

Report: Online university logs success in 2001

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The Western Governors University reported a 500 percent increase in enrollment during the past year, according to a report released Thursday.

The university is a non-profit, online institution founded by 19 Western governors and “is now widely recognized and is expanding its student base, financial support, partnerships and national influence,” the report said.

The average WGU student is 40 years old and more than 90 percent likely to work full time. The student body comes from 46 states and nine countries.

The institution’s 2001 fiscal year budget jumped to \$5.3 million from \$3.9 million for the previous year. The university has 40 employees and faculty members and contracts with about 60 other faculty members.

Five WGU students graduated in 2001 and the university received several major grants, new partnerships and additional accreditation from a national oversight body.

In June, the university was accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council, a nationally recognized accrediting agency approved by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The virtual university also is a candidate for accreditation with four regional associations.