

PRESS RELEASES

News Brief - 7/27/01

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National Urban League to Offer Educational Programs Through Western Governors University

WASHINGTON D.C. - The National Urban League (NUL) has formed a partnership with WGU to develop the National Urban League University. This online university will provide NUL affiliates with online learning resources including self-study training materials, mentored learning programs and instructor-led classes from accredited universities and commercial training vendors. NUL affiliates will be able to access educational materials specific to their job functions, take classes for professional development, and earn competency-based degrees from WGU.

"This partnership with Western Governors University brings our dream of incorporating distance learning into our process for training and preparing Urban League movement staff for professional competence and leadership into reality," stated National Urban League Executive Vice President Milton J. Little, Jr.

WGU President Bob Mendenhall added, "From the beginning the WGU mission has been to expand access to higher education. This partnership with the National Urban League allows us to extend opportunities for education to a large group of individuals who might not otherwise have the chance to pursue their educational goals."

"Our affiliates have different situations that will require different solutions," stated Jackie Avery-Albuoy, director of NUL affiliate services. "The National Urban League in partnership with WGU has designed curriculum for the virtual National Urban League University that may become one of the solutions."

In addition, the National Urban League and WGU have partnered to develop the NUL Adult Education Center, an online learning resource for NUL constituents, which may be accessed at any of the more than 60 computer learning centers already established by the NUL in major cities. NUL constituents will be able to take online classes to improve basic skills and/or job skills, to prepare for IT industry certifications, or to earn associate's, bachelor's, or master's degrees from WGU.

The Urban League movement, founded in 1910, is the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream. The National Urban League, headquartered in New York City, spearheads a nonprofit, nonpartisan, community-based movement. The heart of the Urban League movement is professionally staffed Urban League affiliates in over 100 cities in 34 states and the District of Columbia. The mission of the Urban League movement is to enable African Americans to secure economic self-reliance, parity and power and civil rights.

WGU offers the only online competency-based degrees in the country. At the university's Web site, www.wgu.edu, students can find descriptions of competency-based degree programs, an online catalog of quality distance-learning courses, an online library, bookstore, and access to a personal WGU mentor, who will guide a student through his or her customized degree program. Students can use prior work, college and life experience coupled with learning new skills to develop and demonstrate the competencies necessary to earn a WGU degree that is relevant to education and career goals. WGU provides accessibility, flexibility, and the opportunity for all students to achieve their educational goals. WGU was founded and is supported by 19 states and governors as well as 22 leading corporations and foundations. Current WGU degree offerings include an associate of arts degree, associate of applied science degrees in IT/network administration and IT/CNE, associate of science degrees in business and IT, bachelor of science degrees in business/IT management and computer information systems, and a master of arts degree in learning and technology.

