

State of Alaska FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Education and Early Development Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Compact Component Budget Summary

Component: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Compact

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Component Mission

To provide, through programs administered by the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE), undergraduate and graduate educational access and information to Alaskan students studying or wishing to study in fields for which there are no programs operating in Alaska or which are offered to residents of member states in order to maximize the benefits of regional educational resources.

Component Services Provided

The component administers various WICHE programs in Alaska: 1) The Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) Loans; 2) The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE); and 3) The Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP). Administrative activities include advertising exchange opportunities to Alaskan residents; certifying Alaskan residents as eligible for participation under the various WICHE programs; presenting Alaskan issues and concerns to the member states; and assisting in the development of new programs which serve to expand postsecondary opportunities for Alaskans.

Component Goals and Strategies

ACPE serves as Alaska's agency for coordinating activities in the 15-state Commission through cooperative agreements with other states in the region. The goal of the WICHE Compact component is to provide undergraduate and graduate educational access and information to Alaskan students studying or wishing to study in fields for which there are no programs operating in Alaska or which are offered to residents of member states in order to maximize the benefits of regional educational resources.

In a period of increasing regional demand for access to education and training resources, this regional approach provides the broadest possible menu of educational opportunity to Alaskans. At the same time this approach allows the various public institutions to focus on the educational programs which are in greatest demand and which are tailored to the State's economic and work force needs. Alaska benefits from membership in this program not only through opportunities for students, but also from participation in regional research projects conducted by WICHE staff on educational trends throughout member states. For Alaska to continue to reap the benefits of participation in the WICHE Compact, Alaska's membership must be renewed annually.

Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004

No key issues anticipated for this component. ACPE will continue to administer Alaska's participation in the WICHE PSEP utilizing the education loan revolving fund of the ASLC as a funding source.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2002

1. Enabled participation of 1,499 Alaskan undergraduate students in the Western Undergraduate Exchange program, saving those students and their families approximately \$8 million in tuition costs.
2. Enabled participation of almost 183 incoming undergraduate students at the University of Alaska in the Western Undergraduate Exchange program.
3. Enabled participation of 25 Alaskan graduate students in the Western Regional Graduate Exchange Program.
4. Distributed program information statewide at the secondary school level.
5. Responded to approximately 1000 inquiries concerning these programs.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 14.44.010-060
20 AAC 16.010-090

**Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Compact
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0
73000 Contractual	99.0	103.0	103.0
74000 Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	99.0	103.0	103.0
Funding Sources:			
1106 Alaska Post-Secondary Education Commission Receipts	99.0	103.0	103.0
Funding Totals	99.0	103.0	103.0

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Compact

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004

No proposed changes for F2004.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2003 Authorized	0.0	0.0	103.0	103.0
FY2004 Governor	0.0	0.0	103.0	103.0