

**Office of the State Board of Education  
WICHE Professional Student Exchange  
(Field of Optometry)  
Strategic Plan  
2010-2014**

**Mission Statement**

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and its 15 member states provides expanded student access to higher education programs through the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP). With PSEP, Idaho students have an opportunity to enroll in professional schools offering academic programs not available in our State. Idaho pays a standard "state support fee" to WICHE that varies in amount with each academic program and in return, an Idaho student can attend a professional educational program in another WICHE at approximately that state's resident tuition cost. While many academic program options exist under the WICHE PSEP program to include medical schools, Idaho currently only participates in the field of Optometry. The State supports two new Optometry students each year or an annual total of eight students through four years of training. The State's participation in WICHE not only provides an opportunity for Idaho students to study Optometry but also helps ensure an adequate supply of Optometrists to meet the needs of our citizens.

**Goal I**

Attract high quality Idaho students to the WICHE PSEP program that also have an interest in returning to Idaho to practice Optometry.

**Performance Measure**

Number of students applying for each funded seat per year  
Number and percent of Idaho supported students returning to Idaho to practice Optometry

**Benchmark**

Attract two well qualified applicants for each position filled  
50 percent of graduates return to Idaho to practice Optometry

**Goal II**

Produce two highly-trained and fully-qualified Optometrist each year

**Performance measure**

Pass rate on the National Board of Examiners Optometry Examination

**Benchmark**

100 percent pass rate on Board of Examiners Optometry

**Key External Factors Beyond Agency Control**

While applicant screening will include interest in practicing in Idaho, the program has no control on factors which will ultimately dictate the location and opportunities pursued by program graduates. Funding for this program depends on continued financial support from the Idaho Legislature.