



About WGU

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Western Governors University Appoints New Provost

SALT LAKE CITY -- Western Governors University (WGU) today named Sal Monaco, Ph.D. as its new provost and vice president of academic affairs, according to President Robert W. Mendenhall. Dr. Monaco joins WGU following a distinguished career developing and delivering high quality educational programs in business, technology, health care administration, and education. Dr. Monaco spent 10 years at University of Maryland University College (UMUC), serving until 2006 as vice provost and dean of the Graduate School of Management and Technology, delivering online degrees to more than 12,000 students enrolled in 20 degree and 40 certificate programs.

He has more than 25 years of management responsibility in business, higher education, in the private sector, and with the United States Air Force. Since leaving UMUC in 2006, Dr Monaco has successfully served as interim president of the New England College of Finance in Boston, Massachusetts, and most recently as provost and executive vice president of the American College of Education. He holds a B.S.E. from Manhattan College, an M.S.E. from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. from the Lally School of Management and Technology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. His appointment will be effective January 21, 2008.

"WGU is redefining the model for higher education by preparing students with a set of integrated competencies, rather than a succession of courses, that define the skills, knowledge, and abilities needed in today's competitive marketplace," says Dr. Monaco. "Through a thorough and carefully crafted objective assessment of each competency, WGU ensures that graduates actually possess these critical workforce skills. Today, the university is on the threshold of becoming a formidable and dominant force in providing education for working professionals in career areas that are most in demand."

According to President Robert Mendenhall, "What attracted us most to Dr. Monaco is his commitment to high academic quality and his demonstrated success in managing faculty and student success in a high growth online education enterprise. As WGU continues to grow at a fast rate (45 percent growth last year), Dr. Monaco's leadership will serve our growing student enrollment and the WGU academic staff extremely well."

About Western Governors University (WGU)

WGU is the only accredited university in the U.S. offering online competency-based degree programs. The private non-profit university was founded and is supported by 19 governors, as well as more than 20 leading corporations and foundations, which include corporations and foundations such as AT&T, Bearing Point, Dell, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Hewlett-Packard, HCA, Microsoft, Oracle, Qwest, SunGard SCT, Sun Microsystems, and Zions Bank. WGU offers bachelor's and master's degrees in business, information technology, teacher education, and health professions, with students in all 50 states. More information is available at www.wgu.edu.

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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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