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Utah Power Donates First Teacher Scholarships for Western Governors University

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Grant of \$32,500 will assist Utah educators to bring the latest in technology-based learning to their classrooms and districts

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SALT LAKE CITY – Western Governors University today announced that Utah Power is presenting a grant from the PacifiCorp Foundation to help fund advanced degree programs for Utah teachers. The \$32,500 check was presented today to Governor Mike Leavitt, co-chair of WGU's Board of Trustees, by Richard Walje, vice president of Utah Power.

The funding will provide five scholarships for WGU's innovative master of arts degree program in learning and technology. This new program is designed especially for teachers in K-12 who are using technology in their classrooms today. The degree program was recently endorsed by the Utah State Board of Education for participation by Utah teachers. Fifty scholarships will be available to classroom teachers and district technology coordinators in all 41 Utah school districts.

"The master of arts in learning and technology helps educators to better integrate technology in their classrooms and design new courses taking advantage of the latest tools," said Robert Mendenhall, president of WGU. "Utah Power's generous support will assist teachers and district coordinators to become resources for their schools and districts in helping other teachers with technology-based learning."

"Utah Power is pleased to present this contribution to an exciting new aspect of education," said Walje. "The unique opportunities created by the Western Governors University fit well with our company's longstanding commitment to support educational programs that benefit the communities we serve. The PacifiCorp Foundation has given more than \$25 million to hundreds of organizations. We pay particular attention to programs involving education, safety and the environment because these concerns figure prominently in PacifiCorp's goals and corporate values."

This master's program is part of WGU's unique competency-based degree programs. With these programs, competency standards are carefully defined by leading experts in each field of study. Assessments are then developed which allow students to demonstrate their competence in each skill area. Using this system, students can take advantage of what they have learned through life and work experiences, rather than being based on coursework alone. In addition to the master's program, the university currently offers associate's programs in network administration, electronics manufacturing and general education.

About Utah Power

Utah Power, a division of PacifiCorp, provides electricity to 600,000 customers in Utah. PacifiCorp, through its Utah Power and Pacific Power divisions, provides electricity to 1.4 million customers in Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming; and to 500,000 customers through its Powercor subsidiary in Victoria, Australia. The PacifiCorp Foundation was incorporated in 1988 as the major channel of philanthropy for communities where PacifiCorp has a presence. The foundation also contributes to civic and community needs, culture and the arts, and organizations for health and human services.

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 online catalog. More than 350 courses from 35 educational providers are currently listed.

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.