WICHE and Montana: Partners since 1951

Montana Board of Regents Meeting
University of Montana Western
March 5, 2020
Today's Agenda

What is WICHE?

How WICHE Partners with Montana

- Regional Collaboration
- Resource Sharing
- Sound Public Policy
- Innovation
What is WICHE?
The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education - WICHE

- An interstate compact formed 65 years ago
- Codified in state law
- Congressional action signed in 1953 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower
WICHE’s Mission

WICHE and its 16 member states and territories work collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for all citizens of the West. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy, WICHE strengthens higher education’s contributions to the region’s social, economic, and civic life.
WICHE Commissioners from Montana

Clayton Christian
Commissioner of Higher Education
Montana University System

Laurie Bishop
Representative
Montana House of Representatives

Sheila Stearns
Former Commissioner of Higher Education
Montana University System
How WICHE Partners with Montana
WICHE’s Student Access Programs

Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)

Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)
WUE students pay up to 150% of resident tuition

- AY 2019 enrollment: 42,515
- AY 2019 tuition savings = $408.6 M
- 164 institutions participate

NEW:
The University of Guam
Washington State University, Everett

wuesavingsfinder.wiche.edu
WUE Students Coming TO Montana

Montana is a net importer
WUE Students Going FROM Montana

WUE Student Distribution
from Montana

- MT: 1,031
- WA: 167
- OR: 41
- NV: 18
- CA: 11
- ID: 103
- UT: 32
- AZ: 63
- CO: 67
- WY: 319
- SD: 86
- ND: 110
- AK: 12
- CNMI: 0
- Guam: 0
- HI: 15
WUE Student Distribution

Montana institutions enrolled 2,567 WUE students from other WICHE states and territories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-Year</th>
<th>2-Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montana State U. (MSU)</td>
<td>Dawson C.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billings</td>
<td>Flathead Valley C.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Great Falls College, MSU</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSU Bozeman</td>
<td>Helena College of Tech, U of Montana</td>
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<td>Highlands College of Montana Tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSU Northern</td>
<td>Miles C.C.</td>
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<td>Montana Tech U.</td>
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<tr>
<td>U. of Montana, Missoula</td>
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<tr>
<td>U. of Montana, Western</td>
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- 2-Year: Dawson C.C. 36, Flathead Valley C.C. 12, Great Falls College, MSU 3, Helena College of Tech, U of Montana 13, Highlands College of Montana Tech 4, Miles C.C. 38
Western Regional Graduate Program

- 940 master’s, PhD, graduate certificate programs at 59 institutions
- AY 2019: 1,907 grad students paid resident tuition
- AY 2019: $27.9 million in tuition savings

Montana institutions enrolled
72 students

wrgpsavingsfinder.wiche.edu
Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)

- Core WICHE program since the 1950s
- Expands access in **10 healthcare fields**
- 10 states and the CNMI invested $14.6 million to reduce tuition for 611 students in AY 2019
- AK, AZ, CNMI, CO, HI, MT, NM, NV, ND, UT, WY
- Most popular fields:
  - VET MED (152)
  - OPTOMETRY (116)
  - DENTISTRY (118)
# PSEP in Montana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th># of Montana students</th>
<th>Support fees paid</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dentistry</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$374,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine (Allopathic)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>812,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>74,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optometry</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>110,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteopathic Medicine</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>286,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Medicine</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>615,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>83</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,273,977</strong></td>
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*Montana residents may also study podiatry through PSEP.*
Information-Sharing and Collaboration among Academic Leaders

- Alliance Annual Meeting (March 25-27 in Albuquerque): *Redefining College: Becoming the Partner of Choice for Students, Business and Your Community*

Brock Tessman  
Montana University System
Legislative Advisory Committee

- Strengthens state policymaking in higher education across the West
- Up to four state legislators from each WICHE member
- Unique forum to:
  - Engage with fellow legislators, subject-matter experts, and WICHE staff
  - Explore strategies for interstate collaboration
  - Explore policy issues affecting the region
  - Learn about relevant research
  - Stay abreast of emerging postsecondary policies and their implications at the state and federal levels
WICHE LAC Members from Montana

Representative David Bedey
Representative Laurie Bishop
Senator JP Pominchowski
Senator Daniel Salomon
WCET - The WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies

National membership of colleges, state agencies, non-profits, and corporations

398 members
137 (34.4%) in WICHE region

This year’s focus issues:

- Federal regulations
- Cheating economy & integrity
- Navigating an uncertain future
- Accessibility
WCET Members in Montana

- Montana State University - Billings
- Montana State University - Bozeman
- University of Montana
Mental Health Training in Montana

- Partnership between WICHE and the University of North Dakota
- 5-year $3.8 million grant to provide training, resources, and technical assistance to mental health providers and other practitioners in the region
  - North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah
- Focus on rural and frontier mental health in schools and the community
Mental Health Training in Montana - Together with Veterans

- A Rural Veteran Suicide Prevention Program
- A Public Private Partnership funded by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Rural Health and implemented by:
  - Partners:
    - VA Rocky Mountain Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center for Suicide Prevention (MIRECC)
    - WICHE
  - Rural community-based, Veteran-run organizations in Colorado, Montana, North Carolina
    - Expanding to 22 more communities in FY 20 & 21
Joint Purchasing Programs (WICHE/MHEC)

MHECTech

Cost savings by purchasing computers, software, printers, and other products

- Sun River Valley School District
- Cohagen School District 27
- District 7 HRDC, Billings
- Troy Public Schools
- School District 30, Ronan
- School for the Deaf and Blind, Great Falls
- Carbon County Sheriff, Red Lodge
- Missoula County Office of Emergency Management
- Town of Valier
How to Leverage the Partnership with WICHE

- Interstate Passport
- Policy Analysis and Research resources and technical assistance
- WCET
- State Authorization Network
- Joint Purchasing Opportunities
For More Information

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