

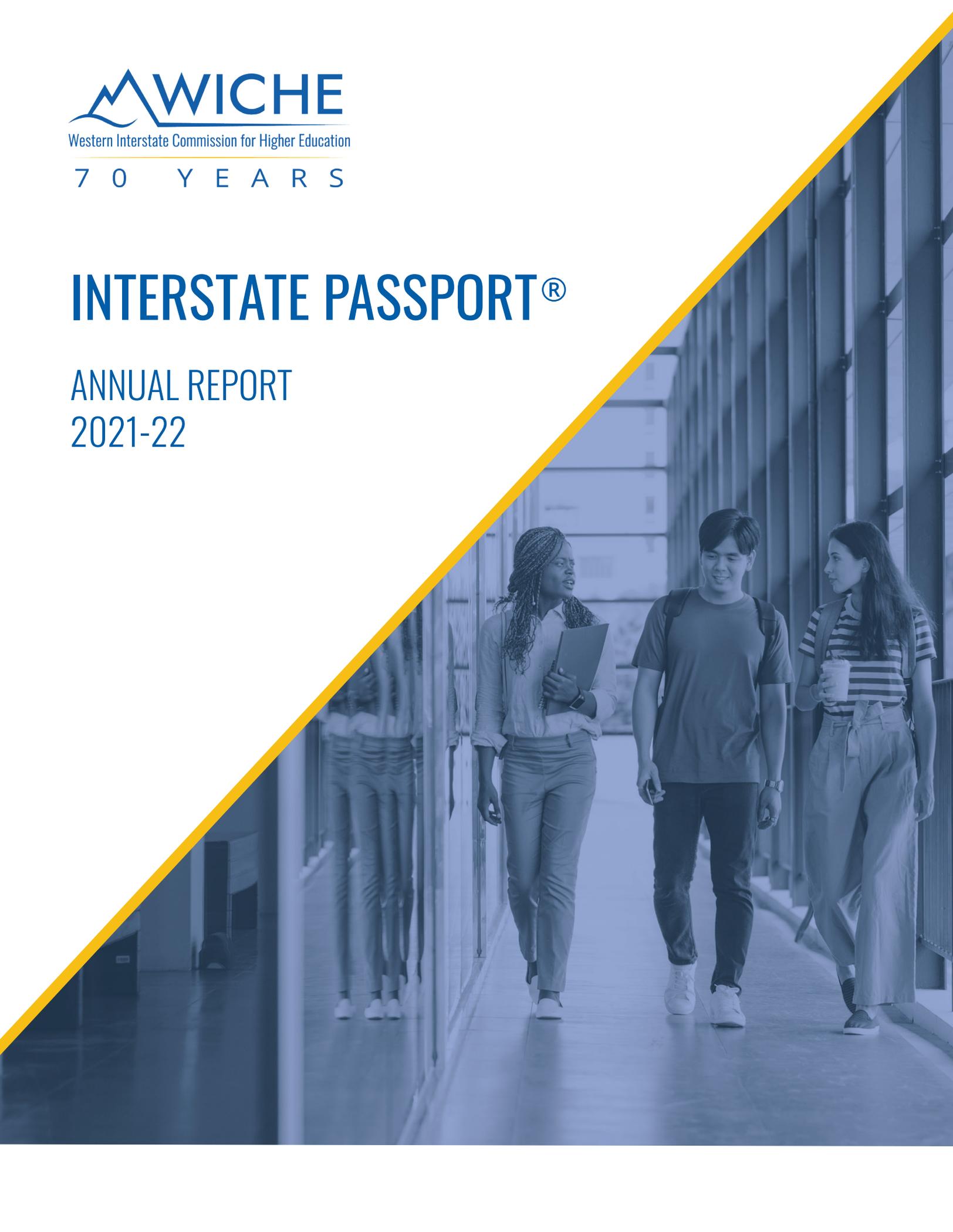


Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

7 0 Y E A R S

# INTERSTATE PASSPORT®

ANNUAL REPORT  
2021-22



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Friends and Partners _____	1
Membership Snapshot _____	2
Our Guiding Principles _____	4
Impact _____	6
Partnerships and Activities _____	8
Member Institutions _____	9
Our People _____	10

*Interstate Passport® is a program that enables block transfer of lower-division general education based on learning outcomes and proficiency criteria rather than on specific courses and credits. Students who complete a Passport at one Network institution will be recognized as having completed all lower-division general education requirements at any other Network institution. Its overarching goal is simple: to eliminate unnecessary repetition of academic work after students transfer. Faculty, registrars, institutional researchers, and academic advisors at institutions across the country designed all aspects of the program.*

Visit [interstatepassport.wiche.edu](http://interstatepassport.wiche.edu).

# WELCOME FRIENDS AND PARTNERS



An anniversary is a momentous occasion. Imagine the last party or work anniversary you celebrated. You remember the laughter, tasty food, speeches, and perhaps a few tears. So drum roll, grab your favorite treat, and outline the points you want to make. Interstate

Passport®, from concept to today, is marking 10 years.

Almost 75 institutions across the United States have brought hundreds of faculty and staff together to develop their institution's block of lower-division general education courses and systems to track student progress. Students transferring between Interstate Passport member institutions see more successful outcomes such as higher GPAs than peers who transfer without a Passport. There is also peace of mind when you know your prior work will be recognized, and no one will ask you to repeat previously learned content in your degree program. Interstate Passport aids in student's sense of accomplishment, gives students additional mobility, and reduces the costs of degree attainment.

For an institution, academic autonomy is preserved, and it can confidently recruit and enroll transfer students from Interstate Passport member institutions or strengthen relationships with its leading transfer institutions. Losing students is costly. Thus, retaining students who successfully navigate their degree programs is best for everyone. Administrative processes are also streamlined, especially in the registrar's office, where efficient transcript review is critical to students remaining on track. This Interstate Passport story led to nearly 90,000 students earning a passport and has likely bettered outcomes for many other students.

Over the next 20 years, no one predicts stagnation in postsecondary education. In 2021, the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education noted that personalization and customization, student

ownership, improved curricula, innovative learning spaces and environments, interconnectivity, real-world application plus project-based learning, and technology would be the key to positive student outcomes and institutional success in 20 years. The takeaway from this list and celebrating Interstate Passport's many achievements are the same. Let's consider these three questions as we ponder USC's prediction:

- How similar are these needs to what your current first-time and transfer students want?
- Which item on USC's list is within your reach, and do you have the resources to pilot an activity to help you achieve your goal?
- If told that interconnectivity is the most important thing you can do to improve transfer student outcomes, how would you change Interstate Passport's implementation at your institution?

Over the last 10 years, faculty and staff from dozens of institutions worked diligently, bringing their expertise to develop and implement the Interstate Passport program and sharing the goal of improving transfer outcomes for their students. At the end of AY 2021-22, it became clear to WICHE staff that while we are incredibly proud of the growth and accomplishments of the Interstate Passport Network, there was no path to self-sustained growth without additional grant funding. Interstate Passport program funding will end in December 2023. Your Passport Review Board and WICHE staff will be spending 2023 transitioning the work that faculty, staff, registrars, and advisors have done into tangible lessons learned through the life of this innovative program. Interstate Passport has taught us much, and the future is bright for you, utilizing the lessons learned to serve students.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Burgman Gallegos". The signature is fluid and cursive.

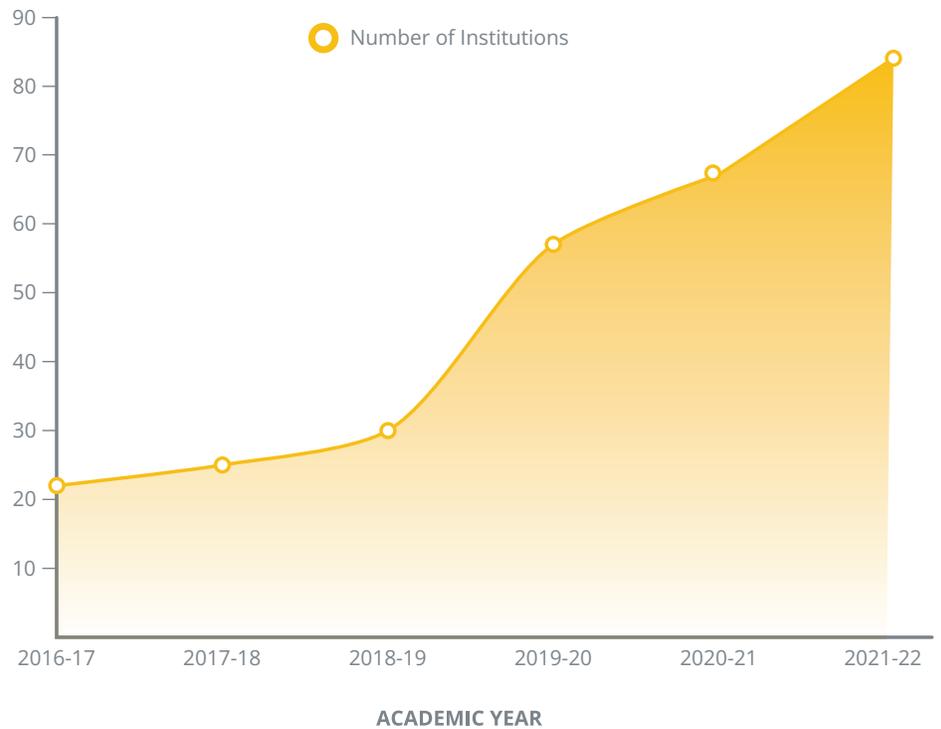
Raymonda "Ray" Burgman Gallegos, Ph.D.  
Vice President, Programs and Services  
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

# MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT

This national network of institutions enables block transfer of students' lower-division general education attainment based on learning outcomes. Interstate Passport® benefits students by simplifying transfer and reducing repetition of learning already achieved, thus saving students time and money, and fostering successful degree completion. In its sixth year of full implementation, Interstate Passport has continued to grow.

At the end of the 2022 fiscal year, the network has 71 member institutions spanning 21 states, including all the public two- and four-year institutions in four of those states.<sup>1</sup> To date, just under 90,000 students have earned a Passport.

## GROWTH OF THE INTERSTATE PASSPORT NETWORK



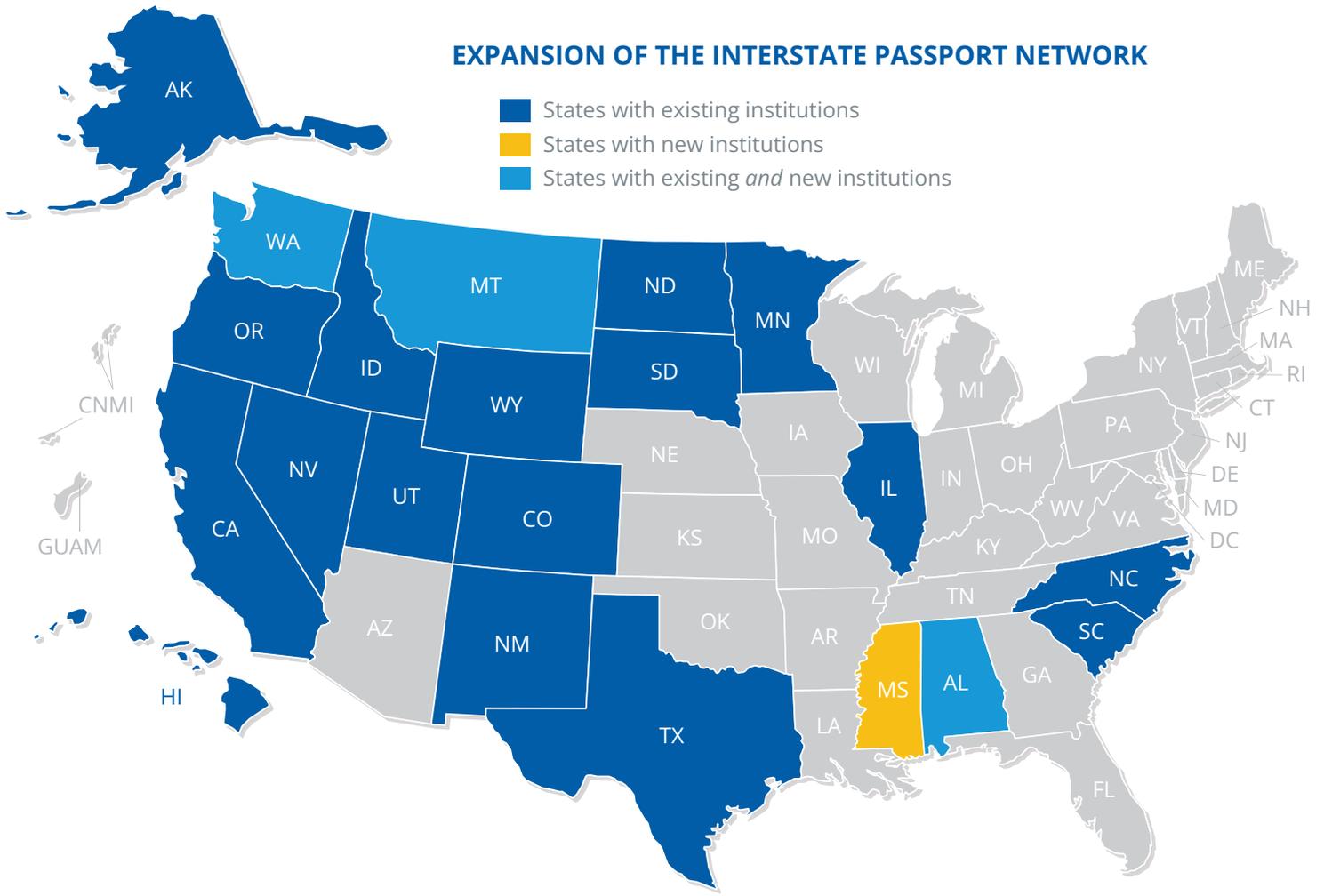
<sup>1</sup> Two institutions have joined the network since October 1, 2022 but are not included because they fall outside this report's fiscal year.

At the end of 2021's fiscal year, the network included all of the public two- and four-year institutions in **Alaska, Hawai'i, South Dakota** and **Utah**.

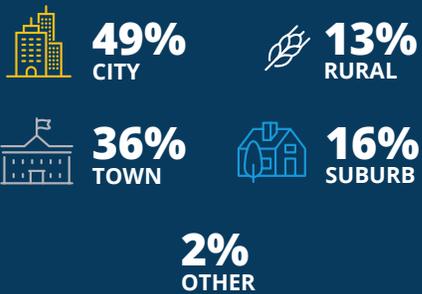
### Membership Tiers

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
26 Institutions	28 Institutions	16 Institutions
0 - 2,499 FTE Students	2,500 - 9,999 FTE Students	10,000+ FTE Students

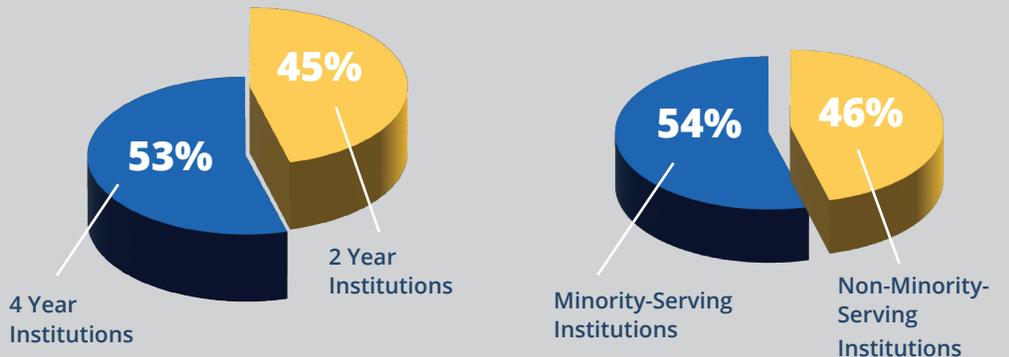
## EXPANSION OF THE INTERSTATE PASSPORT NETWORK



### Campus Settings



### INTERSTATE PASSPORT NETWORK<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> Air University is a Military Institution and has not been included in the calculation.

# OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## Student-Focused

As developed, the Interstate Passport® program remains a student-centered transfer experience. Traditional transfer costs students time, money, and motivation. By guaranteeing a block-transfer of lower-division general education credits, students can focus on their long-term goals without the burden of navigating multiple schools' requirements.

## Faculty-Driven

The 63 Passport Learning Outcomes (PLOs) that make up a student's Passport are negotiated and agreed upon by interstate faculty teams. Rather than prescribing Interstate Passport requirements, faculty at Passport institutions have determined that their school's lower-division general education learning outcomes are consistent with the goals of the agreed-upon PLOs. Interstate Passport relies on faculty governance and assessments to establish methods for students to demonstrate proficiency in the desired learning outcomes.



**"I was drawn to Interstate Passport work because of the focus on students and faculty. The Interstate Passport Network strives to give students full credit for all of their GenEd courses in transfer, saving them time, money, and frustration. Each of those factors can drive students from their college and career paths.**

**The Interstate Passport Network is built upon the collaborative work of faculty across seven WICHE states who developed our Passport Learning Outcomes. The outcomes are publicly accessible and based upon national best practices. As opposed to so many GenEd articulation agreements that are unclear or emerge from a "black box" that too often reduces transferability, faculty at participating institutions simply map their GenEd outcomes to the Passport, and the entire block of courses transfers to other member institutions. It's a powerful and elegant solution to a vexing national problem."**

– Dan Kline, professor emeritus, University of Alaska, Anchorage,  
Senior Advisor to the Interstate Passport program

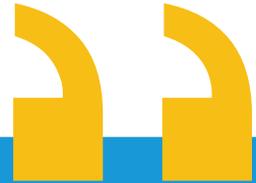


## Institutional Autonomy

The Interstate Passport program is unique in its ability to honor the distinct methods and values of different institutions and their ability to produce standardized learning outcomes. Rather than demanding standardization, Interstate Passport acknowledges that the curriculum and academic programs vary among institutions. This does not compromise the desired outcomes for students across all institutions, nor does Interstate Passport require the member institutions to change the language or goals of their existing general education requirements.

## Quality Assurance

An essential component of Interstate Passport is the data collection and tracking process designed to provide information on the academic performance of passport earners for use in continuous improvement efforts by member institutions and evaluation of the program's overall effectiveness. Registrars and institutional researchers have been key players in designing and implementing this process, including developing the steps for using the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) as the central data repository for the program.



**“The processes in place for institutions to report data on Passports awarded and to track the academic progress of Passport students post-transfer continue to work as designed in collaboration with the National Student Clearinghouse. The network continues to see overall positive results as it works to better understand the transfer population and the full impact of Interstate Passport across all of the dimensions reported in aggregate by NSC to the Passport Review Board.”**



– Michael Torrens, Executive Director: Analysis Assessment and Accreditation, Utah State University and Research Advisor to the Interstate Passport program

# IMPACT

In the **academic year (AY) 2021-22** (June 1-May 31), 19,205 students earned a Passport, following the trend from the previous year (in which 20,823 students earned a Passport). Before AY 2021-22, only 10,000-12,000 students earned a Passport each year. Almost 90,000 students have been reported as earning a Passport since the inception of the program, although that number is likely much higher.

In AY 2021-22, 30 of the 69 institutions with Passport blocks available reported awarding Passports in the 2021-2022 academic year, which is an all-time high. In comparison, 22 of the 40 institutions with Passport blocks reported data in AY 2020-21.

Though this year saw an improvement in reporting numbers overall, compliance with reporting requirements remains an issue. With 30 institutions

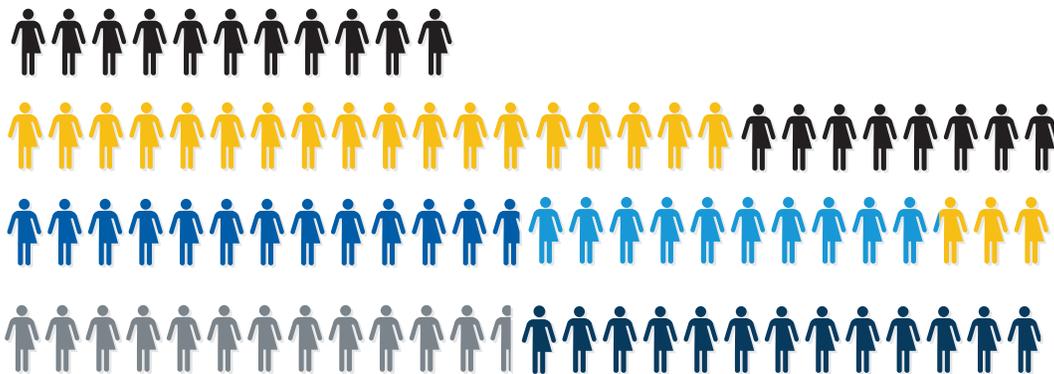
**TECHNICAL DETAILS:** The number of students who received Passports comes from data that members report annually to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) under an addendum to their institutional agreement with the NSC and includes some students from previously active members. The NSC aggregates the student-level data into a summarized form provided to WICHE for this annual reporting and quality monitoring. The NSC also provides institution-level reports directly to member institutions.

now reporting passports awarded, 58% of Interstate Passport® Network institution members did not report for AY 2021-22. Therefore, our understanding of how many Passports have been earned and any associated understanding of those students' progress, academic achievements, and overall performance related to this program remains challenged.

## IMPACT THROUGH ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22

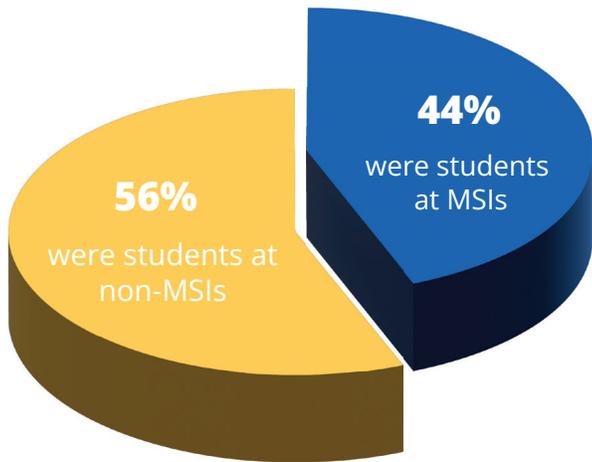
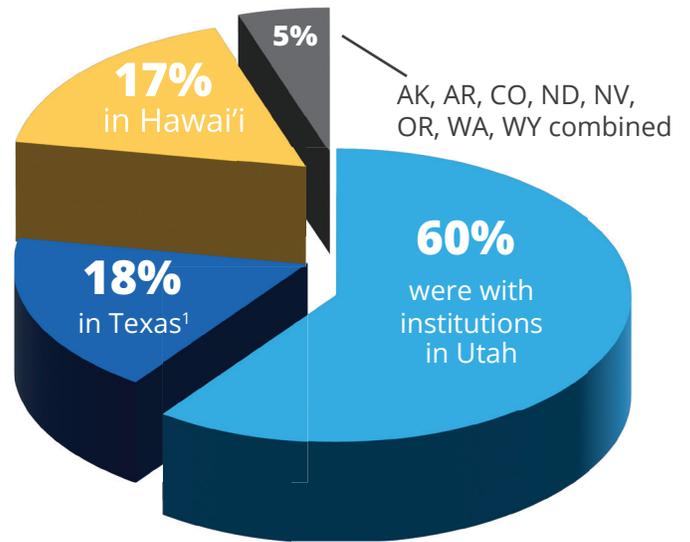
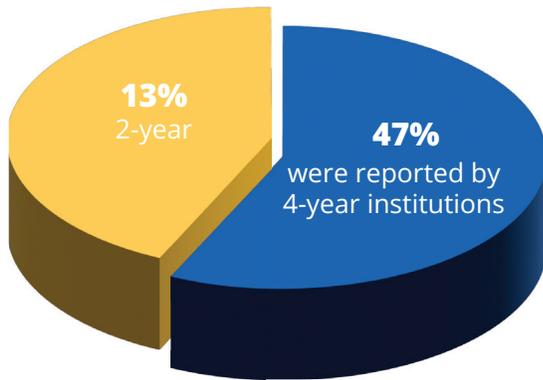
**KEY:**  = 1,000 students   2016-17   2017-18   2018-19   2019-20   2020-21   2021-22

### STUDENTS WITH PASSPORTS



**88,569** Total students

**AMONG STUDENTS REPORTED TO HAVE RECEIVED A PASSPORT IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022:**



**AVERAGE GPAs IN ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22 FIRST TWO TERMS POST-TRANSFER**



Members also report two terms of academic performance data to help evaluate how students with a passport compare to peer students. Thirty percent of institutions that had Passport blocks available in AY 2021-22 reported these academic performance data, an all-time high.<sup>1</sup> A review of the academic progress data reported to-date shows general trends across all reported dimensions that are similar to prior results.

<sup>1</sup> In AY 2021-22, an all-time high in reported awards was reported, thanks in large part to the reporting efforts by Dallas College in Texas.

# PARTNERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

## **Between October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022,**

the Interstate Passport® program staff traveled the country and partnered with internal and external stakeholders to deepen the impact and expand the program's reach.

### **Collaborations**

WICHE continued participating in ECMC Foundation's [Catalyzing Transfer Initiative](#) working with several other national organizations to improve transfer. WICHE's Interstate Passport staff gathered with staff from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), Education Commission of the States (ECS), Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP), and State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) in Denver, Colorado, in September 2022 to connect with other leaders in the credit mobility space, discuss the successes and challenges that Interstate Passport has experienced in the grant period, and consider future program innovations.

WICHE and New Mexico State University (NMSU) utilized a one-year capacity-building grant received in 2021 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to conceptualize a STEM Passport. Like the original Interstate Passport program, the STEM Passport would instead streamline the transfer process for students in the WICHE region and beyond, with a focus on students majoring in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

### **Presentations**

#### **November 2021**

Passport staff presented at the SHEEO Policy Conference in Washington DC.

#### **February 2022**

The Passport Review Board met virtually for its annual meeting.

Passport staff and Leeward College presented at the virtual National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) conference.

#### **April 2022**

Passport staff and the University of Hawai'i System presented at the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission Accreditation Resource (ARC) Conference in San Francisco, California.

#### **May 2022**

Passport staff presented at the biannual WICHE Commission Meeting in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

#### **June 2022**

Passport staff and NMSU presented on the STEM Passport concept at the annual conference for the National Science Foundation's Improving Undergraduate STEM Education grant program in Washington, D.C.

#### **August 2022**

Passport staff and WCET – the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies staff presented at the CU Boulder Badge Summit in Boulder, Colorado.

### **Member Engagement**

#### **February 2022 – August 2022**

WICHE staff held nine virtual Q&A open houses for registrars with registrar consultants from the University of Utah, Salt Lake Community College, and Laramie County Community College and our partners at the National Student Clearinghouse.

#### **April 2022 – October 2022**

WICHE Staff held 14 virtual information sessions for prospective institutions with assistance from Passport Review Board members.



School of Management  
and Labor Relations

# MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

## KEY:

- Minority Serving Institution
- New member institution
- Minority Serving Institution and new member institution

## Alabama

### 2-Year

- Air University

### 4-Year

- Athens State
- Stillman College

## Alaska

### 4-Year

- University of Alaska Anchorage
- University of Alaska Fairbanks
- University of Alaska Southeast

## California

### 2-Year

- East Los Angeles College
- Los Angeles City College
- Los Angeles Harbor College
- Los Angeles Mission College
- Los Angeles Pierce College
- Los Angeles Southwest College
- Los Angeles Trade-Tech College
- Los Angeles Valley College
- West Los Angeles College

## Colorado

### 4-Year

- Adams State University
- Fort Lewis College

## Hawai'i

### 2-Year

- Hawai'i Community College
- Honolulu Community College
- Kapi'olani Community College
- Kaua'i Community College
- Leeward Community College
- University of Hawai'i Maui College
- Windward Community College

### 4-Year

- Chaminade University of Honolulu
- University of Hawai'i at Hilo
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

- University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

## Idaho

### 2-Year

- North Idaho College
- College of Eastern Idaho

## Illinois

### 4-Year

- The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

## Minnesota

### 4-Year

- Concordia University, St. Paul

## Montana

### 2-Year

- Miles Community College

### 4-Year

- Montana State University - Billings
- Salish Kootenai College
- University of Montana

## New Mexico

### 2-Year

- Doña Ana Community College
- San Juan College

### 4-Year

- New Mexico Highlands University
- New Mexico State University

## North Carolina

### 4-Year

- North Carolina A&T State University

## North Dakota

### 2-Year

- Lake Region State College
- North Dakota State College of Science

## Nevada

### 2-Year

- Truckee Meadows Community College

### 4-Year

- Nevada State College
- University of Nevada Reno

## Oregon

### 4-Year

- Western Oregon University

## South Carolina

### 2-Year

- Greenville Technical College

## South Dakota

### 4-Year

- Black Hills State University
- Dakota State University
- Northern State University
- South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
- South Dakota State University
- University of South Dakota

## Texas

### 2-Year

- Dallas College

### 4-Year

- Texas A&M University-Central Texas

## Utah

### 2-Year

- Salt Lake Community College
- Snow College

### 4-Year

- Southern Utah University
- University of Utah
- Utah State University
- Utah Technical University
- Utah Valley University
- Weber State University

## Washington

### 4-Year

- Heritage University
- Washington State University

## Wyoming

### 2-Year

- Casper College
- Laramie County Community College
- Western Wyoming Community College

### 4-Year

- University of Wyoming

# OUR PEOPLE

## Interstate Passport Review Board



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Director of Institutional Research,  
South Dakota Board of Regents



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Member Services Coordinator



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Director of Strategy, Impact, and Academic Partnerships

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Director of Analysis, Assessment and Accreditation, Utah State University, Interstate Passport Institutional Researcher Expert



**OLOGA LOPU**  
Registrar, Salt Lake Community College, Interstate Passport Student Information System Expert (Banner)



**STACY MAESTAS**  
Registrar, Laramie County Community College, Interstate Passport Student Information System Expert (Colleague)

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK** the many institutional leaders, staff, and faculty who work tirelessly to implement Interstate Passport on their campus. Each campus has a team that includes an institution liaison who serves as Interstate Passport staff's primary contact and takes the lead in organizing campus staff to apply for membership and coordinate policies and procedures for participation. The name of each member's institution liaison can be found on its member profile page on the [Interstate Passport website](#). Other members of the campus team include representatives from the office of the registrar, institutional research, campus marketing, academic advising, military and veteran affairs, and faculty.

WICHE would also like to thank Patricia (Pat) Shea for her tireless work on behalf of the Interstate Passport program over the years. Shea retired from her position as the Director of Academic Leadership Initiatives in 2019 after spending 22 years working to improve access to education for students in the West. After her retirement, Shea continued to work as a consultant for the Interstate Passport program until June 2022. We are grateful for her dedication to the development and growth of the Interstate Passport program. Many thanks as well to other WICHE staff who worked on Interstate Passport during the AY 2021-22 year: Jenn Raby, former project coordinator, and Kay Hulstrom, associate director of operations and leadership initiatives.



Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

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