



Nevada Governor's Office of the Western Regional Education Compact

for the

Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Commission Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2018, 9:04 a.m.

In Attendance:

Fred Lokken – Executive Commissioner, WICHE

Gillian Barclay – Commissioner, Nevada WICHE

Lena Frias – Director, Nevada WICHE

Colleen Lennox – Accountant Technician 1, WICHE

David Gardner – Deputy Attorney General (DAG), Office of the Attorney General, Nevada

Guests:

There were no guests.

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Fred Lokken at 9:04 a.m. This meeting was posted in accordance with the State of Nevada's Open Meeting Law (OML).
2. **Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
3. **Discussion, recommendations and action regarding the Revised Minutes from the June 25, 2018 Commission Meeting, and the Draft Minutes from the August 7, 2018 Commission Meeting.** Discussion ensued. Fred asked Gillian Barclay if she had any questions; she did not. Fred motioned to approve the revised minutes from the June 25, 2018 Commission meeting (Attachment A), and the draft minutes from the August 7, 2018 Commission meeting (Attachment B), with no changes. Gillian Barclay seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Fred Lokken called for the vote; all voted aye, the motion carried unanimously.
4. **Director's Report.** The director's report (Attachment C) contained an update on: WICHE's 2019-2021 biennial budgets, performance measures and bill draft request; fiscal year 2019 applicant certification lists for PSEP and HCAP programs, and the agency's fiscal and program operations. Lena Frias presented her report verbatim (Attachment A). Discussion ensued. Fred Lokken thanked and complimented the Nevada WICHE staff. Discussion ensued regarding budget details, funding and program goals. Discussion ensued regarding travel items in the budget. Discussion ensued regarding the present status of WICHE's budget authority. Discussion ensued regarding the goal of adding needed staff to the Nevada WICHE office. Mention of a letter received from a past Vet Med WICHE recipient who is now employing a recent WICHE recipient in their local, rural practice. This highlights the long-

term effect of WICHE programs and the good that we do. (Attachment D) Discussion ensued regarding cash flow issues and filling slots.

5. Discussion, recommendations and action regarding Agency 017, Nevada WICHE/Governor's Office of the Western Regional Education Compact, Strategic Plan update (Attachment E).

Lena Frias updated the Commission on the status of her efforts to align WICHE's strategic plan more closely with that of the Governor to move forward from this point in time. She has addressed the issue of the operating environment which would be WICHE's internal variables, such as budget restrictions and current staffing resources and the continuous striving for status quo, which she hopes to change to more of a 'continuous improvement' mentality. More detail is needed in our Strategic Plan, (Attachment B), beginning with the Environmental Assessment section (Attachment B, p. 2, 3). She presented her suggested details, and discussion ensued. Lena then presented her additions to the goals, objectives and strategies section (Attachment B, p. 4, 5). All the goals and objectives tie out to the essential core functions of Nevada's Governor, discussed in more depth at the last Commission meeting, where the core functions that this Commission should support were identified, i.e. goal 3.2, goal 3.3, goal 4.2 and goal 1.1. She noted that at the last meeting, the commissioners did approve that this Commission should tie into objective 3.2.1 (closing the college attainment gap for traditional underrepresented populations), and 3.2.2 (expanding the availability of STEM-focused career pathways and training). The Commission also wanted a casual link that supports how we support the efforts to increase health care professionals in Nevada, a link which ties out to Goal 1.1, (leading the nation in high quality job creation); and Objective 1.1.4 (cultivating a diverse and inclusive work force and ensuring equal employment opportunities). Lena stated that she feels these goals and objectives in the attached document do tie in sufficiently into those core functions and do encompass those objectives in an over-arching manner. She then stated that further review of this draft may be needed before this draft is ready for approval. She asked the Commission whether they wanted to review these items in detail at this meeting or review them later and bring them back to the next Commission meeting, which should be in January before the next Session starts. Discussion ensued regarding whether extra time is needed. The commissioners prefer to take the extra time for review. Discussion ensued. Fred reflected that the Commission might even want to think a little more broadly, to have an Economic Development role, and perhaps invite someone in to discuss that with the Commission. He also commented on the issue of data and Nevada's position in the Nation regarding general practice physicians and psychiatrists. Fred discussed identifying why this Commission continues to work on this, and the data to support it. Gillian Barclay further discussed the need for new residency programs and how the role of WICHE will link to that economic development strategy. Discussion ensued regarding what the State is already doing to address this. Fred told Lena that she is free to schedule according to her needs and deadlines regarding possible actions and deferrals.

6. Report on November 2018 Regional WICHE meeting in Denver, Colorado. Fred Lokken stated that he found out at the meeting that Chet Burton was no longer a Commissioner. At the last minute, Gillian was not able to join them. The meeting was very interesting in that he had to go early as Executive Commissioner to interview the five final candidates for the position of President/CEO of WICHE. Discussion ensued regarding previous Presidents, and the relative importance of our external role at this time vs. the internal stabilization of the WICHE organization. The final recommendation was to hire the candidate who could best stabilize the organization, and who was the clear favorite. Discussion ensued. Demi Michelau is now in that role. Discussion ensued regarding her role in her previous position. Fred hopes that the decision will bring WICHE a National President who will serve for the next 17-20 years. That was David Longanecker's last meeting. The transition date was December 10th. That consumed the largest portion of the meeting. Fred then clarified that David reported that the fiscal situation of WICHE is extremely strong, with a very large reserve, including a \$26 million grant coming from the Bill Gates Foundation, which will be life-changing. Fred said

another focus point of the meeting was what had happened in the North Marianna Islands, where a devastating typhoon severely damaged the college. WICHE was promised that they would hear, as campuses and commissioners, how each state might be able to help the situation on the Northern Marianna Islands. Nothing has been forthcoming yet, but they may be waiting until the first of the year. There will be a call to see if they can shoulder together and help things. At the WICHE level, we were trying to see if we could get Microsoft and maybe Dell to donate computers. Fred continued that the next items addressed at the meeting was a series of reports and a data dump, which they usually get at the meetings, and all that is available for review on the WICHE.edu website. All the key updates and reports usually occur by this meeting time, and gave them that nice snapshot how each of the states are doing. They reported on the Passport Program, which has been teetering. This is for making seamless transfer in the Western States. Some people think that it just didn't work, but we do see more and more states signing on. We do hope that will be saved, because it will be a benefit to have a seamless method of transfer among the sixteen Western states. Discussion ensued. Gillian Barclay offered a recommendation. She didn't receive an email from WICHE about who the new E.D. for WICHE is, or even a bio. She felt that all commissioners should have gotten this. Fred stated that apparently not everyone got it. He apologized and will forward the information to them immediately after the meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the Mariannas, and their unique challenges. Discussion ensued regarding Demi and her history and past responsibilities with WICHE. Fred stated that he does have her bio and will forward that as well. Lena Frias advised the commissioners that she has a Director's Call to Meeting to be scheduled in January, so she can bring up that issue with them as well. Fred related that Bismarck, North Dakota is where the meeting will be next May. Discussion ensued regarding meeting dates. Fred said that Lena was complimented *in absentia* by several people at the meeting, for her progress in her new position, the relationships she had established and great communication. There is still a focus on cyber-terror issues that are bubbling within the organization. Discussion ensued regarding the meeting process.

7. Discussion of possible meeting dates with:

The University of Nevada Reno, Office of Statewide Initiatives and the Nevada Office of Rural Health to discuss definitions of medically underserved areas and populations of the State as required by NRS 397. Colleen Lennox spoke to the issues. Discussion ensued regarding getting a meeting set up to allow our partners to voice their challenges and concerns. The DAG and representatives of the University of Nevada Medical School agreed that a meeting would be required to address questions that have arisen. This meeting would be coordinated with Jordan Friend at the Medical School. She advised the commissioners to expect a communication from him about scheduling this informational meeting. Discussion ensued. Gillian Barclay raised the issue of the disconnect between the issue of the health professional shortage and that of health care access points for the underserved working population, as well as types of medical professions available to serve the underserved areas. She offered that this needs to be addressed more in-depth before any meeting to address these questions. Discussion ensued. Gillian stated that they could be meeting with the wrong entities if this is not addressed. Discussion ensued regarding the intent of this meeting and how to resolve the underlying questions for the somewhat narrow purpose for this meeting. Discussion ensued regarding legislative ramifications. Fred stated he believes that everyone would agree that Gillian could include others in the meeting who she feels would better address her concerns. Lena will follow up with Gillian to continue this discussion.

8. The University of Nevada-Reno, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources to review a request for state funds to subsidize out-of-state tuition cost for Nevada residents to attend USU/WSU Veterinary School. Lena explained the reason for this meeting. Fred discussed the background regarding the available schools which participate in WICHE, and the need for the

agency to fund more Veterinarians. Discussion ensued. The commissioners concur that this meeting is needed to address bringing Utah State and Washington State on board, to be Vet schools to which WICHE could possibly send funded students. Lena stated that she will plan to get a January meeting calendared and invite them to that meeting.

9. **The University of Nevada-Reno, School of Nursing, Dr. Stephanie DeBoor, Orientation on Nevada Nursing Programs and terminal degrees related to Nevada licensure and/or certification as required by NRS 397.** Lena advised the Commissioners regarding the need to meet with Dr. DeBoor in order to develop a better understanding of the different degrees and how they can be addressed, and the possible impact of online programs in the future. Colleen discussed the apparent confusion between programs and graduate degrees, and how this impacts the statutory mandate and levels of funding. WICHE staff needs a better understanding of this in order to be able to report those differentiations to the Legislature. Discussion ensued. Gillian strongly recommended that the meeting should be with the Director of Education under the Nursing Board, Dr. Catherine Prato-Lefkowitz. All concurred. Lena closed by stating that she will extend an invitation to our next to be determined Commission meeting to the people at Agriculture at UNR, and she will follow up on Gillian's concerns. Discussion ensued. Fred does want to understand things better.
10. **New business/future agenda items:** There was no new business.
11. **Adjournment.** Having no further business and receiving no public comment the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.