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Western Governors University Extends International Presence With Virtual University of Mexico in Electronic Ceremony

SALT LAKE CITY, UT -- Western Governors University (WGU) today agreed with the Universidad Virtual del Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), the virtual university of Mexico, to consider the exchange of both English and Spanish language distance learning courseware for their students worldwide. The agreement was signed by Mike Leavitt, governor of Utah and co-chairman of the WGU Board of Trustees; Jeff Livingston, CEO of WGU; and Carlos Cruz Limon, president of the Virtual University of ITESM.

The ceremony took place at the Utah State capitol building and was carried live over the World Wide Web via Utah's EdNet distance learning network.

This event marks the fourth international agreement for Western Governors University. Other agreements have been completed with Tokai University in Japan, University of British Columbia in Canada, and The Open University in the United Kingdom.

The agreement will extend the ability of each institution to reach new markets with their distance learning courses and degree programs. The memorandum of agreement states that ITESM and WGU will work cooperatively to:

- promote international education and further the understanding of the international delivery of educational programs;
- exchange information on effective international delivery mechanisms;
- remove national barriers to the exchange of courses and programs;
- search for opportunities to collaborate educationally and administratively including opportunities for the joint delivery of courses and degree programs; and
- examine opportunities for joint ventures and other modes of working together including consortia and other cooperative efforts.

About ITESM

ITESM is a national educational system that incorporates 26 campuses located in 25 cities in Mexico. It also includes international extensions and is accredited in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) which awards undergraduate, master's, and doctorate degrees. The Virtual University of the Monterrey Institute of Technology (VU) brings together a system of educational teaching-learning processes, which operates utilizing the most advanced technologies in telecommunications, electronic networks, and multimedia. It offers courses to more than 40,000 students each semester at the high school, undergraduate, graduate level, and continuing education as part of the Virtual University's commitment in supporting campuses of the Monterrey Institute of Technology. It extends educational services to 78 sites in Mexico, Latin America, USA and Canada.

The Monterrey Institute of Technology has the mission of educating individuals who are committed to the social, economic and political improvement of their communities, and who are internationally competitive in their areas of their specialty, while carrying out research and extension relevant to Mexico's sustainable development.

About Western Governors University

Western Governors University was formed in 1997 as a result of the interest of the governors of the western United States to share higher education distance learning resources. WGU is a competency-based, degree-granting, virtual university that delivers cost-effective education using the Internet and other advanced telecommunications and networking technologies. WGU's mission is to expand educational opportunities for learners everywhere, offering courses from a wide array of sources. Educational access will be provided to a dispersed population of students who might not otherwise have access to higher education and to those needing workplace training. WGU corporate offices are located in Salt Lake City, Utah, with academic offices in Denver, Colorado.