUAM -  
CNMI -  
RMI \*FSM \*  
PALAU \*

\* Currently do not have any participating WUE schools.

WUE STUDENTS TO COLORADO: **5,504**

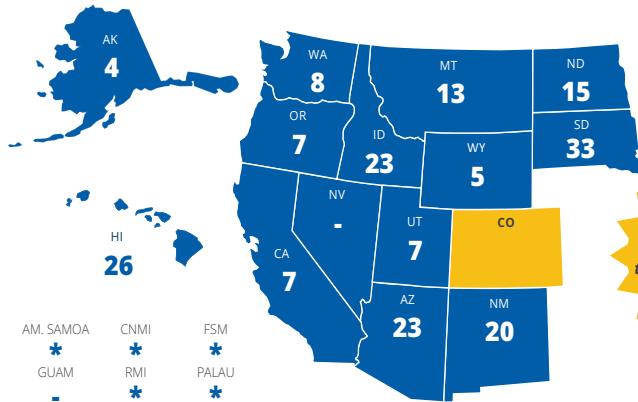


AM. SAMOA 1  
GUAM 6  
CNMI -  
RMI -  
FSM -  
PALAU -

Note: Students from Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming are eligible for the South Dakota Advantage Program and are assessed resident on-campus tuition rates. These students are also reported as WUE students.

## WRGP

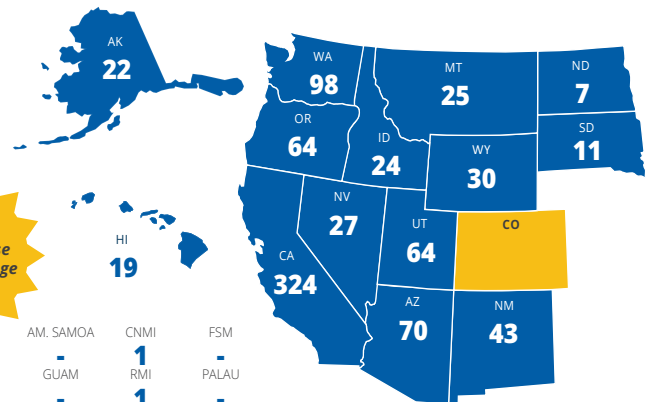
WRGP STUDENTS FROM COLORADO: **191**



AM. SAMOA \*  
GUAM -  
CNMI \*  
RMI \*FSM \*  
PALAU \*

\* Currently do not have any participating WRGP schools.

WRGP STUDENTS TO COLORADO: **830**



AM. SAMOA -  
GUAM -  
CNMI 1  
RMI 1  
FSM -  
PALAU -

830 WRGP students chose to attend college in Colorado

## PSEP

FIELD	STUDENTS	FEES PAID
Optometry	19	\$382,375
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$382,375</b>

**PSEP students from Colorado saved \$382,375 in tuition**

## WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING



“ I am incredibly thankful for PSEP. Colorado State University offers challenging classes, hands-on instruction with both large and small animals, and opportunities to meet and learn from well recognized researchers and clinicians. My time here will prepare me well for my career in veterinary medicine, thanks to Montana’s participation in WICHE’s PSEP. ”

**CLAIRE**, Montana resident, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Colorado State University

## Regional collaboration

WICHE brings together senior academic leaders to foster dialogue about issues facing individual institutions through its leadership and professional development networks.

### WESTERN ALLIANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC LEADERS – 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Aims Community College
- ▶ Arapahoe Community College
- ▶ Colorado Community College System
- ▶ Colorado Northwestern Community College
- ▶ Community College of Aurora
- ▶ Community College of Denver
- ▶ Front Range Community College
- ▶ Lamar Community College
- ▶ Morgan Community College
- ▶ Northeastern Junior College
- ▶ Otero Junior College
- ▶ Pikes Peak Community College
- ▶ Pueblo Community College
- ▶ Red Rocks Community College
- ▶ Trinidad State College

### WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM – 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ Metropolitan State University of Denver
- ▶ Colorado State University
- ▶ Colorado State University – Pueblo

Laura Niesen de Abruña, Metropolitan State University of Denver, will serve as a primary faculty member for the Academy as of July 2024.

**WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY** is a yearlong professional development program for academic leaders aspiring to become chief academic officers in the WICHE region. Twelve cohort members from Colorado institutions have participated in the Academy since its inception in 2015.

Landon Pirus, Colorado Community College System, serves as a primary faculty member for the Academy.

**COSTS-SAVINGS PROGRAMS** Thanks to collaboration with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), one of four U.S. regional higher education compacts, WICHE-region educational institutions, nonprofits, and public education entities can benefit from three programs: MHECtech, which provides competitively bid purchasing contracts for an array of hardware, software, and technology services; MHECare, which provides a student health insurance plan and teletherapy services; and a MHEC Cyber Insurance Program, which offers risk transfer and advisory solutions.

Colorado participates in the **STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT (SARA)** through WICHE. This voluntary agreement provides reciprocity for the state authorization of distance education. WICHE Commissioners have been strong advocates for protecting the state voice in

important governance decisions affecting this agreement and staff continue to support participating states and improving student protections while bolstering access.

**WICHE ACADEMY FOR LEADERS IN THE HUMANITIES** is a leadership development program for aspiring academic leaders with a background in the humanities. The two-year fellowship consists of campus-based and external mentoring, a three-day in-person seminar, and an extended project. Tina Butterfield, Western Colorado University, and Thomas Dunn, Colorado State University, are participating in the 2023-25 cohort.

## Optimal behavioral healthcare

WICHE Behavioral Health Program (BHP) administers the **RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM (RCORP)**, a multiyear initiative supported by the Health Resources & Services Administration to identify treatment barriers and best practices for preventing and treating substance use disorders. In Colorado, the RCORP program supports three grantees across four sites: Memorial Hospital, San Luis Valley Area Health, and Gunnison County.

**TOGETHER WITH VETERANS (TWV) – RURAL VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM** is a national program that enlists rural Veterans and local partners to join forces to reduce Veteran suicide in their own communities. Funded by the US Department of Veterans Affairs and administered by the WICHE BHP, TWV provides communities with individualized coaching, tools, training, technical assistance, and resources to implement the program in their own communities. The BHP supports 38 rural communities as far east as New Hampshire and as far west as Guam, and of those, supports 18 rural communities in the WICHE region. The TWV Program has two sites in Colorado, one in the San Luis Valley and one in Morgan County (Brush), serving more than 2,000 rural Veterans combined.

WICHE Behavioral Health Program (BHP) co-administers the **MOUNTAIN PLAINS MENTAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER (MP-MHTTC)**. The MP-MHTTC provides comprehensive training, resources, and technical assistance to mental health providers and other practitioners in the SAMHSA Region 8. Region 8 is comprised of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

In October 2022, WICHE BHP was awarded a multiyear grant from SAMHSA to establish the **MOUNTAIN PLAINS RURAL OPIOID TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (MP ROTAC)**. The MP ROTAC develops and disseminates resources, training, and technical assistance that focuses on opioid and stimulant misuse in rural areas throughout SAMHSA's Region 8.

In 2023, the Colorado Behavioral Health Administration (CO BHA) contracted with the WICHE BHP to work on two projects related to crisis services. The BHP is assisting the CO BHA in the development of a **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AID** program, as well as assisting them in developing a **24-MODULE CRISIS PROFESSIONAL CURRICULUM** training program.

## Sound public policy

***KNOCKING AT THE COLLEGE DOOR*** is the leading U.S. resource for projections of college-ready students. *Knocking*, which includes a quadrennial publication with additional analysis, is essential for postsecondary policymakers, planning and workforce efforts, and economic development. Visit [knocking.wiche.edu](http://knocking.wiche.edu) to access reports, interactive dashboards, webinars, presentations, as well as state-level data.

**DATA RESOURCES** WICHE offers curated data and policy resources to support better-informed decision-making. WICHE's research projects and collaborations cover postsecondary completion, health workforce development, behavioral health in postsecondary education, open educational resources (OER), state finance, prior learning assessment, and more.

- ▶ **Tuition and Fees in the West** includes tuition, fees, and enrollment data about 350+ public institutions in the West.
- ▶ **Benchmarks: WICHE Region** presents information on the West's progress in improving access to, success in, and financing of higher education.
- ▶ Data on over 35 indicators in WICHE's **Regional Fact Book for Higher Education in the West**.

**DATA EXPERTS** WICHE staff provide analysis on finance, financial aid, articulation and transfer, strategic planning, student demographics, and more, as well as host peer-to-peer calls of state, system, and institutional chief academic officers to identify areas of potential collaboration and resource sharing across the West.

**CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS NETWORK** Staff from the Colorado Department of Higher Education also participate in regular collaborative calls with colleagues around the region.

## Innovative solutions

**WCET – THE WICHE COOPERATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES** is the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education. Its growing membership includes institutions, higher education agencies and systems, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in all U.S. states and several Canadian provinces. The University of Colorado System, Colorado Community College System, and 22 other institutions and organization are WCET members. For a complete list, visit [wcet.wiche.edu/current-members](http://wcet.wiche.edu/current-members).

Erika Swain, University of Colorado Boulder, serves on the WCET Steering Committee. Mordecai Ian Brownlee, Community College of Aurora, serves on the WCET Executive Council.

**STATE AUTHORIZATION NETWORK (SAN)** helps guide institutions through state regulations around online courses and programs. SAN members include:

- ▶ Aims Community College
- ▶ American Sentinel College of Nursing & Health Science at Post University
- ▶ Colorado School of Mines
- ▶ Colorado Technical University
- ▶ Regis University & OCICU
- ▶ University of Colorado - Boulder
- ▶ University of Colorado - Colorado Springs
- ▶ University of Colorado - Denver
- ▶ University of Colorado System
- ▶ University of Northern Colorado

WICHE has convened the **OERWEST NETWORK**, which is part of a nationwide collaborative to scale the development and adoption of free course materials. Open educational resources (OER) have shown promise in improving student outcomes, particularly for poverty-affected students, for whom the high cost of textbooks can be a barrier to postsecondary success.

### COLORADO COMMISSIONERS



**Jim Chavez**

Executive Director, Community College of Denver Foundation and Governmental Affairs



**Antwan Jefferson**

WICHE Chair, Associate Dean for EDI and Clinical Associate Professor, University of Colorado Denver



**Angie Paccione**

Executive Director, Colorado Department of Higher Education

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Representative, Colorado State Legislature

**Dafna Michaelson Jenet**

Representative, Colorado State Legislature