



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
SYSTEM

David Lassner
President

DEPT. COMM. NO. 127

December 7, 2020

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty First State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
Thirty First State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, the University of Hawai'i is transmitting one copy of the Annual Report on the University of Hawai'i's Continued Participation in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (Section 304A-3205, Hawai'i Revised Statutes) as requested by the Legislature.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, this report may be viewed electronically at: <https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/government-relations/2021-legislative-reports/>.

Should you have any questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Kim at 956-4250, or via e-mail at scskim@hawaii.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Lassner".

David Lassner
President

Enclosure

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT



REPORT TO THE 2021 LEGISLATURE

Annual Report on
the University of Hawai'i's Continued Participation in the
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

HRS 304A-3205

November 2020

**Annual Report to the 2021 Hawai'i Legislature on
the University of Hawai'i's Continued Participation in the
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
HRS 304A-3205**

History and Membership

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) was created in the 1950s by the Western Regional Education Compact to facilitate resource sharing among the higher education systems of the West. The WICHE Commission's 17 members include representatives from 15 Western states – Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming – and the U.S. Pacific territories and freely associated states (Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

Members work collaboratively to provide educational access and excellence for all citizens. WICHE and its staff are headquartered in Boulder, CO, and operate out of the State Higher Education Policy Center, which WICHE owns with the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

Since 1959, Hawai'i has benefitted from the partnership with WICHE through regional collaboration, resource-sharing, sound public policy and innovation.

Governance

The WICHE Commission, with three commissioners from each state, molds the organization's mission and sets its priorities. Each Commissioner is appointed by the Governor and serves a four-year term. Hawai'i's commissioners are David Lassner, president, University of Hawai'i; John Morton, Vice President Emeritus, Community Colleges of the University of Hawai'i; and Colleen Sathre, Vice President Emeritus, University of Hawai'i. WICHE also seeks assistance and advice from policymakers, educators, administrators and legislators. WICHE's Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC), composed of legislator-members from each state – including representatives from the state of Hawai'i, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, and Representative Justin Woodson – have been crucial in helping to shape and strengthen state policymaking in higher education in the west by seeking strategies to further interstate collaboration. WICHE staff also serves the LAC, by informing its members about emerging policy issues in the West. WICHE Hawai'i is assigned for administrative purposes to the University of Hawai'i.

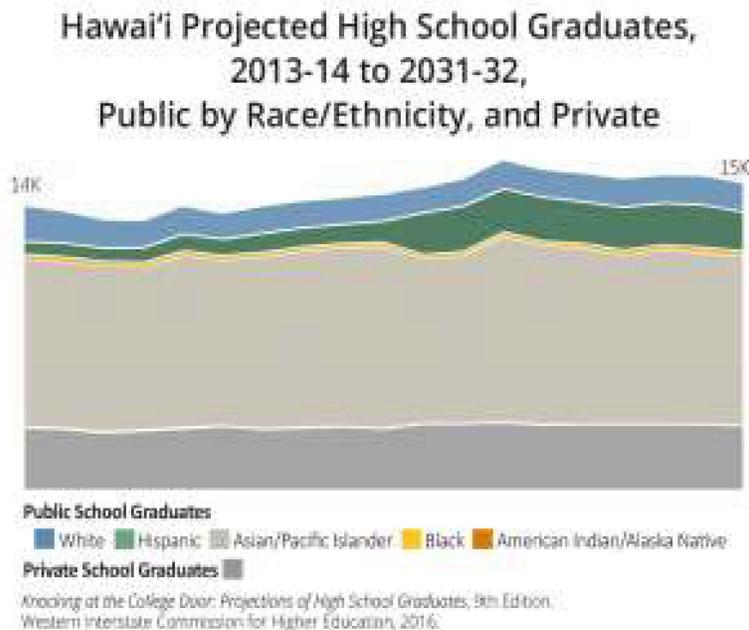
WICHE's Added Value

Hawai'i gains added value from WICHE's programs in policy, workforce development, technology, mental health, and other areas, which are discussed below.

Data and Policy Analysis

WICHE helps Hawai'i allocate resources more efficiently with data and policy analysis and offers access to various data and policy resources to support better-informed decision-making. WICHE's research projects and collaborations cover postsecondary completion, closing attainment gaps, adult learners, and multistate data-sharing to support educational planning and workforce development.

Hawai'i participates in projects, such as the Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange program and research projects, such as the *Knocking at the College Door* report. Access to these resources and a seat at the discussion table helps to support better-informed decision-making at our state level. WICHE initiatives have been sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Lumina Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Helmsley Charitable Trusts, the Ford Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and others. In addition, WICHE policy experts often visit the state to present or consult on several vital issues, including the state's workforce needs and balancing the financial aid portfolio between grants, loans, and scholarships, as well as between merit- and need-based aid.



As noted above, WICHE publishes a quadrennial *Knocking at the College Door* report, which is the foremost U.S. resource for projections of college-ready students. There is an abundance of information on [Knocking at the College Door](#), including the publication and other reports, projections data, interactive data dashboards, recorded webinars and presentations, and Hawai'i's state profile. Through the data published in this report, Hawai'i is projected to have, on average, 14,600 graduates between the school years 2011-2012 and 2031-2032, a projected increase of 12.4% (see chart above). With this information on hand, our state can better prepare and lay the groundwork to help our students pursue higher educational opportunities. While the

9th Edition was published in December of 2016, WICHE is currently preparing to publish the 10th Edition in late 2020, which will provide updates to what had previously been presented.

Hawai'i was also one of four original states chosen to participate in the Gates-funded development of a Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange (MLDE) pilot project (the others were Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). Initially, the goal of the MLDE was to assess whether states were willing and able to exchange individual data from their K-12, postsecondary education, and workforce agencies. According to an issue brief released in October of 2020, the success of the pilot for the Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange program has led to an expansion of this resource into a multistate initiative. The pilot resulted in some meaningful improvements in state-data collection as well as "more sophisticated and comprehensive data about workforce outcomes and swirl spanning the education and labor sectors." For example, the pilot-participating states' exchange of data enabled them to fill in gaps about the workforce outcomes of their associate-degree-and-higher graduates, and each state was able to add to their accounted for percentages after data sharing (13 percent for Washington, 19 percent for Oregon, and 28 percent for both Idaho and Hawai'i). Hawai'i continues to be actively involved with the development of building a multistate governance system that would be responsible for formalizing multistate data efforts which will help inform policy and practice.

Regional Academic Leadership Initiatives

WICHE's Legislative Advisory Committee also provides valuable insights on trends and promising practices to Hawai'i's legislative leaders as they build partnerships with leaders in other Western states.

Currently, three Hawai'i institutions are members of the Western Academic Leadership Forum (the Forum), a consortium of academic officers at bachelor's, master's, and doctoral institutions and chief executives and academic officers for systems and state governing boards. Hawai'i members include the University of Hawai'i System, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu. Don Straney, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy at the University of Hawai'i System, serves on the Forum executive committee. Academic leaders at community colleges and technical schools and at systems and state governing and coordinating boards associated with two-year institutions are members of the Western Alliance of Community College Academic Leaders (the Alliance). The Hawai'i members of the Alliance are Hawai'i Community College (CC), Honolulu CC, Kapi'olani CC, Kaua'i CC, Leeward CC, University of Hawai'i Maui College, University of Hawai'i System, and Windward CC. Debora Halbert, Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Policy at the University of Hawai'i System, serves on the executive committee of the Alliance. Both the Forum and the Alliance exchange ideas and information and share resources, expertise, and collaborate on regional initiatives.

Technology

Kapi'olani Community College and the University of Hawai'i System are all members of WCET (WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies), the leader in the practice, policy, and advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education. WCET is widely recognized as an informative, reliable, and forward-thinking organization regarding the role of technology and innovation in higher education. WCET's growing membership includes almost 400 institutions, higher education agencies and systems, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and corporations in all U.S. states and several Canadian provinces. WCET members have access to trusted information on emerging trends, policies, and exemplars of successful learning technology innovation in practice. Key WCET activities include an annual meeting, leadership summits,

national webcasts, keeping members informed through its *Frontiers* blog, issue briefs, and email list-based discussions among members.

WCET also offers a host of resources related to educational technology and faculty support including advice and guidance for institutions on how to transition their face-to-face offerings to emergency online alternatives and how to increase quality in these courses over time.

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a voluntary, state-led initiative designed to establish comparable standards for U.S. states and territories regulating postsecondary distance education. SARA expands access to postsecondary educational opportunities, while ensuring meaningful consumer protections for students and reducing regulatory red tape for institutions. WICHE is responsible for coordinating the membership of SARA states in the West through the WICHE State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (W-SARA). Currently, Hawai'i has ten institutions participating in this program, of which, Hawai'i Community College (CC), Kapi'olani CC, Kaua'i CC, Leeward CC, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu, and Windward CC, are all member institutions.

At the outset of the recent outbreak of COVID-19, WICHE quickly reacted and facilitated peer-to-peer videoconferences for higher education leaders to connect and identify solutions to common challenges, followed legislation passed in response to the crisis, and identified emergency funding for students and higher education institutions. Furthermore, WICHE Behavioral Health Program (BHP) hosted webinars offering guidance on how institutions can support the mental well-being of their students during this pandemic, while WCET continues to provide essential updates and resources to help institutions address issues that arise due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Workforce and Behavioral Health

WICHE has been very active in Hawai'i, focusing on issues of behavioral health workforce development and providing technical assistance to state agencies involved in behavioral health services. WICHE helps to bolster Hawai'i's health workforce through the following programs and initiatives:

- Through the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), students from Hawai'i can enroll in participating programs in another state while receiving substantial tuition support. Currently, Hawai'i supports students in dentistry, occupational therapy, optometry, physical therapy, and veterinary medicine.
- The WICHE Rural Psychology Internship Consortium initiative continues to thrive. Adding to accredited psychology internship consortia in Alaska, Hawai'i, Nevada, Oregon, and Colorado, this successful behavioral health workforce development initiative grew this year, with the BHP partnering with Utah, New Mexico, and Idaho, successively, to develop, or in the case of Idaho, revamp and expand, internship consortia that are accreditation-ready.
- WICHE's Behavioral Health Program has a number of projects in Hawai'i that extend the state's ability to serve its residents. These projects include a review of the Hawai'i State Hospital, a study of the Hawai'i Adult Mental Health Services Division Medicaid reimbursement rates.



"I've appreciated WICHE's timely responses to our needs, especially related to adult mental health and the Hawai'i State Hospital. Their flexibility on emergent needs to improve rates, quality, and monitoring have been invaluable."

LYNN FALLIN
Retired Deputy Director
Behavioral Health
Administration,
State of Hawai'i

- The Hawai'i Department of Education continues to contract with the WICHE BHP to provide marketing, recruitment, screening, and referral services for behavioral health professionals to fill public school vacancies across the Hawaiian Islands.
- The WICHE BHP continues to assist the state of Hawai'i in the operation and continuous accreditation of their Psychology Internship Consortium. A primary goal of the Hawai'i Psychology Internship Consortium is to increase the number of psychologists in Hawai'i and build the state's behavioral health workforce. Three Hawai'i state agencies (the Department of Education, Department of Health, and Department of Public Safety) provide funding to assist with WICHE BHP's ongoing support, development, and operations of the fully accredited Hawai'i Internship Program.
- The WICHE BHP provided a review of the Hawai'i State Hospital's new staffing estimates, the methodology/metrics for estimating and funding patient growth, and a review of a phased-in timeline for moving patients into a new forensics building.
- The WICHE BHP assisted Hawai'i Adult Mental Health Services Division (AMDH) in analyzing their Medicaid reimbursement rates for various levels of residential adult behavioral health care. The WICHE BHP provided AMDH with comparison rates for multiple care models across numerous states with similar demographic challenges.

Interstate Passport®



"After redesigning our block to align with our existing General Education Program, the campus was able to award more than 1,000 Passports in a single academic year. Of course, we hope our students will stay with us through graduation; however, it is comforting to know that those students who do leave will now be better positioned to excel at their next institutional home."

ALAN ROSENFELD
Associate Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs,
University of Hawai'i -
West O'ahu

Interstate Passport®, a nationwide program that facilitates block transfer of students' lower-division general education attainment based on learning outcomes, was collaboratively developed by WICHE-region faculty, registrars, institutional researchers, and advisors. Thirty-two regionally-accredited institutions in 14 states are currently members of the Interstate Passport® Network. More than 38,800 Passports have been officially awarded during the Network's three years of operations.

Students who earn a Passport and transfer to another Network-member institution need not repeat or take additional courses to meet that institution's lower-division general education requirements. Taking fewer unnecessary courses helps students complete degrees more quickly and at higher rates, with lower cost and debt—factors that also improve institutions' performance metrics. The Interstate Passport® program's focus on learning outcomes (instead of course-by-course articulation) increases curricular flexibility and reduces time spent negotiating equivalencies.

The academic progress of students who transfer with a Passport to other Network-member institutions is tracked through the National Student Clearinghouse and reported to students' sending institutions for use in continuous improvement and sustainability efforts. Additionally, the Student Transfer Destinations by State database, developed by the Interstate Passport® program, illustrates transfer patterns of students across the entire United States. During academic year 2017-18, the website was expanded to include all 50 states and territories and data for the 2006, 2008, and 2010 entering student cohorts; the 2012 cohort was added to the database this past year.

This database serves as a dynamic tool to demonstrate, over time, the interstate and intrastate transfer trends among cohorts, and provides a visual display of where students are transferring to and from across state lines (see [Interstate Passport](#)).

Currently, two University of Hawai'i campuses are participating in the Interstate Passport® initiative, Leeward Community College (CC) and University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu. In the academic year 2018-2019, Leeward CC awarded 308 total passports, and University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu awarded 1,045. With the success of this project, all of the other eight institutions within the University of Hawai'i System have signed on to participate in the Interstate Passport® and will begin reporting with the Fall 2020 semester.

While the Interstate Passport® initially received funding from several sources (the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Lumina Foundation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education First in the World competition), according to the 2018-2019 WICHE Interstate Passport® annual report. In looking ahead to the future of this initiative, the goal moving forward will be on building enthusiasm for this project and scale the Interstate Passport® Network to the point of widespread adoption and fiscal sustainability.

For Interstate Passport to make a significant contribution to higher education's completion and equity agendas, work is being done to position it as a meaningful and recognized credential for foundational knowledge and skills to inform employers about a student's achievement, whether that student has completed a degree or not. WICHE is also looking forward to partnering with more branches of the military and other entities devoted to equitable educational opportunities, and the possible development of a Passport tailored for STEM students.

Return on Investment

Programs and Participation

Hawai'i is active in all three WICHE Student Access Programs: the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), and the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP). WICHE provides Hawai'i a strong return on investment. Hawai'i residents have saved \$26 million through WICHE's Student Access Programs in 2019-2020. These WICHE programs provide significant student savings on nonresident tuition at 170+ Western U.S. public colleges and universities.

Furthermore, in 2019-2020 WICHE Student Access Programs provided Hawai'i a 2,010 percent return on investment, relative to the state's annual WICHE dues. Hawai'i students and their families have saved over \$296 million since the state began participating in WUE, while also attracting 2,555 WUE and WRGP students from other states to Hawai'i just in this past year alone.



Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

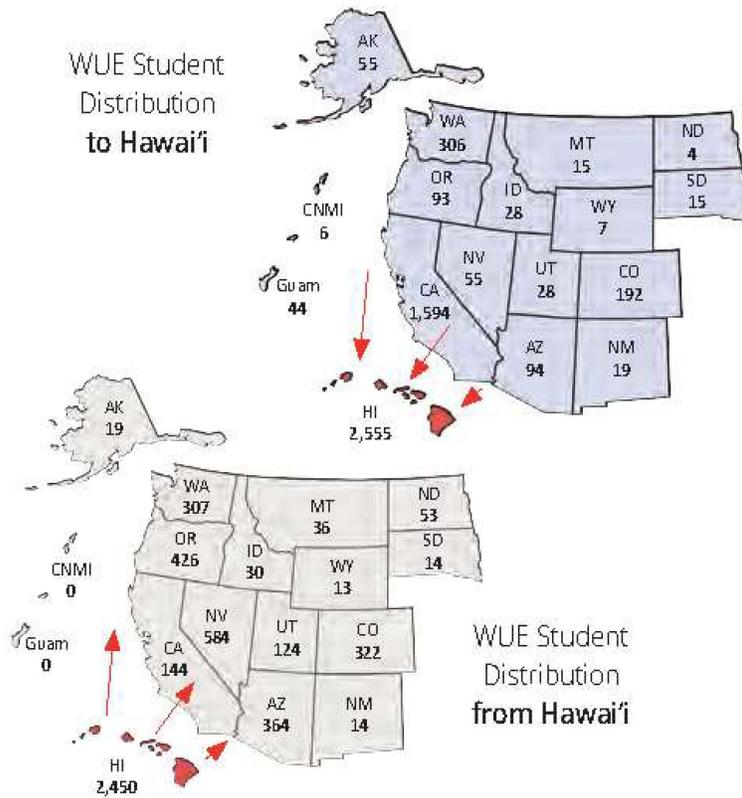
The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)—the nation's largest regional tuition-savings program—is celebrating its 32nd year. The program allows students from a WICHE state or territory to enroll in participating two- or four-year public colleges or universities located in another WICHE state or territory and pay up to 150 percent of that school's resident tuition. Students can choose from 164 WUE-eligible institutions and hundreds of majors. In academic year 2019-20, 42,515 WUE students and their families saved over \$408.6 million in tuition. This marks a five percent increase in WUE enrollment from the 2018-2019 academic year.

WUE students saved an average of \$9,610 in 2019-2020. WUE savings at four-year institutions this year averaged \$9,125, and at two-year institutions the savings averaged \$4,610, but student savings can be as high as \$24,000 per academic year at certain campuses. Since 1988, WUE has provided Western students and families discounts on almost 625,000 annual tuition bills, saving them \$4.3 billion overall.

The significant savings WUE offers Western students is just one benefit of WUE. Some students can gain affordable access to majors not offered in their home state. Occasionally, when varying tuitions and cost-of-living are factored in, WUE makes out-of-state study more affordable than in-state study. Most WUE institutions make all or most majors available at the WUE rate, but some may exclude select high-demand majors. Transfer students can qualify for the WUE rate at most institutions, and although institutions may choose to set more stringent admissions standards for WUE students, most award the WUE rate to all nonresident WICHE-region applicants who would qualify under normal admissions criteria.

Western states also benefit greatly from their public colleges' and universities' participation in WUE. WUE helps these schools meet their recruitment and enrollment goals. WUE is flexible; schools can choose how many discounted seats they will offer, the admission standards required

for WUE admission, and the eligible majors. Students apply directly to their preferred WUE institution(s). Some graduates end up staying in the state where they studied, a bonus for states seeking to bolster and diversify their college-educated workforce. For states with more demand for public higher education than supply, WUE is an ideal relief valve, allowing their residents access to a postsecondary education without having to add capacity at home.



In 2019-2020 for WUE:

- 2,450 Hawai'i undergraduates saved \$24.4 million paying up to 150% of resident tuition.
- Most popular schools: U. of Nevada, Las Vegas (489 Hawai'i residents) and Northern Arizona U. (283 Hawai'i residents).
- Hawai'i residents have saved \$295.7 million since 1988.

Table 1. Western Undergraduate Exchange Program Use

Academic Year	Hawai'i Students Out-Bound to Continental US	Total Savings in Tuition and Fees	Average Savings in Tuition and Fees	U.S. Continental Students In-Bound to Hawai'i
2019-2020	2,450 students	\$24.4 million	\$9,610	2,555 students
2018-2019	2,467 students	\$23.4 million	\$9,500	2,683 students
2017-2018	2,426 students	\$22.1 million	\$9,100	2,600 students

Hawai'i benefits from WUE in another way: by receiving students from out of state. Hawai'i's institutions can choose how many out-of-state slots to offer and in which areas, allowing them to make the best use of their resources by accepting students in under-enrolled programs. There's a workforce benefit for the state, too, as students often stay in Hawai'i after graduating. In 2019-2020 Hawai'i received 2,555 students through WUE.

Table 2. Breakdown by University of Hawai'i Campuses

Hawai'i institutions enrolled 2,555 WUE students from other WICHE states and Territories

4-Year	No. of Students	2-Year	No. of Students
U. of Hawai'i, Hilo	341	U. of Hawai'i, Maui College	10
U. of Hawai'i, Mānoa	2,184		
U. of Hawai'i, West O'ahu	20		

WICHE has now also made it easier for students to get information about institutions participating in two tuition-discount programs, the Western Undergraduate Exchange and the Western Regional Graduate Program, via two Savings Finder search portals. These new streamlined, database-driven interfaces allow students to refine their college searches by major, degree type, online course availability, eligibility requirements, and other filter criteria. This enhances the ability of admissions, recruitment, and enrollment managers at WICHE partner institutions to inform and connect with students about their institution.



Western Regional Graduate Program

The Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP) allows graduate certificate, master's, and Ph.D. students who are residents of WICHE states and territories to pay no more than 150 percent of the resident tuition for more than 900 different graduate programs at 60 participating public universities in the West. WICHE members and their participating public universities also benefit from WRGP. The program helps attract and incentivize a broader and more diverse pool of students to pursue varied disciplines at their public institutions. WICHE members also help their residents take advantage of niche programs regionwide without them having to pay nonresident tuition premiums. Some WRGP programs are also offered online, enabling place-bound students to grow their educational credentials.

This past year, WICHE lifted program restrictions that formerly required WRGP-eligible graduate programs to demonstrate "distinctiveness"—or serve high-need or health care fields. Now, each institution may choose to enroll WRGP students in any (or all) of their graduate programs. This change has allowed a dramatic increase in the number of WRGP graduate programs; now more than 900 are available, up from 700 a year ago. WRGP is destined to grow even more as additional institutions take part, and students throughout the WICHE region can look forward to more graduate study options that fit their professional and intellectual interests, needs, and delivery preferences.

"As a first-generation college student from a low-income family, I would not have been able to afford graduate school. Because of WRGP, I was able to pursue a degree in indigenous health at the only school in the country that offers this program. Being an indigenous person, I am incredibly grateful that this program exists so that I can make a positive impact in my community."

JACIE, Utah resident,
University of Hawai'i
at Mānoa

Hawai'i's postgraduates participated in graduate programs through the Western Regional Graduate Program, which offers access to high-quality, distinctive programs at some 60 institutions in all WICHE states. WRGP programs run the gamut, but emerging social, environmental, and resource-management fields are particular strengths, as are innovative interdisciplinary programs. In 2019-2020 Hawai'i sent 36 students to out-of-state institutions, saving \$471,4956 by paying resident tuition in other Western states, while Hawai'i universities enrolled 71 WRGP students from other WICHE states.

Table 3. Western Regional Graduate Program Use

Academic Year	Hawai'i Graduate Students Out-Bound to Continent	U.S. Continent Students In-Bound to Hawai'i
2019-2020	36	71
2018-2019	28	61
2017-2018	19	57

Professional Student Exchange Program

Health professionals are in high demand, especially in underserved rural areas of the West. With out-of-state tuition for health care programs substantially exceeding resident tuition, this can be daunting for tomorrow's health professionals. It may saddle them in debt, force them to leave their community for more lucrative opportunities, or discourage them from pursuing their passion to be a health care practitioner.

WICHE collaborates with 11 Western states and territories to provide a solution. Through the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), students from Western states and territories can pursue careers in 10 health fields—ranging from optometry to dentistry to veterinary medicine—and may enroll in participating programs across state lines and receive substantial tuition support from their home state or territory. WICHE's PSEP has provided 15,800 Western residents with affordable access to professional health care degrees since the early 1950s. Through PSEP, a student can save \$32,000 to \$130,000 on tuition over the duration of a health degree study. By participating in PSEP, Western states and territories benefit by inspiring and compelling graduates to return home to practice and bolster the professional health care workforce of their communities.

Last year overall, students participating in this program saved, on average, between \$8,000 to \$32,000. PSEP recognizes over 135 eligible programs in 10 PSEP health care fields, really providing students the opportunity to find the right institutional fit so that they may pursue their educational goals.

By participating in PSEP, Hawai'i offers our local students the chance to realize their goal of pursuing a health profession. As a small state, with limited options in health profession educational programs, this partnership with WICHE PSEP provides that bridge and access for our students to pursue educational opportunities in the fields of Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, and Physical Therapy, one of our most popular programs, just to name a few. While applicants must meet Hawai'i's residency requirements and be "certified" for PSEP participation, we have seen interest in this program grow steadily over the years.

In the academic year 2019-2020, Hawai'i supported 51 students who paid reduced tuition for health care studies not offered by our public institutions here in Hawai'i and saved them approximately \$1,136,225 in tuition. 65% of Hawai'i PSEP graduates (2007-2016) have returned home to practice in their local communities.

In academic year 2019-20, four PSEP students from other states enrolled in professional programs we offer here in Hawai'i. Our institutions received \$106,100 in support fees to reduce the students' tuition costs.

In August of 2020, Hawai'i also launched their new [WICHE online application](#), which now makes applying for the PSEP program much more streamlined and easier for students. Below is an overview of the number of students the state of Hawai'i has supported over the last three academic years.

Table 4. Professional Student Exchange Program Use

Academic Year	<u>2019-2020</u>		<u>2018-2019</u>		<u>2017-2018</u>	
Professional Field	Total No. of Hawai'i Students Supported	Support Fees Paid	Total No. of Hawai'i Students Supported	Support Fees Paid	Total No. of Hawai'i Students Supported	Support Fees Paid
Dentistry	10	\$276,417	9	\$244,300	7	\$180,250
Occupational Therapy	3	\$37,333	2	\$36,534	4	\$35,933
Optometry	11	\$202,675	12	\$216,300	11	\$194,975
Physical Therapy	15	\$231,000	12	\$180,900	12	\$177,900
Veterinary Medicine	12	\$388,888	12	\$388,800	12	\$356,400

PSEP operates with the generous support of participating legislatures of WICHE member states and territories. The Hawai'i state legislature has consistently appropriated funds to buy down tuition costs for resident students to pursue professional degrees in selected health care fields. These funds are administered through WICHE and sent directly to enrolling university health care programs.

The per-student award amounts for each eligible PSEP field are approved biennially by the WICHE Commission, most recently in May 2020. Download the May 2020 [WICHE Support Fees Memorandum for AY 2021-22 and AY2022-23](#).

Future Considerations

The University of Hawai'i's participation in WICHE, and especially in PSEP, is valuable to our state because it is our residents who are the real beneficiaries; our local students benefit from affordable access to higher education through WICHE's three Student Exchange Programs. Interest in participating in these programs continues to grow. Every year, we receive more applicants who are interested in participating in PSEP; however, across the five PSEP programs we currently support, we only average awarding about 15 new students annually while we receive between 80-120 applications a year.

These support fee costs for the PSEP programs are not fixed. It is projected that support fees per program will increase by almost 3% annually, and state dues are also projected to increase about 3% annually as well. Therefore, with this projected trajectory and the allocated funds we receive, we hope that, in light of the current budget crisis that Hawai'i finds itself in, that we can keep the current PSEP funding levels so that we can continue to support the tuition of those students who are still mid-way through their programs, while also awarding a few new students for the next academic cycle.

Table 5. Tuition Costs Academic Years (AY) 2020-2023

Professional Field	Max. No. of PSEP Funding Years Per Student	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Dentistry	4 years	\$27,350	\$28,000	\$28,625
Occupational Therapy	2 2/3 years	\$14,300	\$14,650	\$14,975
Optometry	4 years	\$18,830	\$19,275	\$19,700
Physical Therapy	3 years	\$15,750	\$16,125	\$16,500
Veterinary Medicine	4 years	\$32,400	\$33,150	\$33,900