



FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
FEBRUARY 28, 2001

**BENNETT ANNOUNCES \$2.5 MILLION GRANT FOR
WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- As a result of efforts by Sen. Bob Bennett (R-Utah), the Department of Education has awarded the Western States Governor University \$2.5 million to support numerous online educational programs available to 44 states and five countries.

"I'm a strong supporter of this initiative," said Senator Bennett, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "I commend the efforts of Governor Leavitt which brought it to life and the staff of Western Governors University who have contributed to make the university such a growing success. Utah is nationally and internationally renown in the high-tech arena. WGU is a relevant example of Utah's significant contributions to the high-tech world and an important component of the changing educational opportunities in our country."

Western Governors University is pioneering a different approach to education in a high-tech world that demands a competitive education, particularly for the non-traditional student. The virtual university, based in Salt Lake City and created by Governor Mike Leavitt offers 939 courses. The grant will support all existing courses and contribute to other areas of need for the growing university. Additional improvements include the enhancement of a student information system and Web site, the continuation of WGU accreditation process and online catalogue services to provide quality distance courses.

###

<http://www.senate.gov/~bennett>