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### Western Governors University Receives \$250,000 Sloan Foundation Grant

#### *Latest grant helps WGU fulfill distance learning mission as university prepares for open enrollment*

SALT LAKE CITY -- Western Governors University (WGU) announced today that the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, one of the nation's leading philanthropic foundations and a current member of the university's National Advisory Board, has presented WGU with a \$250,000 grant. This is the second endowment WGU has received from the Sloan Foundation, which has now committed a total of \$750,000 to the virtual university since 1996.

"The Sloan Foundation is very pleased to be able to make this second grant to the Western Governors University. WGU is built on a visionary premise, and that vision is now becoming a reality. We are delighted to reaffirm our support," said A. Frank Mayadas, program director for the Sloan Foundation, and representative to the WGU Board of Trustees and National Advisory Board.

The grant is offered to WGU under the Sloan Foundation's Program in Learning Outside the Classroom. The program has a central theme of exploring new outcomes in science and engineering higher education -- made possible by access to remote learning resources through current, affordable technology.

"The Sloan Foundation has been a strong supporter and an active participant in helping set our strategic direction since our inception two years ago," said Dr. Jeffery Livingston, WGU CEO. "We certainly appreciate their continued financial support to WGU, and also commend the foundation for its ongoing commitment to improving distance learning systems nationwide."

In addition to its financial commitment, the Sloan Foundation is a member of the WGU National Advisory Board, a prestigious group of representatives from major corporations and organizations. Established in 1997, the advisory board provides business and industry perspective in the planning, implementation and operations of WGU. Each member company also provides financial and in-kind business support to WGU. Other members include: AT&T, Apple, 3Com, Cisco, IBM, International Thompson Publishing, KPMG, Microsoft, Novell and Sun Microsystems.

#### **About The Sloan Foundation**

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is a philanthropic, nonprofit institution established in 1934 by Alfred P. Sloan, Jr. Foundation efforts are concentrated in five key program areas, including: Science and Technology; Standard of Living and Economic Performance; Education and Careers in Science and Technology; Selected National Issues; and Civic Projects. During 1996, the Sloan Foundation authorized grants totaling \$53 million. The market value of the Foundation's total assets at the end of 1996 was in excess of \$1 billion.

#### **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.