

WICHE Workplan FY 2016

WICHE and its 16 member states and territories work collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for their citizens. By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy, WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to our social, economic, and civic life.

The 48-member WICHE Commission, appointed by the governors of the member states and territories, approves the workplan's focus areas and reviews and authorizes staff to conduct projects and initiatives in support of each area. The commissioners are surveyed to solicit their ideas for future projects.

WICHE's 16 members include Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and the U.S. Pacific territories and freely associated states (the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is the first to participate).

Focus Areas. In fiscal 2016 WICHE's four units – Programs and Services, Policy Analysis and Research, Mental Health Program, and WCET – will strive to assist our members' institutions and students, focusing on five areas.

- Finance: Examining appropriations, tuition, and financial aid policy and practice at the institutional, state, and federal level.
- Access & Success: Improving students' access to higher education and success in it, especially those students we haven't served well in the past.
- Workforce & Society: Helping to ensure our institutions are meeting workforce and society needs.
- Technology & Innovation: Developing innovations that improve higher education and lower costs.
- Accountability: Working to ensure that students receive the education they've been promised, and that government is receiving a strong return on its investment.

Workplan Activities. Our work for FY 2016, our potential projects for the future, and our recently completed projects are organized according to the following categories.

- Existing Activities: Our current work, divided into two types:
 - Ongoing Activities: Continuing work that supports WICHE's mission, supported by the general fund or fees.
 - Projects & Initiatives: Continuing (or new) work supported by grants and contracts.
- New Directions: Commissioner-approved projects for which staff is seeking funding.
- Potential Future Projects: Work that staff is considering pursuing (and bringing to the commission for approval); in addition, we list projects that staff previously considered pursuing but that staff now proposes to remove from the workplan.
- Completed Projects: Work that staff finished in FY 2015.

Priority. In the FY 2016 workplan, as per commissioners' request, Existing Activities are not given a priority ranking since they are initiatives that WICHE staff is committed to accomplishing. New Directions are prioritized by mission relevance, opportunity, and staff competence. Potential Future Projects are under consideration and have not been commissioner-approved; therefore, they are not prioritized.

Programs & Services

The primary goals of the Programs and Services unit are to improve student access and success and to foster higher education collaborations to help increase institutional effectiveness. Programs and Services manages WICHE’s four-pronged Student Exchange Program and a number of other initiatives that help institutions and students – undergraduate, graduate, and professional – save money and make good use of available resources. It also oversees projects that bring together the West’s higher education leaders to work toward common goals; assists in smoothing the transfer process; links students with next-generation learning opportunities; and helps institutions to achieve cost savings through collaborative purchasing.

EXISTING ACTIVITIES ONGOING

Continuing work supported by the general fund or by fees. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Staffing	Partners
Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)	Access & success; workforce & society	Western	1.05 FTE	All WICHE member states; 156 institutions
Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)	Access & success; workforce & society	Western	1.05 FTE	All WICHE members, except CA, CNMI, ID, OR, SD, and WA; 127 programs at 53 institutions
Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)	Access & success; workforce & society	Western	1.05 FTE	All WICHE member states; 346 programs at 59 institutions
WICHE Internet Course Exchange	Access & success; technology & innovation	National	Consultants	Consortium of 20 institutions
Student Exchange Program database upgrades and enhancements	Access & success; workforce and society; technology	Western	.20 FTE	All WICHE member states
Western Academic Leadership Forum	Access & success; accountability	Western	.40 FTE	All WICHE member states except HI; 47 institutions, 11 systems
Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders	Access & success; accountability	Western	.35 FTE	All WICHE member states; 74 institutions, 10 systems
Academic Leaders Toolkit	Access & success	Western	(included in Forum and Alliance FTE)	Forum and Alliance members
MHECcare	Access & success; finance	WICHE/MHEC/NEBHE states	.10 FTE	MHEC/Mercer/United HealthCare Student Resources, 3 states: AK; CA; CO; 6 institutions; several prospects
Master Property Program	Finance	WICHE/MHEC/NEBHE/SREB states	.05 FTE	MHEC/Marsh/Lexington, 8 states: AZ; CO; ID; NV; OR; UT; WA; WY
MHECtech	Finance	WICHE/MHEC/SREB states	.05 FTE	All WICHE member states

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Staffing	Partners
WICHE website, print and electronic communications, media relations	All 5 focus areas	Western/U.S.	2.25 FTE + consultant	All WICHE member states
Conversion of WICHE's constituent relations database to Salesforce	All 5 focus areas	Western/U.S.	.20 FTE	All WICHE member states

**EXISTING ACTIVITIES
PROJECTS & INITIATIVES**

Continuing (or new) work supported by grants or contracts. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Interstate Passport Phase II	Access & success; innovation	Western + MHEC, NEBHE, SREB states	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (\$1,647,733) and Lumina Foundation (\$1,199,953)	2.95 FTE + consultants	10/6/2014 - 9/30/2016	21+ institutions in 7 WICHE states and 12 institutions in other compact states
Consortium for Health Education Online (CHEO)	Access & success; technology & innovation	Western	U.S. Department of Labor: Trade Adjustment & CC & Career Training Grant (WICHE contract: \$872,259)	2.7 FTE + consultants	10/2012 - 9/2016	Pueblo Community College (CO) is fiscal agent; 8 institutions in 5 states: AK, CO, MT, SD, WY
Implementation of the WICHE State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (W-SARA)	Access & success; technology & innovation	Western	Lumina Foundation Year 2: \$124,454; Gates Foundation: \$34,542; NC-SARA Jan. 2015 Allocation: \$58,182; FY 2015 Institutional Fee Budget: \$122,502; W-SARA Institutional Fee revenue: Feb. 17, 2005: \$218,000	WICHE SARA: 2.3 FTE	Ongoing	Regionally: States that sign the reciprocity agreement and institutions that pay annual dues Nationally: NC-SARA MHEC, NEBHE, SREB

Consortium for Health Education Online (CHEO): Eight community colleges in five WICHE states are creating or transforming existing allied health courses for delivery in an online or hybrid format, incorporating new, web-based

lab experiments from the North American Network of Science Labs Online (NANSLO) project, where it's appropriate to do so.

Interstate Passport Initiative - Phase II: The Interstate Passport Initiative is creating a new framework for block transfer of lower-division general education based on student-learning outcomes and transfer-level proficiency criteria to streamline and accelerate the transfer process for students.

NEW DIRECTIONS

Commissioner-approved projects for which staff is actively seeking funding, prioritized as follows:

- ★ = Urgency (mission critical) ★ = low, ★★ = medium, ★★★ = high
- = Opportunity (funding) ● = low, ●● = medium, ●●● = high
- = Competence (staff/consultants) ■ = low, ■■ = medium, ■■■ = high

Project Title	Focus	Priority	Geo-scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
North American Network of Science Labs Online: Optimizing Remote Laboratory Delivery to Improve Student Engagement, Learning, and Retention in STEM	Access & success; innovation	★★★ ●●● ■■■	International	Pending proposal to NSF by Great Falls College MSU, WICHE's share is \$46,402	.05 FTE + consultant	Fall 2015 - Fall 2018	Colorado Community College System, Great Falls College-MSU (MT), and North Island College in British Columbia
NANSLO: eScience LabPrep	Access & success; innovation	★★★ ●●● ■■■	International	Currently seeking funding at \$2.6 million level	1.24 FTE	TBD	Colorado Community College System, Great Falls College-MSU (MT), and North Island College in British Columbia
Interstate Passport Initiative: Mapping Critical Assignments in Institutions' Passport Block to Passport Learning Outcomes	Access & success; innovation	★★★ ●●● ■■■	Western + MHEC, NEBHE, SREB states	Currently seeking funding at \$1,035,298 level	1.5 FTE + consultants	TBD	NCHEMS

North American Network of Science Labs Online: Optimizing Remote Laboratory Delivery to Improve Student Engagement, Learning, and Retention in STEM. Great Falls College MSU has a proposal pending with the National Science Foundation involving WICHE and the other NANSLO partners in a research project to identify best practices in teaching lab courses online in introductory gateway science courses.

North American Network of Science Labs Online: eScience LabPrep. Targeting students in the summer before they enroll in science courses at community colleges, NANSLO's new science prep course, if funded, will feature an innovative and relevant skill building curriculum centered on the use of lab activities via NANSLO's web-based robotically-controlled equipment and other modalities to increase student success and retention in STEM courses and programs.

Interstate Passport Initiative: Mapping Critical Assignments in Institutions' Passport Block to Passport Learning Outcomes. In this project, we will work with faculty at participating and candidate institutions to map their critical assignments in the Passport Block courses to the Passport Learning Outcomes. In addition to providing a professional development exercise for faculty on quality assurance, its findings will help to provide external validity for the Passport.

Previously considered projects we propose to remove from the workplan. None.

POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS

Work that staff is considering pursuing and bringing to the commission for approval, along with ideas generated by the survey of commissioners.

Western Academic Leadership Academy. This intensive professional development program is designed to prepare administrators at four-year institutions in the WICHE region for the role of chief academic officer at an institution or system and create a pool of candidates for interim and permanent leadership positions.

Compact for Faculty Diversity Research Mentoring Institute. *Focus area: Access & success.* To build on the success of the multiyear Bridges to the Professoriate initiative whose grant funding ended in FY15, we will seek commission approval to pursue funding from the National Institutes of Health-supported National Research Mentoring Network's supplemental project awards for a new initiative to recruit and train mentors for underrepresented minority students in the biomedical sciences and create other activities to further the professional development of doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, and junior faculty in the biomedical fields. These activities will expand and enhance the Compact for Faculty Diversity's highly successful Institute on Teaching and Mentoring. The primary goal of the Institute has been to increase the likelihood that ethnic minority doctoral students complete the Ph.D. by providing effective mentoring, professional development, and financial support.

A Convening to Examine the Impact of Western Demographic Changes on Current and Future Academic Programs, Curriculum and Student Services. *Focus areas: Access & success; technology & innovation.* In collaboration with the Policy Analysis and Research, WCET, and Mental Health staffs, we will seek approval to solicit external funding to bring together policymakers, institutional leaders, and other relevant constituencies to examine how higher education can be more responsive to the West's changing demography through its array of existing and planned academic programs, curriculum enhancements, and expanded student services. The implications of the demographic changes on the future workforce will also be addressed, with emphasis placed on working with institutions to provide academic programs that address the needs of an aging, and increasingly ethnically diverse population.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Work that staff finished in FY 2015.

Bridges to the Professoriate. This initiative, funded by the National Institutes of Health from 2001 through June 2015, provided National Institute of General Medical Sciences-Minority Access to Research and Careers' predoctoral fellows with opportunities to participate in the annual Compact for Faculty Diversity's Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, helping them to gain skills needed in doctoral programs and academic careers. The Compact for Faculty Diversity Research Mentoring Institute described above will intensify the Bridges initiative's efforts to grow a regional network of mentors to further the academic success of underrepresented minority students in the biomedical sciences.

A Convening: Transfer Solutions through Cross-Organization Alignment. In a two-stage convening, representatives of four major collaborative projects and others focusing on reform in the student transfer arena examined opportunities for alignment that could result in greater impact.

Policy Analysis and Research

The Policy Analysis and Research unit offers a variety of policy and information resources to support better-informed decision making, principally at the state level. The unit is involved in a number of research projects and collaborative initiatives that focus on college completion: adult learners; multistate data-sharing to support educational planning and workforce development; and other critical areas. WICHE staff serve as a useful resource on a number of higher education issues, including state and federal financial aid, finance, articulation and transfer, the Common Core State Standards, and various college completion initiatives. Its publication series, including *Policy Insights* and *Western Policy Exchanges*, explore a wide range of significant policy issues. The unit also undertakes major, long-term grant-funded projects, collaborates with other regional and national organizations, and provides short-term technical assistance to members.

EXISTING ACTIVITIES ONGOING

Continuing work supported by the general fund or by fees. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Staffing	Partners
Tuition and Fees in Public Higher Education in the West	Finance	Western	.025 FTE	All WICHE members
Legislative Advisory Committee	Finance, access & success, workforce & society, technology & innovation, accountability	Western	.10 FTE	All WICHE members
State Higher Education Policy Database	Finance, access & success, workforce & society, technology & innovation, accountability	National	.20 FTE	National Conference of State Legislatures, Lumina Foundation
Policy Publications Clearinghouse	Finance, access & success, workforce & society, technology & innovation, accountability	National	.025 FTE	N/A
Benchmarks	Accountability	Western	.025 FTE	N/A
Regional Fact Book for Higher Education in the West	Accountability	Western	.025 FTE	N/A
Policy Insights	Finance, access & success, workforce & society, technology & innovation, accountability	National	.05 FTE	N/A
Western Policy Exchanges	Finance, access & success, workforce & society, technology & innovation, accountability	Western	.05 FTE	N/A

**EXISTING ACTIVITIES
PROJECTS & INITIATIVES**

Continuing (or new) work supported by grants or contracts. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Adult College Completion Network	Access & success; workforce & society	National	Lumina Foundation: \$1,133,800	1.65 FTE	10/2010 - 9/2015	Lumina Foundation
College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) Consortium	Access & success	Western states	State memoranda of agreement/ U.S. Dept. of Education: Year 6 revenue, \$120,000	.70 FTE	Year 6: 8/2014 - 8/2015	2 Consortium states (AK, ID)
<i>Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates</i>	Access & success	National	ACT, College Board: \$441,000	.5 FTE	10/2010 - 12/2015	ACT, College Board
Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange	Workforce & society; access & success; accountability	Western, expanding nationally	Gates Foundation, \$5,000,000	2.15 in Year 1	8/2014 - 7/2018	Original states (HI, ID, OR, WA) Expansion states, NSC, SHEEO, NCHEMS

Adult College Completion Network (www.adultcollegecompletion.org): WICHE manages the ACC Network, a learning network that unites organizations and agencies working to increase college degree and credential completion by adults with prior college credits.

College Access Challenge Grant Consortium: States can participate in the CACG Consortium, which involves WICHE working closely with the state to administer its federally-funded formula grant program, designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enroll and succeed in postsecondary education.

Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates: The Policy Analysis and Research unit (and its predecessors) has been producing forecasts for high school graduates by state for over 30 years, during which time it has become the nation's most widely consulted resource of its kind by a wide and diverse audience of policymakers, enrollment managers, college counselors, schools and school districts, researchers, and the media. The most current edition is the 8th edition, with projections out to 2027-28. Staff plans to begin working on the 9th edition during FY 2016.

The **Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange (MLDE)** project is a follow-up to WICHE's successful pilot project, both of which are aimed at stitching together state longitudinal data systems in order to better track the development of human capital through K-12 and postsecondary education and its deployment in the workforce, while accounting for individual mobility.

NEW DIRECTIONS

Commissioner-approved projects for which staff is actively seeking funding, prioritized as follows:

- ★ = Urgency (mission critical)
- = Opportunity (funding)
- = Competence (staff/consultants)

- ★ = low, ★★ = medium, ★★★ = high
- = low, ●● = medium, ●●● = high
- = low, ■■ = medium, ■■■ = high

Project Title	Focus	Priority	Geo-scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
The Implementation of the Common Core State Standards and Assessments: Finding Solutions to Cross-State Challenges (Expansion)	Access & success	★★★ ●●● ■■■	Western and additional bordering states	\$1.75 million	1.35 FTE	3 years	SBAC, PARCC, MHEC*
Hitting the Ground Running: Leveraging Work-Based Learning to Improve Educational Outcomes and Meet Workforce Demands	Access & success, workforce & society	★★★ ● ■■	Western	\$1 million	1.75 FTE	3 years	TBD
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) and WICHE Research Initiative (Fueling the Race 2.0)	Access & success, accountability	★★ ●●● ■■	National	\$76,000	.10 FTE	3 years	Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)
A Second Chance at Success: Reducing the Fiscal and Social Impact of Recidivism through Inmate Education and Reentry Programs	Access & success, workforce & society	★★ ●● ■■	Western	\$2.5 million	2 FTE	3 years	WICHE Mental Health Program
Streamlining Implementation of Outcomes-Based Funding Models	Accountability	★★ ●● ■■	Western	\$2.25 million	2 FTE	3 years	American Council on Education, NCHEMS, SHEEO, National Association of System Heads
Serving Student Soldiers of the West	Access & success, workforce & society	★★ ● ■■	Western	\$1 million	1.35 FTE	3 years	Mental Health Program, U.S. Dept. of Defense, Service-members Opportunity Colleges, American Council on Education

* Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC); Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC); Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC).

Note: The shaded initiatives are of lower priority for staff in the context of their current workload than the other four initiatives.

The Implementation of the Common Core State Standards and Assessments: Finding Solutions to Cross-State Challenges (Expansion): The overall goal of this expanded project is to bring together key state leaders involved in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and assessments to discuss challenges associated with student movement across state lines and identify practical solutions.

Hitting the Ground Running: Leveraging Work-Based Learning to Improve Educational Outcomes and Meet Workforce Demands: The goal of this work is to help states (and perhaps metropolitan areas) facilitate the development of partnerships among institutions and businesses to ensure effective linkages between the workplace and the classroom through co-op/internship programs.

A Second Chance at Success: Reducing the Fiscal and Social Impact of Recidivism through Inmate Education and Reentry Programs: The overall goal of this project is to reduce the fiscal and social impact of recidivism on states by helping former inmates, upon release from the correctional system, be successful individually and to be productive, contributing members of society through effective, comprehensive prison education and reentry programs.

Streamlining Implementation of Outcomes-Based Funding Models: A project to assist states and postsecondary institutions in adopting outcomes-based funding policies in ways that best ensure those policies' goals are achieved.

Serving Student Soldiers of the West: Policy and Practice Solutions: The goal of this project is to increase access to and success in higher education for military students and their families in the Western region.

POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS

Work that staff is considering pursuing (and bringing to the commission for review or approval). In addition, at the end of this section, we list projects that staff previously considered pursuing but that staff now proposes to remove from the workplan.

Ideas Proposed from the Survey of Commissioners: Impact of Western Demographic Changes on Student Services and Curriculum, Promising Practices in Innovation to Replicate in States, Federal Engagement, Governance and Leadership.

The Impact of Dual and Concurrent Enrollment on Student Success in Postsecondary Education: A project that would assess the impact of enrolling students in and successfully completing dual and concurrent enrollment courses while still in high school on their success in postsecondary education.

Changing Direction 2.0: A project building off WICHE's previous national project of the same name but addressing the new post-recession fiscal climate, which would promote the adoption of contemporary higher education finance policies that link appropriations, tuition setting, and financial aid policies.

Informing Career and Technical Education and Economic Development Programs to Meet State Workforce Needs: A project to explore how career and technical education and economic development programs can be best organized and informed with contemporary workforce data, in order to meet state workforce needs.

Assessing the Landscape on State Policy on Student-Learning Outcomes: A project that would assist states in understanding the various efforts underway to better capture student-learning outcomes, especially with respect to the Degree Qualifications Profile and its applicability to statewide and institutional curriculum design and assessment.

Exploring Strategies for Improving the Delivery of Remedial and Developmental Education Policies and Practices: A project that would build on current emerging practices in the field to help states more effectively and efficiently target remedial education to students, particularly adult learners.

Addressing Workforce Needs with the Emerging Majority-Minority: A project that would build on previous work that strengthened the connections between higher education institutions and workforce-training programs in an effort to promote a more explicit focus on how state workforce needs can be met through better service to racial/ethnic minorities and other underrepresented populations.

Previously considered projects that we propose to remove from the workplan.

Policy and Assessment Framework for Washington’s Opportunity Scholarship program. This project was to be led by NCHEMS and they have informed us that it no longer remains a priority in their work.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Work that staff finished in FY 2015.

The Implementation of the Common Core State Standards and Assessments: Finding Solutions to Cross-State Challenges.

Equity in Excellence.

New Models of Student Financial Support.

University of Hawai’i (UH) System Board of Regents Contract in which WICHE was hired to provide research support for the University of Hawai’i System Board of Regents regarding the structure of the UH System relative to the UH Manoa and the question of whether the Board of Regents should reconsider the 2001 separation of the roles of the chancellor of the UH Manoa and the president of the UH System.

Mental Health

The WICHE Mental Health Program (MHP) seeks to enhance the public systems of care and the workforce that serves persons with mental health issues and their families. The program approaches this mission through partnerships with state mental health authorities, federal agencies, advocacy and consumer groups, and higher education institutions. Activities focus on direct technical assistance to state and local agencies, policy analysis and research, support of state mental health agency data analysis, and liaison activities with higher education to enhance workforce development.

EXISTING ACTIVITIES ONGOING

Continuing work supported by the general fund or by fees. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Staffing	Partners
Mental Health Unit Administration	Workforce & society	Western & national	.90 FTE	States
Decision Support Group	Workforce & society	Western	.20 FTE	States
Psychology Internship Development	Workforce & society	Western	.35 FTE	States & 501(c)3s

EXISTING ACTIVITIES PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Continuing (or new) work supported by grants or contracts. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice	Workforce & society	Western	\$60,000	.10 FTE	1/15-12/15	Alaska
Alaska HRSA Internship Expansion Grant	Workforce & society	Western	\$354,253	.35 FTE	9/12-9/15	HRSA
Alaska Pacific University Doctoral Training Program	Workforce & society	Western	\$99,825	.30 FTE	3/14-2/16	Alaska & Trust
Alaska Psychiatric Institute Technical Assistance	Workforce & society	Western	\$100,000	.15 FTE	9/14-9/15	Alaska
APA Grant to Support Internship Program - Colorado	Workforce & society	Western	\$20,000	.16 FTE	2/15-2/16	American Psychological Association
APA Grant to Support Internship Program - Oregon	Workforce & society	Western	\$19,881	.01 FTE	2/15-2/16	American Psychological Association
APA Grant to Support Internship Program - Nevada	Workforce & society	Western	\$20,000	.16 FTE	2/15-2/16	American Psychological Association
Arizona – Evidence-Based Practices	Workforce & society	Western	\$850,500	3.2 FTE	1/14-6/16	Arizona

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Arizona – Recruitment and Staffing	Workforce & society	Western	\$528,359	.10 FTE	5/14-5/17	Arizona
Arizona State Hospital Quality Project	Workforce & society	Western	\$44,500	.12 FTE	7/14-6/16	Arizona
Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC)	Workforce & society	Western	\$49,987	.50 FTE	10/14-9/15	APPIC
Colorado Mental Health First Aid Initiative Evaluation	Workforce & society	Western	\$60,000	.25 FTE	11/14-7/15	Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council
Hawai'i Internship Program	Workforce & society	Western	\$376,015	.04 FTE	7/14-7/15	Hawai'i
Hawai'i PIC	Workforce & society	Western	\$20,000	.10 FTE	2/15-6/16	Hawai'i
Hawai'i Recruitment	Workforce & society	Western	\$100,000	.25 FTE	2/15-6/16	Hawai'i
Nevada Psychology Internship Program	Workforce & society	Western	\$300,000	.30 FTE	1/15-8/17	Nevada
Oregon Psychology Internship Program	Workforce & society	Western	\$167,558	.60 FTE	4/14-6/16	Oregon
Rural Veterans Suicide Prevention Community-Based Initiative	Workforce & society	Western	\$199,000	1.18 FTE	2/15-2/16	Veterans Administration Office of Rural Health
Texas – Bexar County Internship Project	Workforce & society	Western	\$10,675	.05 FTE	3/14-6/16	Bexar County, TX
Texas – Lone Star Internship Program	Workforce & society	Western	\$55,000	.15 FTE	4/13-12/15	Hogg Foundation
Texas – UTEP Internship Program	Workforce & society	Western	\$18,288	.15 FTE	9/14-8/15	U of Texas, El Paso

Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice: WICHE provides technical assistance to the Division of Juvenile Justice focused on the development of performance measures for division core services and key activities; including assessing the division's readiness for Medicaid reimbursement and, if feasible, assist with development of a Medicaid reimbursement system.

Alaska Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Internship Expansion Grant: This contract represents a three-year training grant from the HRSA to expand the available training slots in the Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium, developed and supported by WICHE.

Alaska Pacific University Doctoral Program: WICHE contracts with APU to provide consultation and technical assistance to support the programs process of seeking accreditation by the American Psychological Association.

Alaska Psychiatric Institute Technical Assistance: WICHE is providing technical assistance and consultation focusing on strategic planning, staffing, and the provision of effective and efficient services.

American Psychological Organization Grants: WICHE applied for and was awarded three grants from the APA to support continued work with internship programs in Colorado, Oregon, and Nevada.

Arizona – Evidence Based Practices: WICHE partners with the Arizona Department of Health Services to assist with recruiting and staffing to support the implementation of four evidence-based practices in the Maricopa County public behavioral health system.

Arizona Recruitment and Staffing: WICHE is providing staff to fill a few key positions at the Arizona State Hospital and Division of Behavioral Health.

Arizona State Hospital Quality Project: WICHE is supporting the pilot implementation of a risk assessment at the Arizona State Hospital. Additionally, WICHE is conducting a survey of the culture of safety at the hospital.

Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC): A two-year collaboration between WICHE and APPIC to conduct a nationwide evaluation of doctoral psychology internship programs that are currently not accredited by the American Psychological Association, to determine the barriers to accreditation and develop a tool to assess accreditation readiness.

Colorado Mental Health First Aid Initiative Evaluation: WICHE is evaluating the outcomes and processes for the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council’s statewide dissemination of Mental Health First Aid trainings.

Hawai’i Internship Program: Three Hawai’i state agencies - the Department of Education, Department of Health, and Department of Public Safety - provide funding to support WICHE’s ongoing development and operations of the Hawai’i Psychology Internship Consortium.

Hawai’i PIC: WICHE received a grant from the American Psychological Association (APA) to support the Hawai’i Psychology Internship Consortium in seeking accreditation.

Hawai’i Recruitment: WICHE contracts with the Hawai’i Department of Education to provide recruitment and hiring services to assist with development of behavioral health workforce in the public school system.

Nevada Psychology Internship Program: WICHE assists the state of Nevada in developing and accrediting a psychology internship training program within its state-run community behavioral health clinics.

Oregon Psychology Internship Program: WICHE assists the state of Oregon in developing and accrediting a psychology internship training program within its state hospital.

Rural Veterans Suicide Prevention (RVSP): WICHE is collaborating with the Denver-based federal Veterans Administration VISN 19 Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center to develop and pilot test a veteran suicide prevention program for rural communities. The current funding is for year one of the three year initiative, with a similar budget expected each year.

Texas Bexar County Internship Project: The Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department provides funding to support WICHE’s consultation related to the accreditation process for their psychology internship program.

Texas – UT Lone Star Intern Program: The MHP provides support for the development of a psychology internship program.

Texas UTEP Intern Program: The University of Texas at El Paso provides funding to support WICHE’s ongoing consultation and technical assistance to the El Paso Psychology Internship Consortium. This internship program is funded through a grant from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health.

NEW DIRECTIONS

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- = Opportunity (funding) ● = low, ●● = medium, ●●● = high
- = Competence (staff/consultants) ■ = low, ■■ = medium, ■■■ = high

Project Title	Focus	Priority	Geo-scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners

POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS

Work that staff is considering pursuing (and bringing to the commission for review or approval). In addition, at the end of this section, we list projects that staff previously considered pursuing but that staff now proposes to remove from the workplan.

The MHP is negotiating an award from the State of South Dakota to evaluate the state's drug court system.

The MHP expects to submit a proposal for funding through the HRSA Rural Health Research Grants Program, which should have a solicitation during late FY15 or early FY16.

The MHP will support the behavioral health system in the CNMI with their development of a proposal for a five-year Child and Family Systems of Care transformation grant during late FY15; with potential funding beginning in the second quarter of FY16.

The MHP submitted a proposal for a 3-year HRSA Outreach Grant to support continued work with the Colorado Psychology Internship Consortium. If awarded, funding will be in the spring of 2015.

In cooperation with the School of Health at the University of Alaska-Anchorage, the MHP is working with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to conceptualize and create a center for policy analytics. The decision to proceed with such a joint venture will be made during FY 15-16.

Previously considered projects that we propose to remove from the workplan. None.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Work that staff finished in FY 2015.

Alaska Core Competencies: The MHP, in collaboration with the Annapolis Coalition, continued its work developing training curricula for supervisors to enhance their ability to support workplace based education building direct care workers skills and competencies.

Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium: The MHP received \$100,000 annually from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to support the ongoing operations of and technical assistance provided to the Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium.

Alaska Internship TA: The MHP contracted with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to provide ongoing technical assistance to the Alaska Psychology Internship Consortium.

Alaska Mat Su Health Foundation Environmental Scan: The MHP conducted a scan of behavioral health resources and gaps in the Mat Su Borough and a funding analysis and developed recommendations to strengthen the system.

Alaska OISSP Child and Adolescent CSR: The MHP developed a new survey to assess client outcomes and quality of life for children and adolescents in publically funded behavioral health services in Alaska and conducted a pilot test of the new measures to establish validity and reliability.

Colorado HRSA Funded Internship Program: The MHP assisted with the development of a rural psychology internship consortium.

Colorado Office of Behavioral Health Needs Assessment: The Mental Health Program conducted an inventory, gap analysis, and assessment of Colorado's behavioral health needs, including state hospital beds, for the Office of Behavioral Health.

South Dakota Consumer Survey: The MHP administered the South Dakota consumer survey to monitor access to care, quality of care, outcomes, and satisfaction with treatment services.

South Dakota Human Services Center: WICHE conducted an inpatient unit environmental suicide risk and mitigation review; and developed a briefing of suicide risk and mitigation opportunities and recommendations to reduce vulnerability to suicide.

Texas Harris County Internship Project: The MHP provides consultation and technical assistance to the psychology internship program. This internship program is funded through a grant from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health.

Utah State Hospital: WICHE conducted an inpatient unit environmental suicide risk and mitigation review; and developed a briefing of suicide risk and mitigation opportunities and recommendations to reduce vulnerability to suicide and enhance the environment of care.

Washington – Western State Hospital: WICHE developed a set of training modules that can be incorporated into Western State Hospital's curriculum for its forensic psychiatric nursing staff. 12/14-6/30/15 \$9,900

WCET

The WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET) was established in 1989 to promote collaboration and information sharing about educational technologies in higher education. WCET’s mission is to accelerate the adoption of effective practices and policies, advancing excellence in technology-enhanced teaching and learning in higher education. Today, WCET supports over 340 colleges, universities, state higher education agencies, non-profits and for-profit companies across the U.S. and Canada, with over 2,900 active WCET users. WCET’s strategic action plan focuses on practice, policy, and advocacy, and fulfills these core functions by leveraging the expertise within the WCET community, supporting action agendas based on member priorities, facilitating information dissemination and professional networking, and delivering responsive excellence to its higher education members. WCET is the leader in the practice and policy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education.

EXISTING ACTIVITIES ONGOING

Continuing work supported by the general fund or by fees. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Staffing	Partners
WCET National Membership Cooperative	Technology & innovation, access & success	North America	6.55 FTE	340 member institutions, organizations, & companies
WCET Leadership Summit on Adaptive Learning for 2015	Technology & innovation, access & success	North American	WCET staff	Corporate sponsors
WCET Webcast Series	Technology & innovation, access & success	North America	WCET staff	
e-Learning Policy & Advocacy	Technology & innovation, access	North America	WCET staff	UPCEA, Online Learning Consortium, Educause, other organizations
WCET Research	Technology & innovation	North America	WCET staff	Members and other organizations

EXISTING ACTIVITIES PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Continuing (or new) work supported by grants or contracts. All work in this category is considered high priority.

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Adaptive Learning (targeted niche for 2015)	Technology & innovation, access & success	North America	Existing membership dues, possible corporate and/or grant support	WCET staff	3/15-12/15	Member institutions and organizations

Project	Focus	Geo-Scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
High School to Higher Education Transition Opportunities Facilitated through Technology (targeted niche for 2015)	Technology & innovation, access & success	North America	Existing membership dues, possible corporate and/or grant support	WCET staff	3/15-12/15	Other WICHE units, WCET members
Deployment of Steering Committee Priorities to Advance WCET Focus Areas	Technology & innovation, access & success	North America	Existing membership dues	WCET staff	3/15-12/15	WCET Steering Committee, WCET members
State Authorization Network (SAN) - Year 5	Access & success	National	SAN member fees	.45 FTE	4/15-3/16	NCHEMS & 63 member systems or organizations representing more than 700 institutions
State Authorization Compliance (for beginners) Workshop	Access & success	National	Registration fees	WCET staff	7/15	Franklin University

WCET's three operational niches for 2015 include **adaptive learning, high school to higher education transition, and the further evolution of WCET's successful policy work.**

- **The 2015 Leadership Summit, "Adaptive Learning in Higher Education: Improving Outcomes Dynamically,"** is scheduled for June 10-11, in Santa Fe and will convene 150 higher education decision makers, vice presidents for academic affairs, deans, and key personnel who lead campus innovation teams. In addition to the summit, WCET will produce resources, case studies, information on suppliers of adaptive learning solutions, and other resources throughout the year. External funding will be sought to support this work.
- **The high school to higher education transition,** particularly when facilitated through technology, is an area where many WCET college and university members are deeply engaged in their states and districts. Some examples include online dual enrollment programs, eportfolio and alternative assessments of prior learning, technology-rich career education and training programs, and more. WCET will utilize its existing assets (summit, webinars, blogs, annual meeting) to advance awareness of promising practices.
- **Evolving policy issues** is WCET's third targeted niche for 2015. WCET already has a strong national reputation as a trusted source of information on policy developments at the federal and state levels that relate to educational technologies. WCET will build upon this reputation and develop additional strategic partnerships on the policy front in order to: 1) organize a more united voice on e-learning policy matters, and 2) expand our capability to keep WCET members informed of the most current policy developments.

WCET's State Authorization Network (SAN) is a membership service for those seeking to comply with state authorization regulations related to the provision of online and distance courses and programs; WCET provides training on the state regulations, access to experts, strategies on meeting state requirements, and supports a community of practitioners to share effective practices and latest developments.

Authorization Workshops for Beginners. In FY15 and FY16, WCET has partnered with Franklin University (Columbus, Ohio) to bring together experts in the field of state authorization to educate higher education personnel who are new to intricacies of authorization. The two-day workshop was first held in March 2015 in Atlanta and will be repeated in July 2015 in Denver. The workshop is open to WCET members and non-members alike. The FY15 Workshop sold out well in advance of the program and the same response is expected for the FY16 Workshop.

NEW DIRECTIONS

Commissioner-approved projects for which staff is actively seeking funding, prioritized as follows:

- ★ = Urgency (mission critical) ★ = low, ★★ = medium, ★★★ = high
- = Opportunity (funding) ● = low, ●● = medium, ●●● = high
- = Competence (staff/consultants) ■ = low, ■■ = medium, ■■■ = high

Project Title	Focus	Priority	Geo-scope	Funding	Staffing	Timeline	Partners
Institutional Data on Cost versus Price of Distance Education	Finance, access & success	★ ● ■■	North America	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
teleHealth & teleMedicine – Collaborative Project with WICHE Mental Health Program	Workforce & society, technology & innovation	★ ● ■■	Western	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

teleHealth & teleMedicine: WCET will explore telehealth and telemedicine opportunities with the WICHE Mental Health Program in order to leverage technology assets to impact the delivery of health care in the West.

POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS

Work that staff is considering pursuing (and bringing to the commission for review or approval). In addition, at the end of this section, we list projects that staff previously considered pursuing but that staff now proposes to remove from the workplan.

Contingent faculty: Cost and Quality Implications. WCET will conduct research, in partnership with the Rand Corporation, on cost and educational outcomes related to different models of using adjunct faculty. Grant funding will be sought to support this work. This potential project was reported in the May 2014 Workplan. Information on the NSF proposal submitted by the Rand Corporation is still pending.

Previously considered projects that we propose to remove from the workplan:

eContent Initiatives. In November 2013 Rhonda Epper submitted a concept paper to Lumina Foundation, at their request, describing two possible projects related to e-textbooks and open content. The concept paper recommends WCET as the best qualified organization for leading a possible e-textbook project because WCET’s community includes the e-learning campus leaders who would need to be involved. Lumina has indicated general interest, however e-content is not at the top of its strategic plan at this time.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Work that staff finished in FY 2015.

The PAR Framework. The PAR Framework successfully concluded its transition as a WCET project and, as of January 1, 2015, exists as its own 501(c)3 entity, based in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The PAR executive team and WICHE president are collaborating on the submission of final project reports to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.