

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, March 05, 2019
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- CONVENED:** **Chairman Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Demaree Michelau**, President, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), presented WICHE and Idaho; Partners Since 1953. She said today's presentation will include the overview of WICHE, the highlight of key areas of partnership, and where Idaho belongs in the context of the region. She said Idaho joined WICHE in 1953 and works with a variety of other states and territories to deliver its mission. She said WICHE's role in the region is to promote access and excellence in higher education for all citizens of the West.
- WICHE has a 48-member commission and **Dr. Michelau** said two Commissioners are from Idaho; Rick Aman, President, College of Eastern Idaho; and Matt Freeman, Executive Director, State Board of Education. She said WICHE commissioners provide strategic direction for the organization, govern the work, and approve the work plan. She explained in detail the four programmatic units of work WICHE performs: 1.) Programs and Services; 2.) Policy Analysis and Research; 3.) Behavioral Health Program; and 4.) Cooperation for Education Technologies.
- Dr. Michelau** showed the Committee Idaho's placement in the context of all the WICHE participants. She detailed the following areas: high school graduates by race/ethnicity, undergraduate enrollment by institution, resident tuition and fees, student debt burden, levels of education, and postsecondary educational attainment (Attachment 1).
- In response to questions, **Dr. Michelau** said the drop in the forecasted enrollment is due to a lower birth rate during the 2009 recession. She said WICHE has three ongoing projects and detailed for the Committee the following: 1.) Recognition of Learning; 2.) Closing Postsecondary Attainment Gaps; and 3.) Behavioral Health Internships.
- Chairman Mortimer** thanked Dr. Michelau for the WICHE update.

RECORDING LINK: To hear the complete WICHE presentation, go to:
<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/standingcommittees/SEDU/>.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary