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News Brief - 1/18/99

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Leadership Changes Underway at Western Governors University

Dr. Jeffery Livingston marks the end of three-year service for WGU; continues support of life-long learning -- accepting appointment at Weber State University, Ogden

Dr. Robert Albrecht named to new WGU chancellor post

SALT LAKE CITY -- The Western Governors University (WGU) Board of Trustees announced today that Dr. Jeffery Livingston's service as WGU's CEO will conclude Feb. 1, 1999. The announcement marks the end of Livingston's two-year commitment as CEO, a position he accepted in February 1997 at the request of the WGU Board of Trustees and Board co-chairs Gov. Michael O. Leavitt (Utah) and Gov. Roy Romer (Colorado). Livingston also served for one year as co-director for WGU prior to his 1997 appointment as CEO.

"Dr. Livingston has played a tremendous role in WGU's formation, launch and operations. His leadership over the past three years has been integral to WGU's success. We certainly owe him our thanks for making this significant commitment and we wish him well in his future endeavors," said Gov. Leavitt.

Albrecht Named WGU Chancellor

The WGU Board of Trustees also announced today the appointment of Dr. Robert Albrecht as chancellor of the university. Dr. Albrecht has been serving as WGU's chief academic officer since its founding in 1997. He also served a one-year co-director term for WGU. As chancellor he will oversee all WGU academic areas including curriculum and program development, provider relations and student services. "This is a great time to be involved with distance learning. Much has changed in the past couple of years and that pace is certainly accelerating," said Albrecht. "I look forward to helping facilitate the growth and delivery of quality educational services at WGU."

The WGU Board of Trustees also indicated that WGU and The Open University-US are initiating a search for a Chief Operating Officer to head the soon-to-be-formed Governors Open University System (GOUS). GOUS is in the process of being created under an agreement between WGU and The Open University-US.

As Livingston prepares to end his service with WGU, he has also accepted an appointment at Weber State University, in Ogden, Utah, as dean of continuing education. Livingston previously served at Weber State in both administration and faculty positions from 1980 to 1993. "WGU's impact on distance learning and higher education has exceeded my expectations from the beginning," said Livingston. "I'm certain that WGU will continue to take a national leadership role in related areas and that it will offer unparalleled benefits for students in the United States and around the world."

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 Catalog.

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.

