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Six Milken Educators to be Recipients of Scholarships to Western Governors University

Milken Family Foundation sponsors six scholarships for WGU master's of arts degree in learning and technology

SALT LAKE CITY - Western Governors University announced today that six recipients of the Milken Family Foundation's prestigious National Educator Award will be awarded scholarships to enroll in the WGU master of arts in learning & technology program.

The National Educator Award, which is the largest educator recognition program of its kind in the nation, has been bestowed over the last dozen years to 1,502 educators across the country. All will be eligible to apply for the \$6,500 scholarships, which will be awarded this spring through a donation by the Milken Family Foundation.

The WGU MA degree in Learning & 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.

Governor Mike Leavitt (Utah), co-chair of WGU, stated, "WGU is very pleased that the Milken Family Foundation is providing this tremendous opportunity for Milken Educators, which is consistent with the foundation's focus on improving the quality of American educators. The WGU MA degree enables teachers to use technology in order to enhance their teaching skills, thus providing an even more enriching experience for the students they teach."

Milken Family Foundation senior vice president, Thomas Boysen stated that "our Milken Educators have been leaders in using learning technology to transform teaching and learning. This master's degree program is an exciting new resource for these distinguished teachers and principals."

WGU President Bob Mendenhall added, "The WGU Master of Arts degree gives teachers a chance to earn a quality advanced degree through distance education while maintaining full-time careers. WGU is greatly looking forward to the opportunity of working with the Milken Family Foundation and Milken Educators on this exciting program. The Milken Family Foundation is committed to strengthening the teaching profession by recognizing outstanding educators, and WGU is pleased to be part of this mission."

WGU provides an online distance delivered competency-based system of higher education and is supported by 19 governors and a National Advisory Board comprised of 19 corporations and foundations throughout the country. The WGU model provides asynchronous learning opportunities for its students. Because WGU is competency-based, students are recognized for the skills and knowledge they may have acquired through a variety of previous learning, including life and work experience, and through current learning. This knowledge enables students to master a desired set of competencies. Students are required to take a battery of assessments associated with the six domains or areas of study in the MA program. Successful completion of the WGU assessment batteries is required for graduation.

WGU also provides one-on-one advising to help guide each student toward his/her individual educational goals. With the help of their WGU "mentor," students pursue their degree utilizing courses and instruction from third-party providers with whom WGU has entered into partnership. These educational institutions provide "learning opportunities" in a variety of disciplines and delivery modes that can be matched with the student's learning style and individual situation.

About the Milken Family Foundation

The purpose of the Milken Family Foundation is to discover and advance inventive and effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. The foundation advances this mission primarily through its work in medical research and education. Among its initiatives is the National Educator Award program, which is now active in 42 states with more than 1,500 recipients, and a newly-unveiled comprehensive strategy to improve teacher quality.

About WGU

WGU is a competency-based, degree-granting, online 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 classes 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. Current WGU degree offerings include: Associate of Arts, Associate of Applied Science in Network Administration, Associate of Applied Science in Electronics Manufacturing Technology, Associate of Applied Science in Software Applications Analysis & Integration, and a Master of Arts in Learning & Technology.

More information about the Milken Family Foundation can be obtained at www.mff.org.