

The logo for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), featuring the acronym "WICHE" in a bold, sans-serif font.

Western Interstate Commission  
For Higher Education

# 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**

W E S T E R N  
U N D E R G R A D U A T E  
E X C H A N G E



## 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

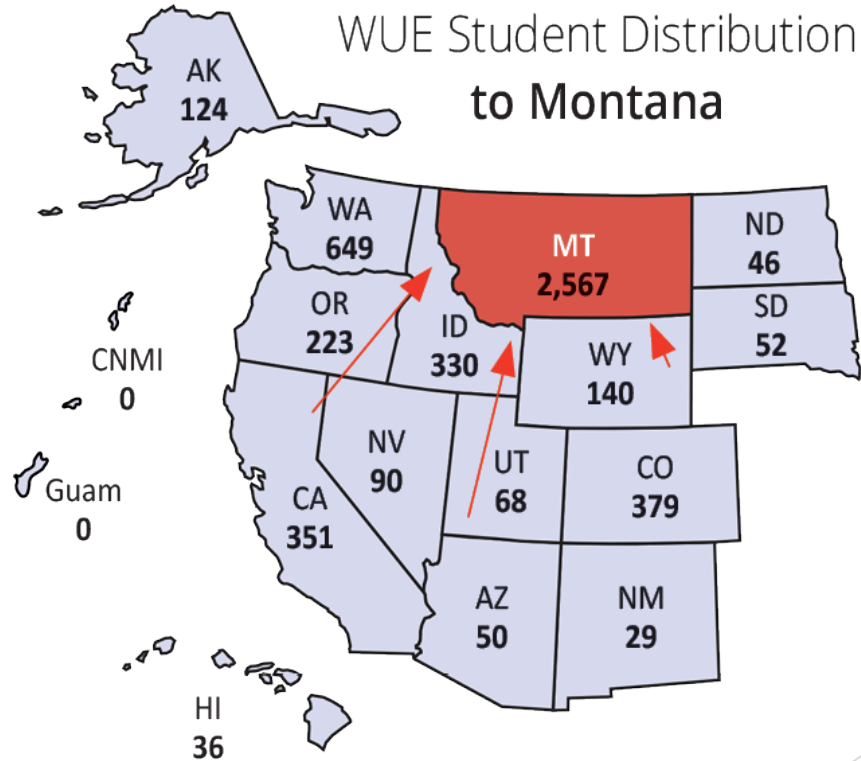
***wuesavingsfinder.wiche.edu***



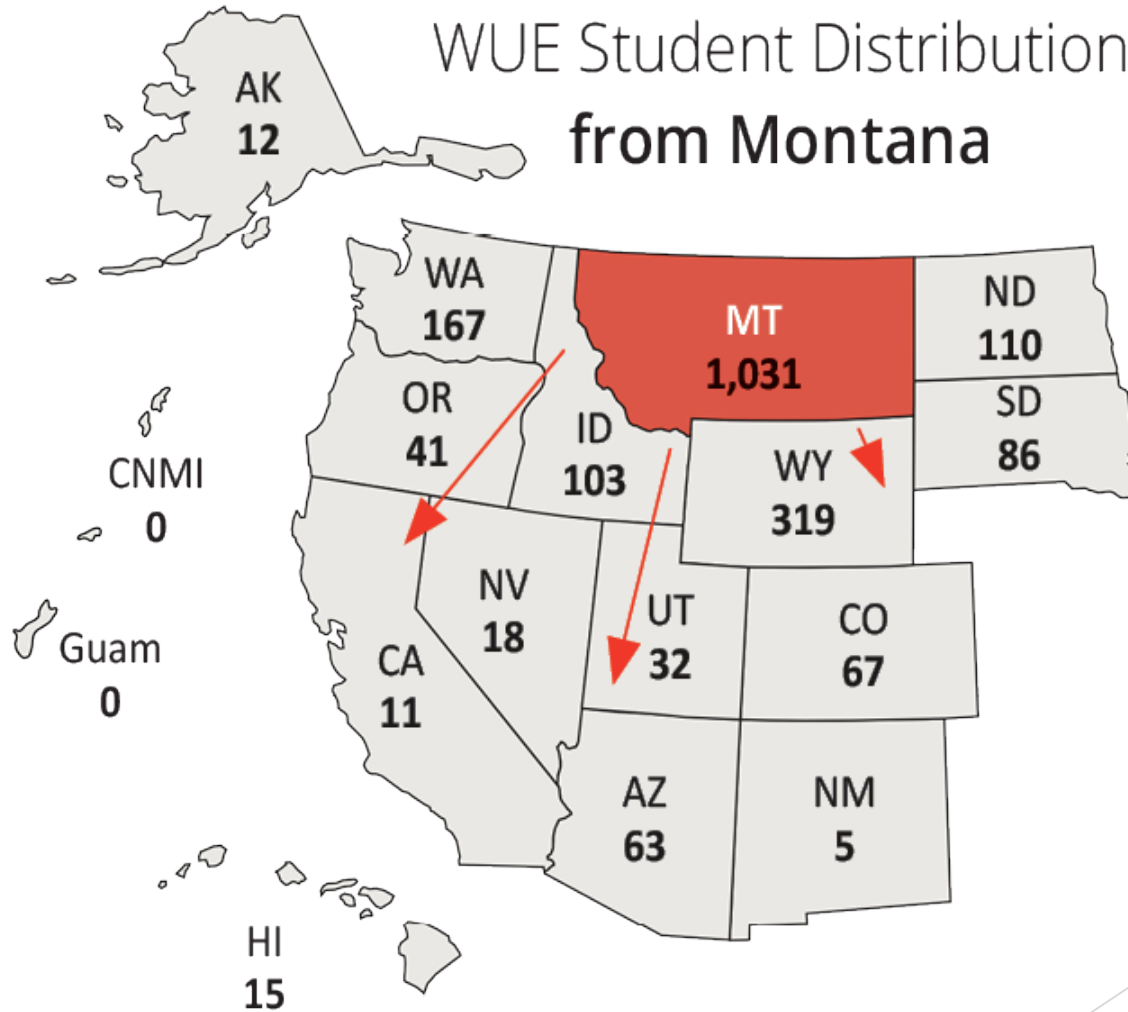


# WUE Students Coming TO Montana

Montana is a net importer



# WUE Students Going FROM Montana





# WUE Student Distribution

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

### 4-Year

Montana State U. (MSU)	
Billings .....	252
MSU Bozeman.....	998
MSU Northern.....	115
Montana Tech U. ....	145
U. of Montana, Missoula.....	706
U. of Montana, Western.....	245

### 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





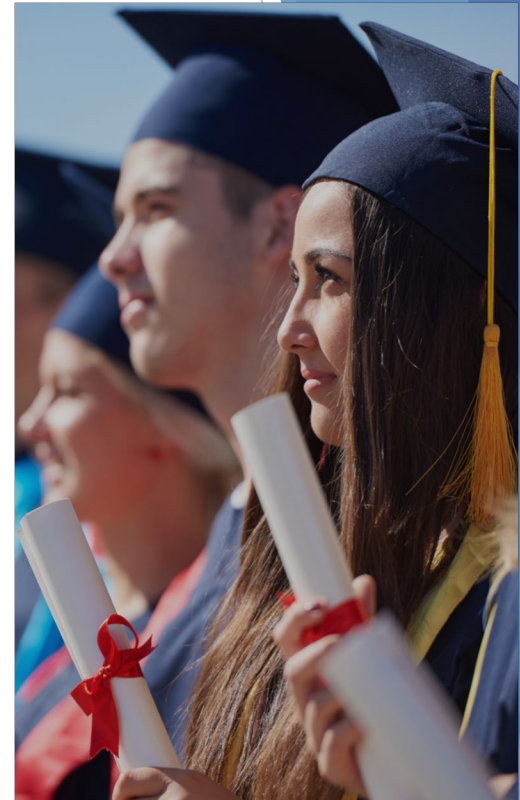
# Western Regional Graduate Program

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- ▶ 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](http://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

Field	# of Montana students	Support fees paid
Dentistry	14	\$374,500
Medicine (Allopathic)	26	812,411
Occupational Therapy	5	74,666
Optometry	6	110,550
Osteopathic Medicine	13	286,250
Veterinary Medicine	19	615,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>\$2,273,977</b>

*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*
- ▶ **Forum Annual Meeting (April 22-24 in Juneau):**  
*Who Really Matters in the Changing Landscape of Higher Education?*



**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 Pomnichowski**



**Senator  
Daniel Salomon**





# WCET - The WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies



The leader in the policy, practice, and advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education

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



Mountain Plains (HHS Region 8)

MHTTC

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

# 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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