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Competency-Based University Selects Magellan IT Courses

Magellan program emphasizes teacher-student and student-to-student interaction

TUCSON - A unique higher-education institution that grants degrees based on student competency has selected Magellan University to join its online-learning partnership. Western Governors University will offer courses from Magellan -- one of the oldest fully online educational institutions -- as part of WGU's certification program. The courses will include:

- A+ and Network+
- Windows 2000 - Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE)
- Visual Basic - Microsoft Certified Solutions Developer (MCSD)
- Linux
- Novell
- Cisco Certified Network Associate
- Master CIW Designer-Certified Internet Webmaster

"Magellan originates the courses, handles teaching and classroom management, and distributes course materials," explained Tony Davis, Magellan's director of partner development. "WGU offers its students the advantage of earning degrees by taking courses from dozens of institutions - all through distance learning."

Dan Eastmond, director of learning resources for WGU, said his institution's online catalog is "accessed 500,000 times each month because of our outreach" through sponsored Web sites, portals, and marketing campaigns. Thus, he added, students in many widespread organizations and locations gain access to Magellan's courses along with about a thousand others listed in the catalog.

"The partnership of Magellan with WGU allows our students access to quality IT instruction that they can use, as guided by their mentors, to prepare for the competency-based assessments that are part of our degree programs," Eastmond said.

The Magellan "classroom" consists of Internet-based asynchronous communication among students and teachers, with 24-hour access to Magellan's online library and multimedia tools. Students can work in groups, review an archived recording of any class, and share individual information with classmates.

"All interaction among students and with instructors is immediately recorded and archived," said Dr. William R. Noyes, Magellan's president. "Within the course's specific time frame - generally eight weeks - students can log on and work whenever they wish, though participation several times a week is mandatory."

Founded in 1994 by a group of university administrators -- including Noyes, a longtime University of Arizona senior administrator, and Dr. John P. Schaefer, president emeritus of the University of Arizona -- Magellan delivers pioneering distance-learning programs to individual enrollees, those taught by contract with other schools, and employees in business and government.

Details about Magellan's partner program for institutions are available by calling Tony Davis at 800-4WWWEDU, ext. 112, or online at <http://www.magellan.edu/Meet/partners/partnerprogram.htm>.

About WGU

WGU is an online, competency-based university that recently became the first such institution to receive Candidate for Accreditation status. WGU students have personal mentors, who guide them through customized degree or certificate programs.

The institution was founded and is supported by 19 states and governors as well as 22 corporations and foundations. Current WGU competency-based degrees include associate of applied science degrees in IT/network administration, IT/CNE, and IT/software applications, as well as an associate of arts, associate of science in business, bachelor of science in business, and a master of arts degree in learning & technology. For more information about WGU, please contact Amy Tejral, 801-274-3280, atejral@wgu.edu.

