

PRESS RELEASES

News Brief - 5/16/01

[Welcome to WGU](#)

[What We Are](#)

[Who's Involved](#)

[Vision, History
& Mission](#)

[Press Releases](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Administration](#)

[About Your Privacy](#)

[Glossary](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Return to Press Releases](#)

WGU Contact:
Amy Tejral
atejral@wgu.edu
or John Becker, 801-359-0246

Three Prominent Benefactors Announce Grants to Support Western Governors University

SALT LAKE CITY - Three major grants totaling \$685,000 have been received by Western Governors University (WGU). The grants support the university's mission of providing online, competency-based degrees to students who are located throughout the United States and in five foreign countries.

According to WGU President Robert W. Mendenhall, the grants were made to the university by Sun Microsystems in the amount of \$285,000, the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation in the amount of \$250,000, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation in the amount of \$150,000.

"We are especially pleased that these highly-regarded, nationally-recognized contributors support WGU's pioneering efforts in the field of higher education and its innovative programs which give students access to college degrees through a flexible online learning model," Mr. Mendenhall said.

WGU offers nearly 1,000 courses in its online catalog from 40 education providers from across the United States and Canada. The university has 30 employees and faculty members in its Salt Lake City, UT office, where WGU is based, and virtually in California, Colorado, South Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin.

The university offers seven competency-based degree programs including associate of applied science degrees in IT/network administration and IT/CNE, associate of science degrees in business and IT, as well as an associate of arts, bachelor of science in business, and a master of arts degree in learning and technology. In addition, WGU now has eight articulation agreements in place with institutions from around the country including Antioch University (OH), Bellevue University (NE), ISIM University (CO), Jones International University (CO), Marylhurst University (OR), Regis University (CO), SUNY Empire State College (NY), and Thomas Edison State College (NJ). These strategic alliances allow students who graduate with a WGU competency-based degree to transfer into credit-based programs offered by the above institutions.

The university has 22 corporate and foundation partners, including America Online, Apple Computer, AT & T, Cisco Systems, Convergys, Drake International, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, IBM, KPMG Peat Marwick, Marriott, Micron, Microsoft, Novell, Oracle, Qwest, Sallie Mae, SCT Corp, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Sun Microsystems, Swartz Foundation, Thomson Learning, and the 3Com Corporation.

