

Group provides educational services

By MARIAN GREEN
Of the Emerald

Higher education has found a friend in a program that works to improve education in the West.

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education is a non-profit regional organization with 13 member states and a goal "to provide high quality, cost effective programs to meet the educational and manpower needs of the West."

WICHE's services range from student exchange programs and internships to nursing and health resources. It also provides services in minority education, mental health and economic development.

WICHE receives almost one-quarter of its general operations funding through legislative appropriations from each member state. Other sources of funding come from private contributions and grants.

Each member state has three commissioners who serve on a WICHE board of directors.

Oregon's state systems chancellor Roy Lieuallen is one of Oregon's commissioners.

Although WICHE covers a wide variety of programs, Lieuallen says all the programs are related to higher education.

According to Lieuallen, WICHE's main program relates directly to higher education — the student exchange program.

Under the program, students can enroll in out-of-state school majors and pay in-state tuition, Lieuallen says.

"It provides the mechanism for students to come to our medical school from Montana (which doesn't have a medical school)."

Member schools pay a set amount to cover the tuition difference, Lieuallen says.

During the last academic

Browne concert tickets available in EMU, Feb. 3

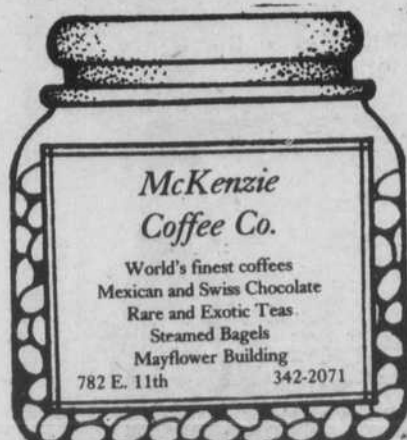
Jackson Browne will play a benefit concert for No Nukes on Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. in McArthur Court.

Tickets go on sale Feb. 3 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 108 of the EMU.

University students can buy two student-priced tickets with a current fee card and can reserve six additional tickets by name. Those tickets can only be claimed by the person named with proper identification.

Tickets cost \$7.50 for University students and \$8.50 for general public for seats on the main floor, bleachers, first and second balconies. Tickets are \$6.50 for University students and \$7.50 for the general public for seats in the third balcony and behind the stage.

The Pacific Alliance and the EMU Cultural Forum is sponsoring the event.



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WICHE gives to higher ed

year, WICHE sponsored 1,353 students who enrolled in 15 professional programs in 50 western institutions.

Several years ago, Lieuallen and two other commissioners received a Carnegie Foundation of cooperative graduate education programs.

The study's outcome suggested establishing a cooperative, regional graduate program in five northwest states.

This year WICHE's member states are asking their state legislatures to approve the regional graduate program. The program would be similar to the

student exchange program, but schools accepting students would eliminate non-resident tuition for approved graduate programs totally, Lieuallen says.

The five states in the program are Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. Of the 32 programs approved in 14 schools, 12 programs are in Oregon schools.

Programs were included if they were of "demonstrated quality" and were not found in more than one other school, Lieuallen says.

Lieuallen presented the proposal to Oregon's Legislature at the end of January. And

because the proposal is expected to pull its own weight, Lieuallen says he is confident the Legislature will approve the proposal.

"It would reduce pressure on schools to set up masters programs in certain fields and would reduce duplication of fields."

As a result, Lieuallen says, "programs will become stronger."

"It does, to some extent, threaten them (schools), but in the long run, no one organization can provide everything to everyone."

WICHE also sponsors work-

shops, research and community education programs to improve the quality of nursing, mental health, minority education and economic development.

The workshops and research programs help higher education institutions match their educational programs closer to the needs of these areas, Lieuallen says.

Although overall improvement can be seen in these areas, Lieuallen says it's difficult to measure how much of the improvement is due to WICHE programs.

"You do lots of things that you have hope and faith in and never know, with finality, whether they will produce good results."

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