Multi-State Longitudinal Data Exchange

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The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

- WICHE: An interstate compact formed 65 years ago
WICHE’s Role in the Region

- Promotes access and excellence in higher education for all citizens of the West through:
  - Regional collaboration
  - Resource sharing
  - Sound public policy
  - Innovation
WICHE’s Programmatic Units

- Programs and Services
- Policy Analysis and Research
- Behavioral Health Program
- WCET – WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies
State Data Systems are becoming more robust

- 42 states and DC currently link or plan to link postsecondary to workforce data
- 16 states and DC have full P20 data systems
- Data systems shed light on diversity and include elements that address equity gaps and student and workforce outcomes
- States are developing dashboards and other means of sharing data with stakeholders

Source ECS, 50 State Comparison, SLDS, 2019
https://www.ecs.org/state-longitudinal-data-systems/
The problem

- State data systems tend to respect state borders
- But students, workers, and employers don’t
- Consumer information, data for policy adjustment, and accountability measures can be based on incomplete data
For example: there are community colleges near the NY and NJ border
There are also many hospitals near the NY and NJ border.
One possible solution:
The Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange
Lesson 1: Governance really matters
Lesson 2: Architecture and Design is also key