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801-274-3280

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### 50 Utah Teachers Recipients of Western Governors University Scholarships

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*50 Utah Teachers to earn WGU master's degree with scholarships sponsored by Utah businesses*

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SALT LAKE CITY - Fifty Utah teachers have been awarded scholarships to earn a master of arts degree in learning and technology from Western Governors University (WGU), the competency-based virtual university consortium comprised of 19 member states.

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The WGU MA degree in learning and technology is a robust blend of leadership, education, and technology curricula geared for the self-starter. While appropriate for master's candidates of various backgrounds, the program is specifically designed for professional educators who currently use technology in the classroom and who are committed to discovering new and better ways to teach.

Utah Gov. Michael O. Leavitt, co-chair of WGU, awarded the scholarships and stated, "As teachers, you are about to begin a journey that will enable you to enhance your teaching talents with cutting-edge technology skills that will, in turn, enhance the classroom experience for your students. WGU has developed a master's program that provides convenient access to a quality opportunity for you, your schools, your districts, and most important, your students."

WGU President Bob Mendenhall added, "The WGU master of arts degree will give all of you a chance to earn a quality degree through distance education while maintaining your full-time careers, or what I like to call the opportunity to 'learn at your own pace at your own place.' WGU is greatly looking forward to building this learning community initially comprised of 50 Utah teachers who will then be able to take what they learn back to their individual schools and districts and help other teachers benefit from technology-based learning as well."

The initial scholarships have been sponsored by Utah businesses. Gov. Leavitt also recognized these businesses and stated, "The support of this scholarship program by the Utah business community demonstrates a commitment to our state and the teachers responsible for helping our students learn. This program has brought together three groups of people who are going to make a significant difference in the future of Utah education -- Utah teachers, Utah businesses, and WGU."

Utah businesses providing contributions for a portion of the initial 50 scholarships include Brush Wellman, Central Utah Telephone, Circle 4 Farms, ComCom, Envirocare, Fred Meyer Corporation, Garkane Power, Intel Corporation, Moroni Feed, Metalcraft Industries, Net Utah, NEXTLINK, NuSkin, PacifiCorp, Smiths Food & Drug, Stampin' Up, Questar, and WAL-MART.

The 50 Utah teachers who received scholarships have already enrolled in the WGU master of arts degree program and will now begin working toward their degree.

### 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. 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.