



## News Brief - 12/15/04

**Contact:**

Gwen Castaldi  
WGU Public Relations Department  
801-290-3600

### Utah-based Corporations Pledge Support to Western Governors University

SALT LAKE CITY -- Three Utah-based corporations have joined the National Advisory Board of Western Governors University (WGU), the nation's only accredited competency-based university ([www.wgu.edu](http://www.wgu.edu)). Zions Bank (A. Scott Anderson, president and CEO), Simmons Capital, (David Simmons, president and CEO) and Wasatch Property Management (Dell Loy Hansen, president) join more than 20 prestigious corporations and foundations that believe in the new vision of higher education WGU represents.

"As a private nonprofit university, these corporations' support helps WGU carry out its mission to improve quality and expand access to post-secondary education," said Robert W. Mendenhall, president of the university. "As we welcome these outstanding companies to our National Advisory Board, our university continues to advance and lead the nation in competency-based education."

Founded in 1873, Zions Bank is Utah's oldest financial institution and has been serving the communities of the Intermountain West for nearly 130 years.

"As a community bank, Zions strives to be actively engaged in important issues and to help provide creative solutions to local needs such as education. I'm proud to be part of this national advisory board, because WGU fills an important niche in our system by offering adult students flexibility and online access," Anderson said.

In addition to joining WGU National Advisory Board, Zions Bank is also providing scholarships to two Utahans pursuing their bachelor's degrees with WGU.

David E. Simmons is president and chief executive officer of Simmons Capital LLC and two affiliated companies, Simmons Media Group LLC, and Crestwood Communications, Inc. Collectively the three privately held companies own and operate radio stations and outdoor advertising structures and manage a portfolio of other investments.

"I'm extremely impressed with what WGU has accomplished in its development to date and excited to contribute to its future," said David Simmons, president and CEO of Simmons Capital LLC. "Through their direct delivery method, WGU is providing incredible opportunities for current and prospective students."

Wasatch Management Properties is a Utah-based real estate investment firm. One of the largest property management firms in the region, the company manages and maintains more than 12,000 apartments, 2 million square ft. of office space throughout the West with offices in Logan, Salt Lake City, Phoenix, San Diego, and Seattle. Western Governors University's headquarters are located in one of Wasatch Management Properties' prime Salt Lake City office complexes at 4001 South and 700 East.

"Western Governors University is creating a new cost-effective model for higher education," said Dell Loy Hansen, president of Wasatch Property Management. "And the university is playing a vital role in addressing our nation's teacher shortage by providing degrees and certificates leading to licensure in elementary education, math, science and social science."

#### About Western Governors University

WGU is the only accredited university in the U.S. offering online competency-based degree programs. The university was founded and is supported by 19 governors, as well as over 20 leading corporations and foundations. WGU offers bachelor's and master's degrees in Information Technology, Business and Education. More information is available at [www.wgu.edu](http://www.wgu.edu).