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Hungry Minds.com Aligns with Prominent Universities to Launch Revolutionary Learning Portal

Hungry Minds.com Adds Thousands of University Courses to Massive Online Learning Marketplace

SAN FRANCISCO -- Hungry Minds.com™, the revolutionary online learning portal, today announced that it formed strategic partnerships with five esteemed universities, all of which offer extensive online training and degree programs. The Hungry Minds.com roster of universities now includes Jones International University (JIU), Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), University of Phoenix (UOP) and Western Governors University (WGU). With the addition of these five partnerships, Hungry Minds.com will guide students to a diverse selection of online university resources as well as help students evaluate courses that best meet their lifelong learning needs.

"Building strong relationships with the leading online universities will make Hungry Minds.com the one-stop marketplace for business and academic online courses and resources," said Gary Millrood, vice president of Business Development. "Partnering with this group of reputable brands will encourage students to return to Hungry Minds.com for all of their future learning needs."

Hungry Minds.com will promote thousands of quality, university-level courses within its Web site, such as nursing, marketing and computer science. Each partner will also bring listings of multiple undergraduate and graduate degree programs to Hungry Minds.com. Partner offerings include:

- Jones International University: The Business Communication curriculum is dedicated to career-enhancing skills. Students may decide to pursue an advanced degree, a certificate of specialization or simply "brush up" with a course or two.
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute: Rensselaer offers a broad array of graduate programs at a distance in engineering, management, computer science and technical communication. A growing number of courses in the

area of information technology are offered through video streaming on the Web. Students may use this video-on-demand format to pursue seven IT-related master's degrees and nine certificates.

- RIT: A number of RIT's distinctive, high-tech, career-oriented programs are available online in the institution's 11-week format. Currently, students anywhere in the world can choose from seven full graduate degrees, three full undergraduate degrees, 16 certificates and 200 courses. One of the first universities in the country to offer distance learning courses, RIT is a recognized national leader in computer-based instruction.
- University of Phoenix: University of Phoenix offers undergraduate, graduate and doctorate programs specifically designed for working professionals at 70 campuses across the United States and via the Internet through their online campus. The online format provides a group-based learning environment with student interaction and faculty support similar to the traditional campus-based classroom.
- Western Governors University: WGU offers competency-based programs in four areas of study that offer students the opportunity to earn a degree or certificate based on their demonstrated skills and knowledge essential for mastery of a particular field. WGU's master's degree in learning and technology, associate of arts degree and associate of applied science degrees in network administration and electronic manufacturing technology provide students with a way to utilize their life and work experience to earn a college degree. In addition, WGU offers over 700 distance education courses from over 40 universities and colleges.

"Offering competency-based degree programs has placed WGU at the forefront of this new wave of interactive learning," said Bob Mendenhall, president of Western Governors University. "We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with Hungry Minds.com because we feel this partnership will serve to further strengthen our position in this market."

"Hungry Minds.com is unsurpassed for its ability to help students find the best educational opportunities on the Web," said Brian Mueller, regional vice president of University of Phoenix Online. "As the nation's leading accredited online university, we are proud to be a part of the Hungry Minds.com portal."

About Jones International University

Established in 1993 and launched in 1995, Jones International University™ (JIU™): The University of the Web™ is the world's first university created -- from inception -- specifically for the Internet. This March, history was made when JIU became the first, 100-percent, online university to be fully accredited by a nationally recognized regional accrediting agency, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Higher Education (NCA). For more information, visit the Jones International University Web site at <http://www.jonesinternational.edu>.

About Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

America's oldest private technological institute, Rensselaer is an internationally respected research university, with high rankings in recent *U.S. News & World Report*, *Success* and *Yahoo! Internet Life* surveys. Launched in 1987, Rensselaer's distance education program, RSVP, delivers graduate courses in engineering, management, computer science and technical communication to more than 1,000 working professionals worldwide. RSVP employs satellite broadcasts, interactive videoconferencing, videotape, and video streaming on the Internet to offer 15 master's degrees and 16 certificates at a distance. For more information, visit the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Web site at <http://www.rsvp.rpi.edu/>.

About Rochester Institute of Technology

A recognized leader in technology-based career education, RIT has been offering online courses and programs in its signature academic areas since 1979. At present, seven graduate degrees, three undergraduate degrees, 16 certificates and 200 courses are available for distance learners. RIT online learning degrees offer the same quality as on-campus programs and offer the added flexibility of allowing students to learn at a time that is convenient for them. RIT's distance learning offerings are located at <http://distancelearning.rit.edu>.

About University of Phoenix

Established in 1976, University of Phoenix is the largest accredited private university in the nation, and their online campus, which began in 1989, is now the leading accredited online university by degree-seeking enrollment. The university provides the same education in both the classroom and via the Internet. The curriculum is constantly updated to reflect the latest theories and techniques. In addition, all the faculty hold a master's or doctoral degree and currently work in the fields they teach. Online students are able to attend classes asynchronously - whenever and wherever they want. Most students complete their degree in two or three years. Degree programs are offered in: business, management, technology management, information technology, education, counseling and nursing. With campuses in 70 cities and online instruction offered worldwide, UOP helps more than 100,000 students achieve their goals every year. For information, call 1-800-366-9699, or visit our Web site at <http://online.uophx.edu>.

About Western Governors University

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. More information is available at the WGU Web site at: <http://www.wgu.edu>.

About Hungry Minds.com

Hungry Minds.com, a privately held company based in San Francisco, is the online learning portal geared toward lifelong learning for adults. Stuart Skorman, founder and CEO of Hungry Minds.com and founder and former CEO of Reel.com, is one of the first successful entrepreneurs starting his second Internet company. This rapidly growing start-up has 60 full-time and 70 part-time employees from a variety of backgrounds including techies, editors, writers, researchers, instructional designers, teachers and a variety of Internet executives and producers. The company has already secured partnerships with many top Internet, media and publishing companies as well as prominent universities. For more information, visit the Hungry Minds.com Web site at <http://www.hungryminds.com>.

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