

# FRAMING GROUNDED GLOBALISM:

Higher Education Internationalization in the Rocky Mountain West

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# Framing Grounded Globalism:

Higher Education Internationalization in the Rocky Mountain West

- Globalization and Grounded Globalism
- Defining the Rocky Mountain West (RMW)
- Uniqueness of RMW and Its Impact on Comprehensive Internationalization
- Grounded Globalism and RMW Opportunities for Furthering Internationalization
- Suggested Strategies for Implementing Grounded Globalism

# Globalization

- “...tendency for similar policies and practices to spread across political, cultural and geographical boundaries.” (Dimmock & Walker, 2005, p. 13)
- Expansion of interconnectedness around the globe
  - *Inevitable process*
- For higher education, this means Comprehensive Internationalization
  - *Global competence through coordinated strategic initiatives*

# Grounded Globalism

- Dr. James Peacock, University of North Carolina
- *Grounded Globalism: How the U.S. South Embraces the World* (2007)
- Seven-Step Model and Global Identity Hypothesis: Far Away and Deep Within
  - *“...describes and prescribes syntheses of international connections and local traditions that are fueled by energies from both”* (p. ix)
  - *“...fusing a transformative global identity to a sustaining regional identity – a fusion that potentially enhances the strength of both identities and their potential for energizing action”* (p. x)
- How do I relate to the nation?
- How do I relate to the world?



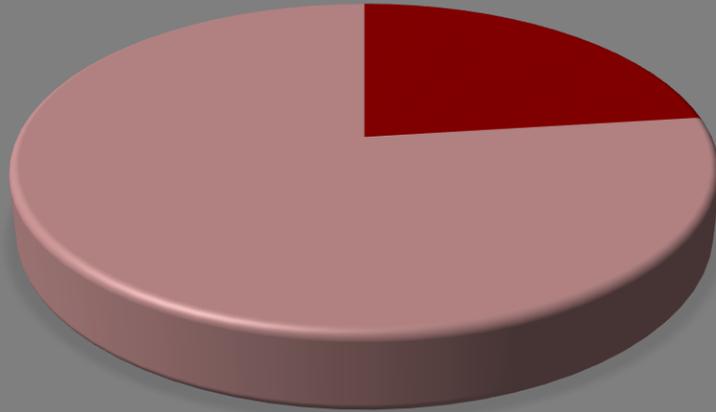
# Defining the RMW

- Region 4, Mountain Division
- 8 states
  - *Arizona*
  - *Colorado*
  - *Idaho*
  - *Montana*
  - *Nevada*
  - *New Mexico*
  - *Utah*
  - *Wyoming*

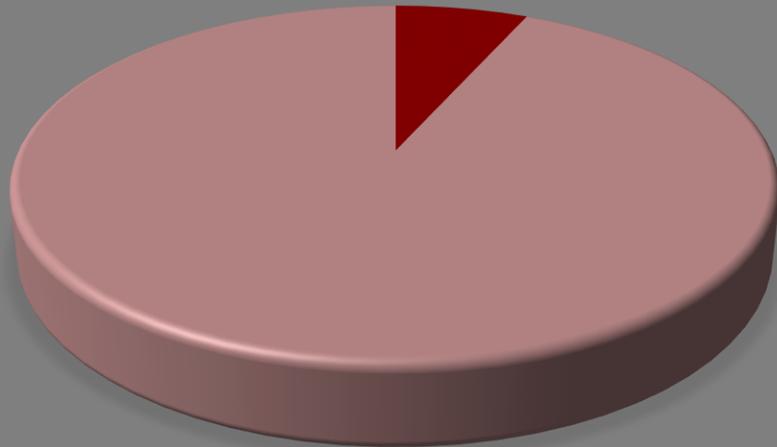
# Demographics

- 863,970 square miles
- 23% of U.S. territory
- 22 million residents
- 6.7% of U.S. population

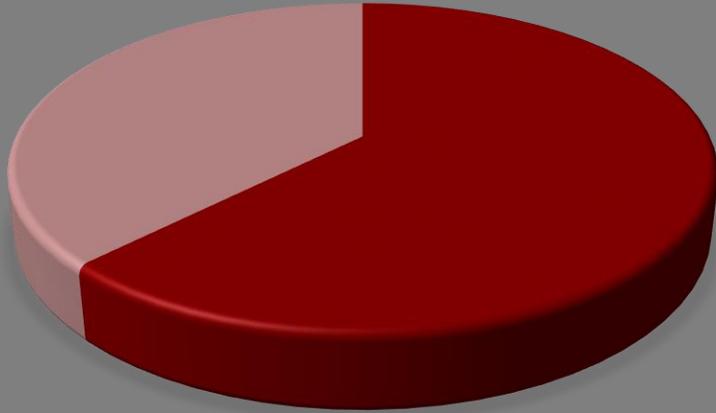
U.S. TERRITORY



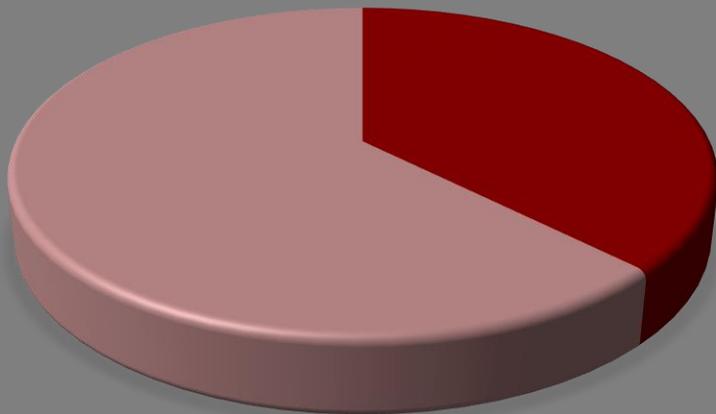
U.S. POPULATION



>80% WHITE



≈90% WHITE



State	White Population
Arizona	73%
Colorado	81%
Idaho	89%
Montana	89%
Nevada	66%
New Mexico	68%
Utah	86%
Wyoming	91%

# Defining the RMW

- Physical geographies
- Human geographies
- “Defined not only by its elevation and slope, but also by its peculiar diversity of environments, by its hoards of concentrated resources, and by a unique convergence of historical events which occurred in this setting during the past 150 years.”
- “And even though the western mountains are a fragmented and discontinuous collection of separate ranges that extend from the Rockies to the Pacific Slope, these seemingly isolated places share a special character and coherence which binds them together as a distinctive American subregion.”

(Wyckoff & Dilsaver, 1995, p. 2)



# Defining the RMW

- Independence
- Appreciation of Natural Landscape
- Healthy Lifestyle
- Work-Life Balance
- Pride in Western Heritage
- Frugality

# Uniqueness of RMW and Its Impact on Comprehensive Internationalization

- Remoteness
- Insularity
- Rurality
  - *Lack of large urban spaces*
    - Idaho, Montana, Utah
    - Cities <250,000 inhabitants
  - *Limited international and intercultural experiences*
    - Results in a narrow understanding of comprehensive internationalization

# Uniqueness of RMW and Its Impact on Comprehensive Internationalization

## IMPACT ON STUDENT MOBILITY

- Education Abroad
  - *Remoteness*
  - *Income*
    - Five states in bottom half of Income per Capita ranking
      - *Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and, New Mexico*
  - *Anticipated psychological stress of intercultural encounters*
    - Ethnocentrism
    - Cultural distance
    - Limited intercultural experience due to low diversity levels

# Uniqueness of RMW and Its Impact on Comprehensive Internationalization

- RMW – ‘Off the Radar’
  - *Few institutions in top 100 of HE world university rankings*
  - *International students seeking urban locations*
- Faculty
  - *Regionally oriented*
  - *Limited international exposure*
- Limited access to HE
  - *Five RMW states rank in the bottom half for educational attainment (percentage of population with bachelor’s degree)*
- Limited availability of resources invested in international HE
  - *Frugality*
  - *Sense of independence*

# Strategies for Grounded Globalism in the RMW

- Peacock's U.S. South and the RMW
  - *Isolationism*
  - *Uniqueness of mindset*
- Comprehensive Internationalization
  - *HE's response to globalization*
  - *Impactful way to affect long-lasting sustainable change*
    - Economically
    - Demographically
    - Politically
    - Culturally
    - Psychologically
  - *Possibility of a new and globalist frame of reference for the region*
    - "Because the rest of the nation is no longer the dominant framework; the world is." (Peacock, 2007, pp. 23-26)

# Strategies for Grounded Globalism in the RMW

- High level networking with state officials and business leaders
- Higher impact on community and state
  - *As opposed to a single university in a metropolitan area*
- Faculty members from more cosmopolitan areas and international locations
  - *Strongly support internationalization*
  - *Counter the more underdeveloped level of the university*

# Strategies for Grounded Globalism in the RMW

- Natural resources and the environment
  - *Issues connected to key global challenges*
  - *Core issues of global education*
- Value given to experiential learning
  - *Contributes to more openness to participation in beyond-the-classroom experiences*
    - Service Learning, Internships
    - Connecting communities during experiences abroad (partnerships, education abroad)
- Common initiatives
  - *Perceived as being more pressing*
  - *Receive more attention due to leadership's consciousness of and responsiveness to the RMW's uniqueness and its challenges and opportunities*

# Strategies for Grounded Globalism in the RMW

- Consulting or advisory boards and councils
  - *Assist in strategic planning and outreach*
  - *Involving community representatives who have had significant international experience*
- Fluency in multiple languages
  - *Addressed strategically in several RMW states*
  - *Implementation of K-8 language immersion programs*
- Finding creative global linkages to regional affairs and areas of regional interest
  - *Partnerships with universities in similar regions of the world with related research, economic interests, similar peculiarities, and common points of identity*
  - *Sustainable and more effective partnerships*

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