

# PRESS RELEASES

## News Brief - 9/7/01

[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](#)

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## Two Utah Teachers Receive Master's Degrees from Western Governors University

SALT LAKE CITY - Two Utah teachers, both mothers of young children, received their master of arts in learning and technology degrees today. Shauna Bagley, of Marysvale, and Kristy Yeschick, of Salt Lake City, received their degrees from Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt, co-chair of Western Governors University. The governor presided over the graduation ceremony in the Gold Room at the state Capitol.

Shauna Bagley is a business education teacher at Piute High School with the responsibility of teaching information technology, desktop publishing and accounting. "I have a bachelor's degree in business education, but I needed advanced education to be able to better teach these subjects," she said. "Since I live in rural Utah, pursuing a master's degree was only possible for me through WGU's online program, and I received recognition for what I already knew," Ms. Bagley said.

As instructional services specialist for the Wasatch Front South Applied Technology Center, Kristy Yeschick wants to advance her career. "I chose WGU because it allowed me the freedom to work on my master's degree at home, and this was important since I am a new mother," she said.

Both Shauna and Kristy are among 50 Utah teachers who received scholarships to complete their master's degrees at WGU. Courses are provided online from various universities. Each WGU student is assigned a personal mentor, a Ph.D., in the field, who directs and guides students through their program. This mentoring is one of the unique advantages of the WGU model according to WGU President Robert Mendenhall.

Teachers in Utah now have another opportunity to receive scholarships to pursue the WGU master's degree in learning and technology. According to Mendenhall, the recently passed *Public Education Job Enhancement Program*, (Senate Bill 61) provides scholarship funds for qualified secondary teachers to pursue master's degrees in math, science and learning technology.

"This is the only competency-based master's program available," Mendenhall said. "For teaching professionals trying to balance the demands of work, home and additional education, this is an ideal program with real flexibility." Teachers who are interested in the WGU master's program may contact WGU at 1-866-CALL-WGU.

Western Governors University was founded and is supported by 19 governors and 22 Fortune 500 companies and foundations to expand access to higher education. With just a few clicks at [www.wgu.edu](http://www.wgu.edu), a student can find descriptions of competency-based degree programs, an online catalog of quality distance-learning courses, an online library, bookstore, and one-on-one access to a personal WGU mentor, who will guide a student through his or her customized degree program. The university offers associate's, bachelor's and master's programs in technology, business and education.

