

## News Releases

# Mendenhall's Senate Committee Testimony, 2/2/12

WGU President Robert W. Mendenhall testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on February 2, 2012, at a hearing on improving college affordability in the United States. Dr. Mendenhall was one of four higher education leaders who, along with U.S. Undersecretary of Education Martha Kanter, spoke of the need to combat the rising cost of a college education.

Dr. Mendenhall spoke of WGU's competency-based model and the online university's use of technology as a "disruptive innovator" changing the way we think of a college education. "Even with the improvements in online learning platforms and resources, the majority of online education is simply classroom education delivered through the Internet, instructor-led and time-based. As a result, most online higher education is no more affordable than traditional education," Dr. Mendenhall told the committee. "In contrast, WGU actually uses technology to provide interactive instruction that allows students to learn at their own pace."

He urged the senators to support legislation that would enable and encourage competency-based learning and innovation in online and technology-driven education. He also called on them to consider a financial aid "Demonstration Project" that would allow for testing new models and innovations that could later be applied on a national scale.

See [full video of the hearing](#) on the Senate's website. Dr. Mendenhall's testimony begins at 185:45.

Joan Mitchell, VP of Public Relations

Phone: 801-428-5463

Email: [jmitchell@wgu.edu](mailto:jmitchell@wgu.edu)

More Information: 866-225-5948

### RSS FEED

Looking for a way to get the latest WGU news directly to you as it becomes available? Subscribe to the WGU news feed!

Subscribe

### SOCIAL MEDIA



### APPLY NOW

### LEARN MORE

[Newsroom](#)  
[Student Portal](#)

#### WGU Institutions

[WGU Indiana](#)  
[WGU Missouri](#)  
[WGU Tennessee](#)

[Healthcare Master's Degrees](#)

[WGU Texas](#)  
[WGU Washington](#)

[Employment at WGU](#)

[Business Master's Degrees](#)

[Healthcare Bachelor's Degrees](#)

[Newsroom](#)  
[Student Portal](#)

[Healthcare Master's Degrees](#)

#### WGU Institutions

[WGU Indiana](#)  
[WGU Missouri](#)  
[WGU Tennessee](#)

[WGU Texas](#)  
[WGU Washington](#)