

# ***Student Reciprocity Programs and MSEP in the 21st Century***

***Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP)***

***Thursday, October 7, 2021***



Resources  
available on the  
MHEC website  
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# Presenters



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# Learning Objectives

- Identify current trends and causes in changing student enrollment numbers
- Compare and contrast the regional compacts' tuition reciprocity programs
- Communicate observations and recommendations for the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP)

# It Was Time to Review

- Midwestern Higher Education Compact's (MHEC) MSEP was established in 1994
- Complete change of the higher education environment
- Is MSEP still relevant

# Decline of Enrollment Numbers

# Reason 1: Lack of population growth

A December 2019 report from the National Student Clearinghouse® Research Center™ revealed a nationwide decline in fall college enrollments of more than 2M from 2012-2019 with the trend expected to continue.

- Traditional-aged college students
  - Loss of job opportunities for parents caused migration outside of the Midwest
  - Great Recession led to less childbearing
  - Decline of high school graduates
    - After 2025, according to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's *Knocking at the College Door* report, the number of high school graduates will drop from 720,000 to 670,000

# Reason 2: COVID

- Traditional-aged college students
  - Increase in gap years
  - Educational uncertainty
  - Financial concerns
    - Numerous conversations in the media about student debt crisis
  - Stay closer to home
  - Avoid COVID hotspots

# Reason 3: Lack of interest in the traditional college experience

- Traditional-aged college students
  - Seek shorter, career-focused programs that don't warrant an out of state move
  - Growth in online courses and programs
  - Stackable credentials that don't lend themselves to a four-year residential college experience
  - Increase in the number of programs aligned with needs of local employers



# Reason 4: Decline of Out-of-State Tuition Model

- Non-differential tuition rates
  - Illinois – 5 institutions
  - Michigan – 4 institutions
  - North Dakota – 4 institutions
- Institutions have other means to bring out-of-state tuition down to in-state levels
  - Merit
  - Athletic
  - Tuition break
- Examples
  - Southeast Missouri State University Redhawks' Achievement Award
  - University of Michigan – Dearborn's Tuition Differential Scholarship
  - Both cover the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition

# Reason 4: Decline of Out-of-State Tuition Model

- Loss of revenue from not charging higher out-of-state tuition is compensated by the greater number of out-of-state students attracted to the school because of the price reduction
- Educational policymakers have criticized the out-of-state tuition model as ineffective and inefficient; hinder students from attending the college that is the best fit to meet their education goals

- Over the last three years, MHEC's MSEP has seen
  - 13 institutions and two states withdraw from the program

# Increase of Enrollment Numbers

# Increase of Enrollment Numbers with Implications for Reciprocity Programs

- Students from traditionally underserved populations including low-income, first-generation are enrolling more
  - National Center for Education Statics projections suggest between 2016 and 2026, the enrollment growth of
    - Black students: 20%
    - Hispanic students: 26%
    - Students from two or more races: 36%



- Caveats
  - Likely to attend
    - college close to home
    - part-time
    - two-year institutions

# Regional Student Exchange Programs

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- Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)
  - Midwest Student Exchange Program
- New England Board of Higher Education's (NEBHE)
  - Tuition Break
- Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)
  - Academic Common Market
- Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
  - Western Undergraduate Exchange

These are undergraduate programs. SREB and WICHE have separate similar initiatives for graduate studies.

# Regional Students Exchange Programs at a Glance

	MHEC	NEBHE	SREB	WICHE
<b>Program Name</b>	Midwest Student Exchange	Tuition Break	Academic Common Market	Western Undergraduate Exchange
<b>Start Year</b>	1994	1957	1974	1987
<b>Participation</b>	State and institutional participation is voluntary	All states and all public community colleges, state colleges and universities participate due to their state's membership in the Compact	All states but one participates due to an agreement in 1973; institutional participation is voluntary	State and institutional participation is voluntary
<b>Includes Private Institutions</b>	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Limited to Specific Academic Programs</b>	No	No	Yes	No

# Observations and Recommendations for MSEP



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- Review and clarify program goals
- Update and optimize MSEP policies
- Improve, expand, and support MSEP data collection
- Improve MSEP administration

# Thank You