

# **Stewards of Place: Regional Comprehensive Universities and Their Importance to State and Local Communities**

**CGS 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting – San Francisco  
Thursday, December 8, 2022**

# Panelists

- Kristen Eichhorn, Dean, Graduate Studies, State University of New York, Oswego
- Brian Kloeppel, Dean, Graduate School and Research, Western Carolina University
- Chevelle Newsome, Dean, Graduate Studies, California State University, Sacramento

# SUNY OSWEGO

- SUNY System- 1 of 62 campuses
- One of 13 regional comprehensives
- Location: Lake Ontario in Central NY
- Enrollment: 8000 (approx. 1000 graduate students)
- Over 40 grad programs across Oswego and Syracuse campus + Online
- Graduate Studies Staff: Dean, Assoc. Dean, Director, Counselor, Admins
- Centralized Admissions---Quality of experience---Degree Confirmation.



# Our Master's Programs:

MBA and MBA-Health Service Administration

MST & MSED: Teacher Preparation (Prof +Initial)  
Adolescent/Childhood/Special Edu/CTE/Technology  
Higher Education Leadership

Human Computer Interaction  
Biomedical and Health Informatics  
Chemistry

Art and Graphic Design  
Strategic Communication

School Counseling, School Psychology, Mental Health

**Additional: CAS, Graduate Certificates and Microcredentials**



# Challenge

- Reconciling the changing needs of graduate students
- Removing barriers to access and completion





# Solution

- Strategy for change
- Collaborative partnerships with community



# Contact Information

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## Western Carolina University



Overall Enrollment Fall 2022: 11,635 students

Graduate Enrollment Fall 2022: 1,679 students  
(14%)

# Graduate Programs: 46 including 6 doctoral

Regional Comprehensive University

Publicly-Funded

University of North Carolina System

Founded in 1889

Main Campus: Cullowhee, NC

Instructional Site: Asheville, NC at Biltmore Park

Online Programs



# Challenge



## International Student Recruitment

Submitted applications have increased from 301 in 2021 to greater than 2,000 so far in 2022

Quality of applicants have been good with more than 300 applicants accepted.

Visa appointment scheduling has delays of greater than 14 months in some countries

**Visa Issuance has been less than 3%**

Too few out-of-state tuition remissions has absolutely been a contributing factor

# Timely Solution



## Solutions

- More out-of-state tuition remissions
- Increased visa appointment capacity to decrease wait times
- Larger graduate assistantships



Sacramento: 3,001 Graduate Enrollment  
Carnegie Classification: Master's: Larger Programs  
Carnegie Community Engagement Classification

Redefine the Possible



Chevelle Newsome

Graduate Dean



# ***"What Drives Our Future?"***

## **Challenge:**

How can regional comprehensive universities meet local and state workforce demands and serve as a place for engagement between the graduate students and faculty with local entrepreneurs and business leaders?

## **Solution:**

Align resources and efforts to cultivate purposeful, long-term, mutually beneficial community partnerships that confront systemic inequities, engages industry, governmental and regional partners; transforming the lives of students and strengthening our communities.

