Welcome to today’s WCET Webcast

December 3
The webcast will begin shortly.
There is no audio being broadcast at this time.
An archive of this webcast will be available on the WCET website next week.
# Digital Learning Regulatory Outlook

December 3
Welcome!

Use the question box for questions and information exchange.

Slides and resources available will be emailed to attendees next week.

Slides can be downloaded via the link in chat.

Follow the Twitter feed: #WCETWebcast.

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Live Captioning Provided by Our Sponsor
Questions from the Audience

If you have a question during the presentation, please add your questions to the question box.

We will monitor the question box and have time for Q&A at the end of the webcast.
Moderator

Russ Poulin
Executive Director
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Speakers

Van Davis
Policy and Planning Consultant, WCET
Principal, Foghiam Consulting

Cheryl Dowd
Director
State Authorization Network

Fred Lokken
Professor, Truckee Meadows Community College
WICHE Commissioner
2020 Election Review

2016 Election

2020 Election
2020 National Election Overall Results

• Joe Biden wins.
  • Nearly 7 million popular vote margin.
  • First presidential candidate to surpass 80 million votes.
  • 306 Electoral votes (270 needed to win).

• US Senate results:
  • 50 Republican seats/48 Democratic seats/run-off election for 2 Senate seats in Georgia January 5th.

• US House of Representatives results:
  • 222 Democratic seats/211 Republican seats (2 seats still undecided).
Issues of the Presidential Race/Election

• Dominance of split-ticket voting, split-ballot voting and Dual-Party rule voting.
• Charges of "stealing the election" "fraud" "criminal activity" "corruption" – all focused on the introduction of mail-in balloting during the pandemic.
• Failure of national polling data (again) – predicted a Democratic wave.
• $$ spent on the presidential/Federal races record-breaking.
• Impact of the pandemic – holding a major election during a pandemic.
State Races

Governors
- 27 Republican
- 23 Democrat

State Senates/Upper House
- 30 Republican
- 20 Democrat

State Assembly/Lower House
- 30 Republican
- 20 Democrat

- Democrats failed to flip any legislative chamber.
- Republicans are well-positioned to control reapportionment in 2021 ensuring most/all of these states remain Republican.
- Implications for 87 seats in the House of Representatives and the political balance for the US Senate.
Observations

• Damage to the American electoral process – credibility attacked – will be difficult to repair.
• Transition turmoil – damages incoming presidential race winner (Biden).
• Divided US Senate – regardless of which party controls, will make governing for Democrats more difficult.
• Can Biden return the Federal government to an era of bipartisanship, compromise, and productivity?
• Policy implications – a very moderate agenda (no Left/Right).
A Brave New World?
Plan for Education Beyond High School

• Invest in community college training to improve student success and grow a stronger, more prosperous, and more inclusive middle class.

• Strengthen college as the reliable pathway to the middle class.

• Support colleges and universities that play unique and vital roles in their communities.
Invest in Community College Training

- Two years of community college or “other high-quality training program” without debt.
- Community college student success grants.
- $500 billion in workforce training.
- $1 billion for community college facilities and new technologies.
Strengthen College as the Reliable Pathway

• Tuition-free college for families making less than $125,000 through first dollar funds.
• Double Pell grant maximum award.
• “Stop for-profit educational programs from profiteering off of students.”
Support Colleges and Universities That Play Unique and Vital Roles

• Over $70 billion for HBCUs, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority Serving Institutions.
  • $20 billion for infrastructure.
  • $10 billion for enrollment, retention, and student success.
• 20 billion for rural broadband.
Regardless of whether institutions re-open for face-to-face instruction, navigating this regulatory landscape and educating faculty and staff on the importance of these regulations as a means of ensuring quality will be critical. Understanding and ensuring that institutions follow the associated regulations improves pedagogy, protects the institution from loss of financial aid eligibility and/or accreditation, and bolsters educational quality.
Topics & Appendix

Topics:
• Accreditation
• Federal Financial Aid Regulations
• State Authorization and Professional Licensure
• Course Level Regulations
• Student Civil Rights

Appendix:
Special Topic Publications p.68
• Catalyst for Change: Institutional Accreditation in the Midst of Covid-19
• Federal Financial Aid Regulations
• Structure Your Accessibility Work
• Financial Aid Basics
• State Authorization
Moving Forward

Watch for rules to change!

Lessening of Waivers and Flexibilities

End of Waivers and Flexibilities

Waivers and Flexibilities by the Department do not necessarily apply to states or accreditor oversight.

Watch carefully as we may be moving toward the end of forgiveness!
Questions from the Audience
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Access to the resources discussed during this webcast, including the archive, will be available next week.

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