

Western Governors founders mark 15 years

SALT LAKE CITY — A former Utah governor and top federal official will be on hand as the founders of Western Governors University celebrate its 15th anniversary.

Founders attending a commemorative event today include former Utah Gov. and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt, former Colorado Gov. Roy Romer and former Wyoming Gov. Jim Geringer.

Officials from the nonprofit online university then will award more than 3,200 degrees Sunday in Salt Lake City.

Students complete their studies online, but the university holds "in-person" commencement ceremonies twice a year.

The latest ceremony will include more than 450 graduates traveling to Salt Lake City from 39 states.

The online university was established in 1997 by a bipartisan group of 19 U.S. governors. It has grown to an accredited national university with more than 33,000 students and 16,000 graduates.

— *The Associated Press*

