



About WGU

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Kennecott Land Awards Sustainable Community Scholarships to Two South Jordan City Teachers

SALT LAKE CITY -- A strong educational system is an important element in building sustainable communities. To further strengthen education on Salt Lake Valley's West Bench, Kennecott Land will award scholarships to two teachers who teach in South Jordan City, the city where Kennecott Land's Daybreak Community is located. These scholarships will be presented on Tuesday, June 12 at 7 p.m. in front of the Jordan School District Board of Education at 9361 South 300 East.

The scholarships have been awarded to teachers who are pursuing a master's degree at Western Governors University (WGU) in one of five needed areas. Leslie Owen and Matthew Walker were selected after completing WGU's admittance qualifications and writing an essay about what a sustainable community means to them.

Leslie Owen teaches at Monte Vista Elementary in South Jordan and plans to pursue WGU's M.A. in Mathematics Education. "My experiences in my undergraduate degree have enabled me to reach most students effectively; however, as a teacher I feel that there is always more to learn," said Owen, who has a strong passion for mathematics and wants to continue her education as a way to instill that same passion in her students.

Matthew Walker teaches at Bingham High School in South Jordan and is interested in WGU's Master's in Education-Learning and Technology program. Walker believes that teaching is an interactive experience and that technology is the way to get students more involved in the learning process. He says, "I believe that acquiring skills in technology can expand my understanding of what it means to be a master teacher. Using this technology in the classroom will improve the education of my students."

Each Kennecott Land Sustainable Community Scholarship is valued at \$5,000, distributed as tuition credit of \$1,000 per six-month term, renewable up to five terms. Applicants must meet special eligibility requirements, including currently teaching at one of nine South Jordan City Schools.

Three more scholarships are available. Teachers who want to earn a master's degree in one of these five areas are eligible to apply: M.A. in Mathematics Education (K-6, 5-9, 5-12), M.A. in Science Education (5-9, 5-12), M.A. in English Language Learning, M.Ed. in Learning and Technology, and M.Ed. in Measurement and Evaluation. For detailed scholarship application information for the Kennecott Land Sustainable Community Scholarships, visit http://www.wgu.edu/tuition_financial_aid/specific_audience.asp

About Kennecott Land

Kennecott Land was established by parent company Rio Tinto in April 2001 to protect and develop Kennecott Utah Copper's the 93,000 acres on Salt Lake Valley's West Bench. Daybreak is the first testament to that vision. Daybreak is situated on 4,126 acres in South Jordan City where 14,000 homes are planned. At Kennecott Land, sustainable development is at the heart of every business decision by balancing the complex interaction of environmental, economic and social factors. Kennecott Land does this in a way that protects and strengthens what matters most to our community: strong and safe neighborhoods, quality education, a healthy and renewable environment, and a vibrant local economy. www.kennecottland.com and www.daybreakutah.com

About Western Governors University

Western Governors University is a non-profit, fully-accredited, competency-based, online university based in Salt Lake City. The university is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and holds the first ever such accreditation for any online university. NCATE (www.ncate.org) is the largest accrediting body that evaluates the professional education programs of universities, colleges, and departments of education. It seeks to determine whether the programs meet rigorous national standards for preparing teachers and specialists for the classroom. www.wgu.edu

About Jordan School District

Jordan School District is the largest of Utah's 40 school districts serving nearly 80,000 grade K-12 students in 89 schools. The district's boundaries encompass 10 municipalities and unincorporated areas of southern Salt Lake County. Its commitment to providing a quality education is reflected in student test scores that are consistently above state and national averages and high school graduation rates that are among the highest in the country. www.jordandistrict.org

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"Competency-based..."

"I like the idea of a competency-based program. In some areas I already had expertise and skills so I could take an independent study class and build the portfolio and take the exams. In other areas I needed more instruction."

—Gretchen Burr, WGU graduate, high school teacher

"I am an expert..."

"Western Governors has raised the bar for online courses. Instead of graduating from their courses and saying, "I have passed all of the requirements," they want their students to say, "I graduated from WGU and I am an expert in the field of..."

—Jeffrey Cravy, WGU graduate student

"Competency-based..."

"Google has pioneered the idea of access to information. The reason Google thinks WGU is such a good idea is because WGU has pioneered the concept of competency-based education whenever you want it."

—Eric Schmidt, CEO of Google Inc.

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