

Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Nevada WICHE Commission Meeting

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 (NSHE)
System Administration Building
4300 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Room 105

Friday, February 13, 2026, 1:00 pm

Via Telephone: Dial 1-253-215-8782, Meeting ID: 987 9931 4267, Passcode: 737596

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENDA AND PUBLIC MEETING

Below is an agenda of all items scheduled to be considered. Notification is hereby provided that items on the agenda may be taken out of the order presented, including moving an item to a different day if the meeting is noticed for more than one day, two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration, and an agenda item may be removed from the agenda or discussion relating to an item on the agenda may be delayed at any time.

Persons wishing to comment upon the agenda of Nevada WICHE Commission may appear at the scheduled commission meeting or may address their comments, data, views or arguments, in written form, to nwiche@nevada.edu. Written submissions must be received by the Nevada WICHE Commission on or before 10:00 a.m. on February 13, 2026. If no person who is directly affected by the proposed action appears to request time to make an oral presentation, the Nevada WICHE Commission may proceed immediately to act upon any written submissions.

Some agenda items are noted as having accompanying reference material. The agenda and associated reference material may also be accessed on the Internet by visiting the Nevada Office of WICHE website at: <https://nvwiche.nevada.edu>. Copies of reference material and any supporting materials that are submitted to the Nevada WICHE Commission after the posting of this agenda and before or during the meeting will be made available at the NV WICHE Commission Office, 2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, Nevada 89512. A copy may be requested by contacting Director Patty Porter by email at nvwiche@nevada.edu or by telephone at 775-784-4901. Copies of any such additional materials will also be available at Nevada WICHE Commission website at: <https://nvwiche.nevada.edu>.

The Commission is pleased to make reasonable accommodations for any member of the public who has a disability and wishes to attend the meeting. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify us via email at nvwiche@nevada.edu or call 775-784-4901 as far in advance as possible.

BOARD ROLL CALL: Mr. Fred Lokken, Executive Commissioner _____
Ms. Cathy Dinauer, Commissioner _____
Ms. Patricia Charlton, Commissioner _____

1. PUBLIC COMMENT**INFORMATION ONLY**

Public comment will be taken during this agenda item. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name. The Executive Commissioner may elect to allow additional public comment on a specific agenda item when that agenda item is being considered.

Members of the public wishing to provide public comment via telephone may do so by dialing Dial 1-253-215-8782, Meeting ID: 987 9931 4267, Passcode: 737596

In accordance with Attorney General Opinion No. 00-047, as restated in the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Manual, the Chair may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of, the Nevada Office of the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

2. COMMISSIONER UPDATES**INFORMATION ONLY**

The WICHE Commissioners will provide updates on their activities as commissioners.

ESTIMATED TIME: 10 minutes

3. DIRECTOR UPDATES**INFORMATION ONLY**

Director Patty Porter will provide the Commissioners with an update on the Nevada Office of WICHE activities.

ESTIMATED TIME: 5 minutes

4. MINUTES**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

The Commission will consider approval of the minutes of the October 16, 2025 meeting.
(Ref. 2-Nevada WICHE Commission Meeting Minutes October 16, 2025 meeting)

ESTIMATED TIME: 5 minutes

5. NEVADA WICHE 2024-2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**INFORMATION ONLY**

Nevada System of Higher Education Assistant Chief Financial Officer Rhett Vertrees will present an overview of Nevada WICHE 2024-2025 Financial Statement.

(Ref. 3-Nevada Office of WICHE Combining Statements of Net Position, Nevada Office of WICHE Combining Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position in 1,000's)

ESTIMATED TIME: 10 minutes

6. UPDATE ON NEVADA WICHE/UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY (USU) COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

USU College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Dr. Dirk Vanderwall and Professional Practice Associate Professor/Director of Veterinary Admissions Cathleen Kovarik will present an update on recruitment of Nevada residents and accreditation. The Commission may discuss next steps related to the stipend process

for the 2026-2027 academic year and efforts for future academic years and may take action to provide recommendations regarding future outreach recruitment efforts.

(Ref. 4-USU College of Veterinary Medicine Admissions and Recruiting Activities for the 2025 Calendar Year)

ESTIMATED TIME: 15 minutes

7. NEVADA RESIDENTS ATTENDING NSHE INSTITUTION WITH A PSEP PROGRAM **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Director Patty Porter will request for possible action

- a. Allowing Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) stipend slots to go to Nevada residents attending an NSHE institution that has a program, and
- b. If regional WICHE does not approve such action, delegating authority to the Director to reassign slots to Health Profession Education Program (HPEP) for such programs, dependent upon demand at NSHE institutions.

PSEP programs for students from Nevada currently include Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, 3-Year Accelerated Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine.

ESTIMATED TIME: 10 minutes

8. NEVADA WICHE 2027-2029 BIANNUAL BUDGET PRIORITIES **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Director Patty Porter will present the following recommendations for Nevada WICHE 2027-2029 biannual budget priorities for discussion and possible action:

- a. Request an adjustment of \$10,900 (\$5,400 for FY 28, \$5,500 for FY 29) in Nevada WICHE Administrative operations account for an estimated 3% increase in Nevada State Membership fee for 2027-2029 to continue Nevada's participation in the Western Regional Compact.
- b. Request an adjustment* of the Nevada WICHE Loan and Stipend budget for an increase in Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) support fees for 2027-2029. Fields currently supported by the Nevada WICHE Commission is Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, 3-Year Accelerated Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine. *Note: Support fee increases unknown, currently waiting on regional WICHE for amount.
- c. Request approval to increase PSEP program slots for the 2027–2029 biennium as follows: Physical Therapy (5 slots), and Physician Assistant (4 slots). These additional slots will be assigned to PSEP contingent upon regional WICHE approval allowing Nevada residents attending NSHE PSEP programs to qualify for the Nevada WICHE PSEP stipend.
- d. Request change in Nevada Revised Statute 397 language eliminating requirement for Health Profession Education Program (HPEP) to work in a medically underserved area in Nevada to anywhere in the State of Nevada so requirement is the same as PSEP participants. Nevada WICHE will promote to public Nevada Administrative Code 397.020, which allows for reduction up to 1 year of required practice in rural areas or as a full-time employee of the State of Nevada, as the incentive to work in most underserved areas in Nevada.
- e. Request flexibility from Nevada WICHE Commissioners for Nevada WICHE Director to adjust biannual budget requests due to changes in support fees from regional WICHE and finalizing budget with Governor's Finance Office.

ESTIMATED TIME: 30 minutes

9. NEW BUSINESS**INFORMATION ONLY**

Items for consideration at future meetings may be suggested. Any discussion of an item under “New Business” is limited to description and clarification of the subject matter of the item, which may include the reasons for the request, and no substantive discussion may occur at this meeting on new business items in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law (NRS 241.010 *et seq.*).

10. PUBLIC COMMENT**INFORMATION ONLY**

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This agenda has been posted at the following locations:

- Nevada WICHE’s website: <https://nvwiche.nevada.edu/>
- Nevada System of Higher Education: 2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512
- Nevada System of Higher Education: 4300 S. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89119
- Nevada Public Notice Website: <https://notice.nv.gov>