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WGU Contact:

Amy Tejral

801-274-3280

atejral@wgu.edu

Western Governors University Forms Articulation Agreements with Five Higher Education Institutions

WGU Competency-Based Degrees to Transfer Into Credit-Based Bachelor's Programs

SALT LAKE CITY - Western Governors University (WGU) today announced that it has formed articulation and transfer agreements with five higher education institutions from across the country. These institutions include Bellevue University, Jones International University, Masters Institute, SUNY Empire State College, and Thomas Edison State College.

These strategic alliances will allow students who graduate with a WGU competency-based associate's degree to transfer into credit-based baccalaureate programs offered by the above institutions. Students will work through WGU and directly with the above institutions to complete the articulation and transfer process. Most transfer students will enter these institutions with junior standing and the equivalent of at least 60 credit hours, which will enable them to further their educational goals.

WGU Provost Douglas Johnstone stated, "These agreements demonstrate the flexibility of a WGU associate's degree and the adaptability of several quality institutions who are ready to accept a competency-based degree for transfer. These institutions are providing a stepping stone for WGU graduates and have been very receptive to this crossover in higher education. WGU is pleased to see so many institutions embracing this idea and facilitating the articulation and transfer of WGU degrees."

"We look forward to participating with WGU and other institutions of higher education to expand the educational options for students across the world," stated Jones International University President Pamela Pease. "Students that participate in Jones International University's online courses have the flexibility of learning whenever and wherever they are located. Jones courses are designed by world renown content experts and taught by the highly qualified practitioners."

"This agreement represents a logical partnership between two pioneers in distance learning," said Empire State College president Jane W. Altes. "Our student-centered approach to higher education will complement WGU's offerings as we provide students across the nation and the world with the opportunity to further their studies."

Mary Hawkins, vice president for enrollment and outreach at Bellevue University added, "The best statistic is the completion rate at Bellevue University -- 87 percent. Students who start at BU reach their goals. That's because of our student-centered service and unique instructional design. We are very excited about the partnership with WGU and their innovative competency-based programming. Students will find a great fit at BU."

"Partnering with WGU is a win, win situation," said Linda Tyler, senior vice president for Masters Institute. "This agreement is a demonstration of public demand for more nontraditional types of education that are practical and extremely useful and will lead to careers that are in great demand across the country and world. We are proud to be a partner with WGU and to share in this innovative education process."

About Bellevue University - (Bellevue, NE)

[Bellevue University](#) has developed a nationally recognized online education system using a unique cyber-active(sm) learning environment. WGU students will join learners from all over the world, pursuing graduate and undergraduate degrees at Bellevue University. For undergraduate students, the associate degree gives them junior status and the opportunity to complete degrees in e-commerce, MIS, BIS, management, global business, criminal justice administration, leadership, and human resources. Students who continue on to a master's degree may choose an MBA with concentrations in finance, MIS, cyberlaw, accounting, and marketing or a master of arts in leadership -- completely online. (BU is accredited by NCA and was specifically accredited by NCA for online programs in 1998).

About Jones International University - (Englewood, CO)

Founded in 1993 and launched online in 1995, [Jones International University](#) is the first and only fully online university to receive regional accreditation (March 5, 1999). In addition to offering 25 certificate programs and nearly 80 courses, JIU also offers bachelor's and master's of arts in business communication degree programs, as well as a master of business administration degree with seven areas of specialization. JIU has hand-selected the best of the best academics from some of the most prestigious colleges and universities around the globe to design the courses.

About Masters Institute – (San Jose, CA)

[Masters Institute's](#) Distance Education Program offers unique distance-learning opportunities to students who access courses via the Internet. Masters Institute's Internet-based training combines current industry curriculum with a powerful, lively and simple Web-based format that offers flexibility to students with busy life styles. Anyone from anywhere can take advantage of enrolling in Masters Institute online programs, and in 18 months can earn a degree in systems administration. Students are prepared to become industry certified, without giving up their current job. Whenever students have time is when the classroom is open through distance education at Masters Institute.

About SUNY Empire State College - (Saratoga Springs, NY)

Founded in 1971, [Empire State College](#) is an arts and sciences college of the State University of New York, and an international leader in nontraditional education. The college expands access to students, primarily adults, who need the flexibility to earn a degree and still meet the demands of work, family and community responsibilities. Through a combination of individualized study, flexible programming, distance learning options and credit earned for prior college-level learning, the college meets the needs of adult learners throughout New York and beyond. The College's Center for Distance Learning serves 6,000 students, and offers more than 200 print and Web-based courses. The college also offers the only completely online bachelor's degree in business that is available in SUNY, as well as an online competency-based MBA. With 33,000 graduates since its founding in 1971, SUNY Empire State College currently enrolls more 10,000 students in its varied associate, bachelor's and master's degree programs.

About Thomas Edison State College – (Trenton, NJ)

Embracing the individual and dynamic needs of adult students has been the priority of [Thomas Edison State College](#) since its establishment in 1972. For more than 27 years, Thomas Edison State College has provided adults with access to high quality, flexible learning opportunities wherever they live or work. One of New Jersey's 12 senior public institutions of higher education, the college offers 15 associate, baccalaureate and master's degrees in more than 100 major areas of study. The college offers a master of science in management degree, offered entirely online with the exception of two weekend residencies. The degree integrates theory and practice as they apply to a wide variety of organizations. A specialized track in project management is also available within the MSM degree. The college also offers a master of arts in professional studies degree, also available online. The MAPS degree is intended to serve professional practitioners interested in broadening and deepening their professional skills, knowledge and competencies through an intensive exposure to the liberal arts. Students earn associate and baccalaureate degrees through a variety of rigorous academic methods, including documenting college-level knowledge they may already have through portfolio assessment and testing, and by completing online and independent study courses offered by the college.

Identified by *Forbes* magazine as one of the top 20 colleges and universities in the nation in the use of technology to create learning opportunities for adults, this accredited public college is a national leader in the assessment of adult learning and a pioneer in the use of educational technologies.

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.



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