

**Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education  
(Nevada WICHE Commission) Minutes**

Nevada System of Higher Education  
System Administration Building  
2601 Enterprise Road  
Reno, NV 89512  
Room 114

Video or Telephone Conference Connection from the Meeting Site to:

Nevada System of Higher Education  
System Administration Building  
4300 S. Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89119  
Room 105

Friday, October 21, 2022, 10:00 am

**Members Present:** Mr. Fred Lokken, Executive Commissioner  
Ms. Cathy Dinauer, Commissioner

**Others Present:** Ms. Patty Porter, Director, Nevada Office of WICHE  
Ms. Renee Davis, Interim Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student  
Affairs and Community College  
Ms. Tina Russom, Esq., Deputy General Counsel

Executive Commissioner Fred Lokken called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

1. Information Only-Public Comment-No public comment.
2. Approved-Minutes-The commission approved the minutes from August 5, 2022, meeting. *(Ref. 2-WICHE Commission Meeting Minutes in NV Office of WICHE)*

Commissioner Dinauer moved to appeal the minutes from August 5, 2022. Executive Commissioner Lokken seconded. Motion carries.

3. Information Only-Commissioner Update-The WICHE Commissioners will discuss their activities as board members.

Commissioner Dinauer appreciated the information Director Porter provides for the WICHE Commission meetings. Executive Commissioner Fred Lokken concurred and expressed gratitude to Director Porter with support from Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Interim Vice Chancellor Davis and Research Analyst Jose Quiroga for their work in drafting the

Nevada Administrative Code regulations, submitting corrections to the biennium budget and meeting with staff doing due diligence.

Executive Commissioner Lokken met with the following:

-Acting Chancellor Dale Erquiaga to thank him personally for NSHE support. Acting Chancellor Erquiaga did inform Executive Commissioner Lokken that he had been updated on NV WICHE activities and in full support of their efforts. Executive Commissioner Lokken told Acting Chancellor that the Nevada Office of WICHE is where it should be and looking at other state WICHE offices, not as an agency, but this is for a future topic.

-Executive Director, WCET & Vice President for Technology-Enhanced Education Russ Poulin who asked if Executive Commissioner Lokken would consider taking the place of a retiring WICHE Commissioner as liaison from the regional WICHE Commission to the WCET Executive Board. Effective November 2022 regional WICHE Commission meeting Executive Commissioner Lokken will officially be the liaison to the WCET Executive Board. Executive Commissioner Lokken looks forward to this role and as the advocate of technology to the regional WICHE Executive Board.

Executive Commissioner Lokken shared that a lot of the work done by regional WICHE is carried out by the regional WICHE Executive Board of which Executive Commissioner Lokken is a member. The regional WICHE Executive Board meets monthly and have authority to approve decisions that cannot be presented to the regional WICHE Commission which only meets twice a year.

Executive Commissioner Lokken stated that the next meeting of the regional WICHE Commission is November 10-11, 2022, in Portland, Oregon and has advocated to the regional WICHE CEO for a new conversation regarding strategic planning at this meeting which will take place. Commissioner Dinauer stated that they will be attending this meeting as well.

Executive Commissioner stated that next WICHE Commissioner meeting was supposed to be in Nevada but with 2023 legislative session asked that it would be moved to 2024 and Arizona will be the location for May 2023 and California for November 2023. The meeting in Nevada can be held in northern or southern Nevada which is NV Commission choice. The cost to put on the conference is paid by regional WICHE. There will also need to be a decision on an evening activity during the Nevada meeting that will need to be decided.

Executive Commissioner Lokken also said there is discussion of having the regional WICHE CEO to visit Nevada in February of 2023. The purpose of this visit is for the WICHE CEO to meet with members of Nevada Legislature, Nevada Governor and NSHE Chancellor and staff since work regional WICHE conducts touches the interests of these groups and higher education.

4. Information Only-Director Update-Director Patty Porter will provide the Commissioners with an update on the activities of the Nevada Office of WICHE. *(Ref. 4a-NV Office of WICHE 2022-2023 Slot Matrix Changes, Ref. 4b-NV Office of WICHE FY 2024-2035 Slot Matrix Projections)*

Director Porter wanted to revisit the 2022-2023 Slot Matrix changes approved by the WICHE Commission on August 5, 2022 and pointed to the Ref. 4a in the attachment noting section FNP/APRN/DNP/Psychiatric Nursing that the number for FY 23 slots on handout provided at the August 5, 2022 meeting stated 11 when it should have stated 18 which was the number the

WICHE Commission approved for FY 23. The handout provided for today's meeting is corrected and states 18. Commissioner Dinauer had a question regarding why the MSN (2-year program, full time) and APRN/Psychiatric Nurse (2 year program, full time) was different from category of FNP/APRN/DNP/Psychiatric (2 year program, full time) because Commissioner Dinauer did not see a difference in the Nursing categories. Director Porter copied the format provided in the legislative closing packet for Health Professional Education Program (HPEP) which had Nursing broken up into MSN, APRN/Psychiatric and FNP/APRN/DNP/Psychiatric. Director Porter agrees with Commissioner Dinauer that these categories are the same thing and put the total number of Nursing slots in the FNP/APRN/DNP/Psychiatric Nursing category for the handout. Director Porter added that for 2023-2025 biennium budget would like to go with one slot category. Director Porter then reviewed the FY 2022 Gov. Rec. Slots versus the FY 2022 Actual Slots. Director Porter then reviewed the FY 2023 Gov. Rec. Slots versus the FY 2023 Actual Slots and noted the reduction in FY 2023 slots due to reduction in loan repayment revenue.

Executive Commissioner Lokken mentioned that Geriatric training was a category that was not funded before and a state senator who put in the bill for funding was for one biennium only. Director Porter did verify that they received Geriatric funding for FY 23 and question is will this be a line item for FY 24-25 biennium. Director Porter pointed out that from a discussion with UNR Nursing Associate Dean that not all Nurse Practitioners are in the same place in their Geriatric training, so it is challenging to meet a target of 10 slots unless you were looking at Nurse Practitioner in training. Director Porter did share that for FY 23 of the 5 slots for Geriatric training we have 2 contracts signed and 1 following up. Overall, the interest for Advanced Practice Nursing is very robust and has 25 inquires.

Director Porter then pointed out the FY 24-25 Slot Matrix Projections in a new format and asked if there were any other questions. Executive Commissioner Lokken said no questions and appreciated the format of the handout. Director Porter added wanted to clarify that for Special Consideration request to increase the Loan and Stipend account the correct amount is \$177,000 and not \$215,000 which was stated at the last WICHE Commission Meeting. It was a calculation error. The other item for Special Consideration was to reinstate 4 Veterinary Medicine Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) slots.

Director Porter then shared an update on the FY 22 budget close out. Total revenue for FY 22 (2021-2021) after reconciliation with NSHE Accounting staff was \$1,241,340.87 which includes base and loan repayment revenue. Total expenses for FY 22 were \$1,061,722 which included PSEP stipend paid in October 2021, May 2022, HPEP stipends in May 2022 and transfer to Division of Public and Behavioral Health Internship program. Minus the carryforward for FY 23 \$9,224.22, amount between May 15-June 30, 2022, leaves \$170,394.65 that reverted to the state for FY 22. This is a correction from amount stated at last WICHE Commission meeting on August 5, 2022, which stated \$262,188.64.

Director Porter then updated Commissioners on three HPEP, 1 Master of Social Work, 1 Master of Science in Nursing and 1 Mental Health Practice Nurse Practitioner participants who fulfilled their practice service in August 2022 and stipends were cancelled. All three are still paying off their loans and working in Nevada. Commissioner Dinauer asked if they are serving in medically underserved areas and Director Porter said all three are serving in urban medically underserved areas but still in Nevada.

Director Porter then shared update on search for Program Coordinator. Search was cancelled and reposted as shared position between Nevada Office of WICHE and NSHE Academic Student Affairs office. Supervision will be shared by Director of Nevada Office of WICHE and NSHE Academic and Student Affairs Research Analyst Jose Quiroga. Salary range changed from B to C with starting salary range between \$60,000-\$65,000. With more responsibility and opportunity with this position. Priority application date is October 23, 2022, with anticipated start date of December 1, 2022. Executive Commissioner Lokken asked if they have any interest in the position and Director said there have been few applications.

Director Porter then gave an update on search for NSHE Assistant Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Community Colleges which is a restructured position that will report to the Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs and Community Colleges. Once the position is filled then a recommendation to Governor's office will be made to submit this position as a candidate to fill the WICHE Commissioner vacancy. Interim Vice Chancellor Davis stated that search had a large pool and will meeting with candidates in early November 2022. Executive Commissioner Lokken asked if it would be based in Las Vegas and Interim Vice Chancellor Davis said yes. Executive Commissioner Fred Lokken stated that they have informed Governor's Office they would like to wait for this position to be filled.

Director Porter and Interim Vice Chancellor Davis met with Legislative Bureau Counsel (LCB) Daniel Crossman and LCB auditor who conducted the Nevada Office of WICHE audit via ZOOM on August 31, 2022, for an update on how Nevada Office of WICHE is addressing 2020 audit findings and date for appearance before Nevada Legislative Audit Subcommittee. Patty shared that the LCB audit finds focused on the need for improved verification of the participant program compliance and reconciliation of loan revenue repayment funds collected by loan servicer and deposited by accounting for Nevada Office of WICHE. Mr. Crossman mentioned that the first meeting of Audit Subcommittee is not going to happen until January 2023 and that agenda is already full so it may be an item on the consent agenda or at another meeting. Mr. Crossman asked for an update from Nevada Office of WICHE on how office is addressing the findings.

Director Porter met with Acting Chancellor Dale Erquiaga, Executive Vice Chancellor, and Chief of Staff Crystal Abba and Interim Vice Chancellor Davis on September 14, 2022, for a WICHE update on LCB audit, regulations, and possible request for ARPA funds.

Director Porter and Executive Commissioner Lokken met via ZOOM with Assistant Chief of Staff Daniel Stewart from the Governor's Office, Executive Commissioner Fred Lokken on September 28, 2022, via ZOOM to give update on Nevada Office of WICHE activities and submitted 2024-2025 biennium budget request as well as interest in ARPA funds. Executive Commissioner Lokken added that he wanted to explain why the loan component was eliminated in the 2021 Legislative session.

Director Porter then shared an update on the outcome of the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) October 20, 2022, meeting where the Nevada WICHE Commission had an item of information as an agenda item. The information item was a requirement set in the closing packet of the 2021 Legislative session that changes approved by the WICHE Commission must be sent to Governor's Finance Office (GFO) within 30 days for review. Once GFO reviews it they forward it on to LCB who then puts it as agenda item for the next IFC meeting. When the Nevada WICHE Commission approved the FY 22-23 PSEP and HPEP slot changes at the

August 5, 2022, meeting Director Porter sent a letter of intent detailing these changes to GFO for review which they then forward to the LCB who put in on the IFC meeting agenda as an information item for October 20, 2022. Interim Vice-Chancellor Davis accompanied Director Porter to the IFC meeting, and the Senator Heidi Seevers Gansert requested the information pulled from the consent agenda for questions. At 5:30 pm the information item was called, and Director Porter was able to give a brief explanation of stipends, slots, and changes in allocation of funding. Senator Seevers Gansert expressed concern in the drop of numbers for Nursing and Social Work. Director Porter responded that the drop in numbers for FY 22 was due to pandemic, unfilled support position and vacancy in directors' position at end of December 2021 and new director start date on May 2, 2022. Even with reduction in loan repayment revenue there is strong interest from applicants for FY 23 NV Office of WICHE programs. Director Porter feels confident we can close to our new slot numbers for FY 23. Senator Seevers Gansert responded that they need to look at Nevada Office of WICHE budget. It was encouraging to hear Senator Seevers Gansert response. Director Porter shared that Department of Behavioral and Public Health received approval for ARPA funding for Advanced Practice Nursing. Senator Benitez-Thompson asked the agency if they had consulted with WICHE. Director Porter mentioned it would be nice to visit with Senator Benitez-Thompson to express gratitude in getting the statute changed in 2021 and meet with Senator Seevers Gansert.

Director Porter also shared that along with Executive Commissioner Lokken met on October 7, 2022, via ZOOM with regional WICHE Director of Student Access, Margo Colalancia, regional WICHE Vice President, Programs and Services Raymonda Burgman Gallegos and other regional staff met to discuss best practices in retaining Veterinary Medicine Practitioners in their home state. WICHE Director of Student Access Colalancia shared that Nevada has one of the best retention rates for Veterinary Medicine practitioners compared to other WICHE states who are still struggling to find ways to retain practitioners. Practices currently used is rural counties boosting Veterinary Medicine Practitioners pay in their community and equipping urban practitioners with mobile options to go to rural areas. Also, there is a growing demand for urban areas as well.

5. Approved-Appointment Regional WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee-Director Porter requested action that the Commission approve action to appoint Nevada Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus, MD to the regional WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee.

Director Porter stated that there is a signed Nevada Open meeting law waiver for Nevada Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus, MD on file. Executive Commissioner Lokken stated that the regional WICHE Advisory Committee only meets once a year, expenses covered by regional WICHE, and it is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other state legislators.

Commissioner Dinauer made the motion to approve the appointment. Executive Commissioner Lokken seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. Information Only-New Business

Executive Commissioner Lokken said we need to have conversations about the future of the agency status and ensure that there are no issues with agency and NSHE. Strategies on how the agency can make difference in quality of life in Nevadans going forward and explore the possibilities of funding at the 2-year level.

Commissioner Dinauer requested an update on where the revision of the Nevada Administrative Code for Nevada WICHE Commission.

7. Information Only-Public Comment- No Public Comment

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 am

Prepared and submitted by:

Patty A. Porter  
Director, Nevada Office of WICHE