

**Narrative for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
(WICHE)
FY 2016 Annual Report
(July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016)**

General Information

WICHE has no administrative staff or director. Administrative support for the agency is provided through staffing at the University of Wyoming.

Agency Contact

Joseph Steiner, Certifying Officer
University of Wyoming, College of Health Sciences.
(307) 766-6556
University of Wyoming
1000 East University Avenue, Dept. 3432
Laramie, WY 82071
Joe.Steiner@uwyo.edu

Year Established

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education was established by statute in 1953.

Statutory References

Wyoming Statutes, Title 21, Chapter 16, Article 2.

Number of Authorized Personnel

There are three WICHE commissioners appointed by the Governor. In FY 2016, Wyoming's representatives were UW College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Dean Frank Galey, Laramie; Representative Sam Krone, Cody; and Western Wyoming Community College President Karla Leach, Rock Springs.

Organization Structure

WICHE is a separate operating entity funded by state legislative appropriation. The functions of the agency are performed by personnel within the University of Wyoming under the umbrella of the College of Health Sciences.

Clients Served

WICHE serves Wyoming residents from the undergraduate level through graduate and professional programs.

Budget Information

FY 2016 General Fund Expenditures \$2.6 million.

Meeting frequency

The WICHE Commission meets twice per year.

Mission and philosophy

The mission of WICHE, based upon its enabling legislation, is to provide residents within Wyoming and the other western states within the compact an opportunity to obtain high-quality, cost-effective education without replicating programs in every state.

Major Accomplishments/Efficiencies

The annual report published by the WICHE office is available on the web at: <http://www.wiche.edu/about> . Wyoming highlights are available at <http://www.wiche.edu/state-highlights/wyoming>.

Wyoming participates in three WICHE exchange programs:

- Through WICHE's Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), Wyoming sent 117 students to out-of-state programs in 2015-16 in nine different fields (allopathic medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, optometry, podiatry, osteopathic medicine, and physicians' assistant study).
- Wyoming sent 47 students to out-of-state institutions via the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP) for graduate education, while receiving four.
- Nine hundred twelve Wyoming students participated in Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), attending schools in other WICHE states for undergraduate education while 1,597 WUE students attended Wyoming institutions from other WICHE states.

In addition, the University of Wyoming participates in additional WICHE initiatives, including

- The Internet Course Exchange (ICE), an alliance of member institutions and systems that share distance delivered courses among two- and four-year institutions in the 16-state/island WICHE region.
- The Interstate Passport program to block transfer lower division general education courses.
- SARA, the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement initiative that will make distance education more effective and accessible.

Wyoming's WICHE PSEP program instituted a contract and practice payback program for all students entering in 2013 except for those in veterinary medicine. Those students will be required to begin paybacks starting as early as 2016.