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# Life

SECTION D

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## **Online college targets teachers**

In a push to increase the supply of qualified teachers, the U.S. Department of Education and Utah's elected officials have created a new college that will provide degrees to current and prospective teachers via the Internet. The Teachers College, funded by a \$10 million federal grant, is part of the Western Governors University, a Salt Lake City-based consortium of 19 Western states and more than 30 universities. Organizers say their school is unique because students will earn degrees by taking tests that demonstrate they've mastered a subject, rather than by spending a required number of hours studying the topic in a classroom. The online college is targeted at career switchers who want to enter the classroom for the first time, current teachers who need to meet state licensing requirements and licensed teachers who want to improve their skills.

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