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### **Johnstone Named Provost and Academic Vice President of Western Governors University**

*Dr. Douglas Johnstone to join WGU October 1st*

SALT LAKE CITY – Western Governors University (WGU) President Bob Mendenhall today announced the appointment of Dr. Douglas "Chip" Johnstone as the university's provost and academic vice president. As provost and academic vice president, Dr. Johnstone will assume responsibility for the academic quality of the institution and its competency-based degree offerings, and he will spearhead WGU's accreditation process.

Johnstone has more than 25 years of leadership experience in higher education. Most recently, he served as provost at Cambridge College in Massachusetts, and previously he was dean for statewide and collegewide programs at SUNY Empire State College in New York. Johnstone earned his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College, his master's degree from Wesleyan University and his Ph.D. in English from the University of Oregon.

Mendenhall stated, "The addition of Chip to the WGU team brings academic integrity, experience, and leadership to our institution. Chip understands the needs of today's learner and how the Internet and competency-based education are changing the face of higher education. WGU feels very fortunate to be able to add Chip to our team."

Johnstone added, "I am greatly looking forward to working with the team of visionaries at WGU. WGU is one of the most exciting higher education initiatives in the country, leading the way with unique competency-based degree programs and an extensive catalog of courses from multiple education partners. I look forward to being a part of the WGU mission to increase access to distance delivered education for students anytime, anywhere."

#### **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 so students can "learn at their own pace, at their own place." In addition to its own degree programs, WGU provides online access to courses from other universities, colleges, and corporations through its unique online catalog. WGU was formed in 1997 as a result of the vision of the governors of the Western United States who saw the value of sharing distance learning resources to support competency-based higher education. Initially sponsored by 11 western states, there are now 19 member states in the WGU consortium.

