

# PRESS RELEASES

## News Brief - 6/13/01

[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](mailto:atejral@wgu.edu)

## **Anchorage Student Receives Degree from Online University on June 18**

### ***Ceremony in Anchorage, Alaska Governor's Office***

SALT LAKE CITY - Terry Hamm of Anchorage, Alaska, will receive her associate of arts degree from Western Governors University on Monday, June 18. Alaska Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer will make the diploma presentation at a ceremony in the Anchorage governor's office. Terry is the first Alaska student to receive a degree from Western Governors University (WGU), the only competency-based, online university in the country. Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles is one of four Western state governors who sits on the WGU board of trustees.

Hamm enrolled in the program to "jump-start the process" to finally finish a degree. Born and raised on a farm outside of Saskatchewan, Canada, Terry began her higher education at Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia. After two years of school, she and her husband moved to Bethel, Alaska -- and eventually to Anchorage. In 1991, Terry went to work for the State of Alaska Division of Public Assistance, where she continues today as a long-term care coordinator.

"When I enrolled in WGU, my husband was working full-time and attending the University of Alaska at Anchorage full-time," stated Terry. "I felt there was enough stress in our life, so I chose WGU because it allowed me to study at home. Also, with the flexibility of independent study I was able to continue with most of my volunteer opportunities that mean a lot to me."

Terry has decided to continue her online education, and plans to earn a bachelor's degree in business at WGU. She says her life is too complicated with a job and volunteer work to pursue higher education on any schedule but her own.

WGU's unique design allows recognition for a student's learning from life and work experience. Like Terry, each student is assigned a personal mentor, a professional in his or her field, who directs and guides students through their program. "WGU mentors are the 'high-touch' piece of our 'high-tech' university," says WGU President Bob Mendenhall.

WGU has students enrolled from 44 states and 5 countries. The university offers 939 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, Utah, office, where WGU is based, and online in California, Colorado, South Dakota, Washington and Wisconsin. The university now offers eight 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, an associate of arts degree, bachelor of science degrees in business/IT management and computer information systems, and a master of arts degree in learning and technology. In addition, WGU now has 10 articulation agreements in place with institutions from around the country.

The university has 22 corporate and foundation partners with its newest partners including Convergys, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Marriott, Oracle, SCT and Qwest. These partners join America Online, Apple, AT&T, Cisco Systems, Drake International, IBM, KPMG Consulting, Micron Technology, Microsoft, Novell, Sallie Mae, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Sun Microsystems, Swartz Foundation, Thomson Learning/Prometric and 3Com in their support of the university and its mission.

Visit the [Alaska State Government site](#) for photos and speeches from the ceremony.

