

ADDENDUM TO

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

*Between the State of Texas and
Western Governors University*

We, the undersigned, acknowledge that:

In 1997, the State of Texas (State) and Western Governors University (WGU) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (the MOU) outlining the State's participation in and support for the establishment of WGU.

The State and WGU now desire to take certain steps to build upon the goals and objectives outlined in the MOU to provide greater access to higher education opportunities for adult Texans through new technologies and online learning by establishing WGU Texas to serve Texas students as described in this Addendum.

In furtherance of the foregoing recitals, the State and WGU will take the following steps:

1. The Governor of the State will issue an Executive Order that, among other things, declares the State's support for WGU's establishment of WGU Texas to provide online, competency-based degrees for Texas citizens with a particular focus on working adults. As an integral part of the establishment of WGU Texas, the Governor's Executive Order will confirm the State's support of WGU's efforts in Texas and will call upon:

A. All agencies and officials of the State to work cooperatively with WGU toward the creation and establishment of WGU Texas as a nonprofit Texas institution of higher education that provides online, competency-based degree programs within the State.

B. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to recognize, endorse and support online, competency-based education as an important component of the State's higher education system; to work to eliminate any unnecessary barriers to WGU Texas' delivery of such education programs; and to work with WGU Texas to integrate its academic programs and services into the State's higher education policy and strategy.

C. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to explore, consider and implement appropriate and effective methods to promote online, competency-based education opportunities like those that WGU Texas will provide to dislocated workers, veterans and other Texans in need of higher education achievement and degrees.

D. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) to explore, consider and implement appropriate and effective methods to promote and partner with WGU Texas to expand the supply of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related teachers in Texas.

E. THECB, TWC, TEA and all other agencies whose assistance is required to create appropriate data-sharing processes, as may be required by state or federal guidelines, to assess WGU Texas' performance and determine the extent to which it helps the State achieve the goals of its higher education system.

2. WGU will undertake the following steps:

A. WGU will establish WGU Texas as a wholly controlled subsidiary of WGU under the laws of the State of Texas.

B. WGU Texas will have an office in Texas and will staff such office with Texans in positions for which they are qualified.

C. WGU Texas will grant degrees under the current accreditation of WGU to Texas students who successfully satisfy WGU's competency-based degree requirements.

D. WGU Texas will work with the community college systems in Texas to provide seamless transfer and articulation of community college graduates into the WGU system.

E. WGU Texas will collaborate with employers and employer organizations in Texas to meet future workforce needs.

F. WGU will maintain its status as a private, accredited institution of higher education.

G. WGU agrees that WGU Texas will not seek or apply for any financial aid for which the State provides an appropriation to THECB, and will advise its students and prospective students that such aid is not available to WGU Texas students.

H. WGU will cooperate with the State, THECB, TWC, TEA and other State agencies to assure that the objectives stated herein and in the MOU are achieved for the benefit of Texans in need of higher education.

3. WGU Texas will have an advisory board whose members shall be appointed in consultation with the Governor of the State of Texas.

This Addendum supplements the understandings between WGU and the State reflected in the 1997 MOU and does not alter or modify any other Memoranda of Understanding between WGU and any one or more other states.


Governor of the State of Texas


Western Governors University

August 3, 2011


Date