PRESS RELEASES

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WGU Contact:
Amy Tejral
atejral@wgu.edu

Sitting Bull College to Reach Information Technology Courses and Mentoring Through Western Governors University

SALT LAKE CITY - A unique partnership between Sitting Bull College (Fort Yates, North Dakota) and Western Governors University (WGU) will fill a demand for access to Information Technology (IT) courses. Sitting Bull College (SBC) President Ron McNeil says the college has made arrangements for WGU to provide online access to selected IT courses to meet degree requirements for SBC students.

"Even though we've had a great demand, we have been unable to offer these classes on campus because SBC does not have a fully qualified IT faculty member," stated McNeil. "Now, we will be able to serve our students in three areas of emphasis: networking, operating systems, and programming."

WGU President Bob Mendenhall said the program designed for SBC is a perfect example of how WGU can deliver quality online educational opportunities in unique situations. "We are able to fill the void because we are entirely flexible and adaptable to nearly any situation. Because all WGU classes are delivered online, we are not constrained by the challenges of traditional education," Mendenhall said. "In addition, we are able to offer our unique model of personalized mentoring for Sitting Bull College students enrolling in IT courses."

Students will earn their degrees through Sitting Bull College, but the IT courses and mentoring will be provided online by WGU. WGU Mentor Ron Burgher will provide each of the students enrolled in the IT component one-on-one guidance through the selected courses of study.

SBC President McNeil said there are at least 13 jobs on the Standing Rock Reservation which are waiting to be filled with employees who have an IT degree. "In addition, many of our students could likely find employment outside the Reservation with an IT degree," he added. Sitting Bull College was created by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council in 1973 under the original name of Standing Rock Community College. The college has a faculty of 15 members and provides a full range of associate's degrees.

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 both its Salt Lake City, UT office, where WGU is based, and virtually in California, Colorado, South Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin. The university 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, as well as an associate of arts, bachelor of science degrees in business/IT management and computer information systems, and a master of arts degree in learning and technology.

More information about WGU can be found at www.wgu.edu.

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