



About WGU

News Brief - 3/18/08

Western Governors University Continues to Increase the National Pool of Qualified Rural Teachers

SALT LAKE CITY -- While reaching 10,000 enrolled students recently, Western Governors University (www.wgu.edu) continues working with the U.S. Department of Labor to increase the national pool of qualified rural teachers, particularly in the hard-to-fill disciplines of mathematics and science. The WGU Teachers College is among the largest teacher colleges providing online teaching degrees with approximately 1,200 students enrolled in math and science teaching programs.

WGU was awarded a \$3 million grant from the Department of Labor that allows WGU to provide financial, academic and clinical support for teacher candidates, including scholarships up to \$7,500 for qualified students. During the past year, WGU has worked with state labor and workforce development departments and local rural school districts to identify and prepare potential rural teacher candidates and will continue to do so, including awarding of DOL scholarships.

WGU Teachers College graduates have become licensed teachers in nearly every state. It is the only online teacher education program to be accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Scholarship recipient Kimberley Landon who lives in Oroville, Washington, which is a small agricultural community with a population of 2,000, is impressed with the program. "Upon graduation, I know I will have gained the knowledge necessary to be a successful teacher and not just earned a degree," she said. Living in a rural area, Kimberly was glad she did not have to travel dozens of miles to a brick-and-mortar campus to earn her degree.

"What WGU has partnered to do with the Department of Labor has given me and many others in rural areas a great opportunity," says Kimberley, who is seeking her online master's degree in math. "Residing in a rural area has hindered the advancement of my dream of becoming a teacher and now because of WGU and the scholarship provided, I can pursue my dream."

WGU's unique mission is to expand access to higher education through its online competency-based degree programs. Because the courses are offered via internet they are accessible to those living in rural areas that may not have a traditional campus that is accessible. This unique model measures what students know and can do, rather than measuring the time or credit hours spent in a classroom setting. It also is an advantage for working adults that have competencies through professional experience to complete their program more quickly without compromising the quality of graduates.

For more information on the WGU DOL scholarships, go to [our Web site scholarship page](#) or call 1-866-225-5948.

PR Contact:

Gwen Castaldi
WGU Director of Public Relations
801-290-3600
gcastaldi@wgu.edu

Enrollment Contact:

1-866-225-5948

- Accreditation
- Financial Aid
- Is online study for you?
- Student Success and Performance Data
- WGU Student Experience
- See videos of past graduation ceremonies 

"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.

[more testimonials >](#)

REQUEST MORE INFO >>