



About WGU

News Brief - 8/7/08

Emily Stover DeRocco Elected to Board of Trustees at Western Governors University

SALT LAKE CITY -- Emily Stover DeRocco, president of The Manufacturing Institute and senior vice president of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), has been elected to serve on the board of trustees of Western Governors University, the non-profit online university offering flexible, competency-based degrees.

At the NAM, Ms. DeRocco oversees implementation of a strategic agenda on education, workforce development, research and innovation, and the design and operation of a new national center dedicated to fostering a new generation of manufacturing workers for the 21st century.

"We are honored to have Ms. DeRocco join WGU's board," said Bob Mendenhall, president of Western Governors University. "She brings an exceptional breadth of knowledge about current and future workforce issues. Her expertise will help WGU prepare our graduates for careers that are in-demand in the 21st century."

From 2001 to 2008, Ms. DeRocco served as the assistant secretary of labor for employment and training in the U.S. Department of Labor, where she created economic development initiatives built on talent development strategies in 39 regions across the nation. Her responsibilities included implementation of Trade Adjustment Assistance for displaced workers, alternative educational pathways for the nation's youth, the national apprenticeship program, and workforce development programs, among many others.

During her tenure, Ms. DeRocco chaired or vice-chaired numerous boards and commissions, including the Education and Workforce Committee of the Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education, the Education and Workforce Committee of the Department of Commerce's Interagency Working Group on Manufacturing, and the President's Committee on Economic Adjustment for the Defense Department's Base Realignment and Adjustment Commission.

Ms. DeRocco also brings over 10 years of private sector experience, most notably as chief executive of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies. She has prior federal government experience at the Departments of Energy and Interior, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Interstate Commerce Commission. Ms. DeRocco is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and received her law degree from Georgetown Law Center.

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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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