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WGU Contact:
Amy Tejral
801-274-3280
atejral@wgu.edu

26 Wyoming Teachers Recipients of Western Governors University Scholarships

Wyoming Teachers to earn WGU master of arts degree in learning and technology

CHEYENNE, WYOMING – Gov. Jim Geringer (WY) announced today that 26 Wyoming teachers have been awarded scholarships to earn a master of arts degree in learning and technology from Western Governors University (WGU), the competency-based, online university consortium comprised of 19 member states.

Governor Geringer, one of the founders of WGU, spoke to the scholarship recipients today and stated, "As students, you are about to embark on an opportunity that will enable you to enhance your teaching talents with learning and technology skills. As teachers, this experience will in turn enhance the classroom experience for your students. WGU has developed a master's program that provides accessibility to a quality learning opportunity for you, your schools, your districts, and most important, your students."

Wyoming Senators Craig Thomas and Mike Enzi, as well as Congresswoman Barbara Cubin have also added their support to the WGU initiative in response to the university's bid to secure federal financial aid for students and congressional support. Wyoming students are now realizing the benefits of that support.

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.

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 new learning community comprised of 26 Wyoming teachers. You will then be able to take what you learn back to your individual schools and districts and help other teachers benefit from technology-based learning as well."

"Today's announcement is yet another indicator of the state's efforts to connect classroom teachers with technology," stated Judy Catchpole, Wyoming superintendent of public instruction. "We need to assure that the use of technology in the classroom is as seamless as the use of pencil and paper. Connecting teachers is the first step toward connecting our children."

The 26 Wyoming teachers who received scholarships have already enrolled in the WGU master of arts degree program and will now begin working toward their WGU MA degree.

About WGU

WGU is a degree-granting, competency-based, online, distance-education institution. With just a few clicks at www.wgu.edu, a student can find everything he or she needs to advance his or her educational goals, including competency-based degree programs, an online catalog of quality distance-learning courses, an online library, bookstore, and one-on-one access to a personal WGU mentor, who will guide the student through his or her customized degree program from beginning to end. As one of the most ambitious higher education initiatives of its time, WGU was founded and is supported by 19 states and governors and is a leader in the movement to increase access to educational opportunities for today's adult, lifelong learner and to provide students with recognition for the skills and knowledge they already possess. WGU is using technology to provide accessibility, flexibility, and the opportunity for every type of student to achieve his or her educational goals.

Current WGU competency-based degree offerings include the master of arts in learning and technology, associate of arts, associate of science in information technology/CNE, associate of science in information technology/network administration, associate of applied science in information technology/software applications, analysis and integration, and an associate of applied science/electronics manufacturing technology.