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## Scholarships Will Help Train Teachers

*Monday, February  
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SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE**

As an Olympic legacy for classrooms, the Western Governors' Foundation has announced a plan to provide scholarships to teachers who are seeking more education but do not have the time or funds to attend a traditional university.

The foundation will award 1,000 Teacher's Legacy Scholarships to qualifying instructors to complete courses online through the Western Governors University, a fledgling virtual university whose enrollment rose last year from 500 to 2,500 students.

Montana Gov. Judy Martz, a former Olympic speedskater and vice chairwoman of the Western Governors Association, announced the scholarship program in Salt Lake City by comparing it to her recent experience as an Olympic torch bearer.

"One thing I will never forget was when a fellow torch bearer said, 'It's not about the flame in my hand, it's about the flame in my heart,'" Martz said at a news conference Friday. "And if we can get teachers to reward themselves with more education, then we will have lit the flame of thousands of student in the West."

Wyoming Gov. Jim Geringer also attended the announcement. "A teacher is the single biggest influence in the success of a student, and the U.S. will need 2 million new teachers in the next 10 years," he said.

The scholarship is open to teachers of grades kindergarten through 12 and targets those who are interested in teaching subjects where there is a currently a dearth of qualified instructors: Math, science, reading, information technology and English as a second language.

All of Western Governors University's virtual courses are on a competency-based learning model where students must demonstrate their grasp of a subject before passing a class or receiving a degree.

The scholarships are being funded through corporate and foundation grants of at least \$15,000 from donors that include Utah Power (PacifiCorp), AOL Time Warner and Microsoft. Each donation of \$15,000 will fund scholarships for two teachers. Bill Landels of PacifiCorp said his company and its foundation have funded at least 10 scholarships so far.

More information about Western Governors University and the Teacher's Legacy Scholarships is available at [www.wgu.edu](http://www.wgu.edu).