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Amy Carmer
Western Governors University
801-575-5358
acarmer@wgu.edu

[Vision, History
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Western Governors University Receives \$500,000 AT&T Grant

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SALT LAKE CITY, UT -- Western Governors University (WGU) today received a \$500,000 grant from AT&T, strengthening the commitment from major corporations currently supporting this unique education initiative.

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"Our corporate partners realize the significance of Western Governors University and our unique position to deliver quality distance education in both the public and private sectors," said Jeff Livingston, CEO of Western Governors University. "AT&T's significant contribution reaffirms our position and certainly bolsters our ability to deliver quality education." Tom Peltó, AT&T's law and government affairs vice president, presented the grant during the WGU-sponsored "Technology Standards for Global Learning" conference in Salt Lake City. "Education is a top community concern, and AT&T is committed to supporting projects that benefit education and the needs of the public," said Peltó. "The impressive growth of the Western Governors University since last year proves that we're on target in funding innovation in higher education. We're excited to be a part of it."

[FAQs](#)

"Once again AT&T has stepped up to the plate with a significant grant that allows Western Governors University to move forward and take advantage of new technology, enhancing higher education in Colorado and rest of the country," said Colorado Governor Roy Romer. "With this kind of support, WGU can continue its revolutionary path into the future of education." Governor Romer serves as co-chair of the WGU Board of Trustees. With the \$500,000 contribution to WGU, AT&T becomes the largest single corporate partner to the initiative with contributions exceeding \$750,000, including major sponsorship of the Global Learning conference. Last year, AT&T became the first corporate donor with a \$250,000 cash contribution. Since then, other major donors have joined the effort, including Apple Computer, Cisco Systems, IBM, International Thompson Publishing, KPMG, Microsoft, Novell, Sloan Foundation, Sun Microsystems and 3Com. WGU is a unique higher-education initiative designed to provide a wide range of distance learning opportunities. WGU's innovative thrust results from its value-added brokerage of courses through its online Catalog, and its unique offering of competency-based credentials. WGU seeks not to replace traditional campuses, but rather to expand access through technology.

WGU does not employ teaching faculty or develop its own courseware. All academic content, both for the WGU credential and for the brokering function, is furnished by other providers such as educational institutions and corporate training programs.

About AT&T

AT&T Corp. is the world's premier communications and information services company, serving more than 90 million customers, including consumers, businesses and government. The company has annual revenues of more than \$52 billion and 130,000 employees. It runs the world's largest, most sophisticated communications network and is the leading provider of long-distance and wireless services. AT&T operates in more than 200 countries and territories around the world. The company also offers online services and access to home entertainment, and has begun to deliver local telephone service. In addition, AT&T offers outsourcing, consulting, systems-integration and customer-care services to large businesses and manages one of the world's largest credit card programs.

About Western Governors University

Western Governors University was formed in 1997 as a result of the vision 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. Its corporate offices are located in Salt Lake City, Utah. WGU's academic offices are in Denver, Colorado.