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### President Clinton Lauds Agreement Between Western Governors University and China

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#### *White House endorses WGU pact with China Internet Education Center*

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SALT LAKE CITY -- President Clinton today hailed the agreement between Western Governors University (WGU) and educational leadership in the People's Republic of China as a model for building relations between the two countries.

"This agreement between Western Governors University and the China Internet Education Center offers us an excellent opportunity to use technology to expand access to information and increase cooperation between our two nations," the president said. "I commend the leadership of both institutions for their innovative ideas and for demonstrating the kind of positive working relationships that can be built between the peoples of the United States and China."

Under the agreement, WGU and the CIEC plan to collaborate on the development and delivery of distance learning programs, extending the ability of both institutions to reach new student markets and to tap an even broader selection of courses and degree programs.

"It's marvelous to receive the president's support and be recognized for our efforts to use technology for the educational benefit of people worldwide," said Dr. Jeffery Livingston, CEO of WGU. "The agreement is a vivid example of how global needs can help unite two countries."

A joint statement issued by WGU Board of Trustees co-chairs Governors Michael O. Leavitt (Utah) and Roy Romer (Colorado) acknowledged the president's endorsement. "We're very pleased that Western Governors University has received the favorable attention of President Clinton and his administration. The president recognizes that global leadership in the next century absolutely depends on the skills and knowledge of our people, which in turn, depends on improving our capacity to provide the highest quality of education."

The agreement is the fifth international alliance forged by WGU. Other agreements include: Tokai University in Japan; University of British Columbia in Canada; The Open University in the United Kingdom; and the Virtual University of the Monterrey Institute of Technology in Mexico.

#### **About the China Internet Education Center**

The China Internet Education Center (CIEC) was established in late 1997 with authorization from China Telecom to explore ways to set standards for distance learning procedures, administration methods, technologies and market demand pricing. In addition, the CIEC is charged with tracking and developing new technologies, as well as expansion of distance learning markets in China. The CIEC has agreements with more than 10 universities in China and plans to enroll nearly 3,000 Internet students this fall for graduate and post-graduate studies.

#### **About WGU**

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 by offering online access to courses from universities, colleges and corporate training programs through its unique SmartCatalog™.

WGU 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's administrative offices are located in Salt Lake City, Utah, and its academic offices are in Denver, Colorado.