

News Releases

News Release: Hickenlooper Elected to Board, 7/19/11

SALT LAKE CITY — Gov. John Hickenlooper of Colorado has joined the Western Governors University Board of Trustees. Hickenlooper was unanimously elected to serve on the governing board for the nonprofit, [online university](#). The school was founded in 1997 by 19 U.S. governors, including former Colorado Gov. Roy Romer.

WGU, which was established to increase higher education opportunities for working adults, offers [online competency-based degrees](#) in high-demand career fields such as Business, Information Technology, Education, and Health Professions, including Nursing. Accredited and now more than 25,000 students strong, the university serves students in all 50 states.

“We are very pleased to welcome Governor Hickenlooper to our Board of Trustees,” said WGU President Robert W. Mendenhall. “Colorado’s Governor was a key player in the establishment of Western Governors University 14 years ago, and the continued participation of state governors has been essential to the university’s growth and development over the years.”

“Today, more than any other time in our lifetimes, increasing the number of highly educated people in our country is absolutely essential,” Governor Hickenlooper said. “Western Governors University, like other higher education institutions in every state, is playing an important role in teaching tomorrow’s leaders how to compete in a global marketplace. It will be an honor to work with WGU as it continues to serve a growing population of online students.”

Elected Governor of Colorado in November 2010, John Hickenlooper is the state’s 42nd governor. He served as mayor of Denver from 2003 until he took office as Governor on Jan. 11, 2011. As mayor, he consistently honed a creative, innovative, and efficient edge to government. Hickenlooper overhauled the city’s financial system, created the city’s first chief financial officer, and streamlined many city services. In 2005, Time magazine named him one of the five best big-city mayors in the U.S. A geologist turned entrepreneur, Hickenlooper opened Colorado’s first brewpub and owned several Denver-area restaurants before entering public service. He is a graduate of Wesleyan University.

Joan Mitchell, VP of Public Relations

Phone: 801-428-5463

Email: jmitchell@wgu.edu

More Information: 866-225-5948

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