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### **Mendenhall Named New President of Western Governors University**

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*Former CEO and founder of Wicat Systems named to university's top position*

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SALT LAKE CITY — The Western Governors University (WGU) Board of Trustees announced today the appointment of Robert W. Mendenhall as president of WGU. As the university's new president, Mendenhall assumes responsibility for WGU's overall operations in support of its strategic mission to deliver competency-based learning at a distance. The announcement was made Friday in Salt Lake City during the university's regularly-scheduled National Advisory Board and Board of Trustees meetings.

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WGU Board of Trustees co-chairs Governors Michael O. Leavitt (Utah) and Gary Locke (Washington) were pleased to make the announcement on behalf of the entire 14-member Board. In a joint statement, they praised the choice of Mendenhall. "Western Governors University has established itself as a prominent distance learning institution in a very short amount of time. Bob Mendenhall brings to WGU a unique combination of successful entrepreneur, a seasoned operating executive and a committed educator. We believe he is the right person to build on our existing momentum, and to lead WGU to the next level in providing high-quality education to our students."

Mendenhall has more than 20 years experience in the development, marketing, and delivery of technology-based education. He is currently completing his doctorate in instructional technology at Brigham Young University, and has had his own consulting business for several years. Previously, he was general manager of IBM's K-12 education division, and prior to that was an executive vice president at Jostens Learning Corp.

From 1980 through 1992, Mendenhall was a founder, president and CEO (from 1987) of Wicat Systems, Inc., a leader in providing computer-based curriculum, instructional management and testing to schools, and technology-based training for government and industry.

In commenting on his new position, Mendenhall said, "The Internet is changing the way goods and services are delivered, giving rise to new kinds of enterprises. I am excited to join an organization in the forefront of both Internet-based and competency-based education, with the prestige and progress already evidenced by Western Governors University. I believe that with the support of the governors and our corporate partners, WGU can indeed establish new models of delivery in higher education."

Mendenhall replaces former WGU CEO Dr. Jeffery Livingston, now dean of continuing education at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.

#### **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 1996 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.

