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Dr. Allen Goben to Lead WGU Missouri, 6/20/13



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News Brief - 6/20/13

Dr. Allen Goben to Lead WGU Missouri

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Experienced community college president to serve as Chancellor for Missouri's new online university

ST. LOUIS — WGU Missouri, missouri.wgu.edu, the nonprofit, online university established by the state of Missouri, has appointed Dr. Allen Goben as its first Chancellor. Dr. Goben joins WGU Missouri with more than 20 years of experience in education, including specific focus on higher education for nontraditional students. Dr. Goben joins WGU Missouri after serving as president of Heartland Community College in Normal, Illinois. He will lead the growth and development of the state's newest university across the state.



In addition to Heartland Community College, Dr. Goben served as president of Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) in Kentucky. Before joining HCTC, Dr. Goben worked as a Senior Executive for Higher Education Development at SAS Institute and held leadership positions at a private business college and two community colleges.

Dr. Goben earned a Doctor of Education degree with a focus on Educational Administration from The University of Texas at Austin where he was recognized as a Distinguished Graduate. His work at HCTC led to the college being recognized as one of the "Best Places to Work in Kentucky" and as one of the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* "Great Colleges to Work For" as the college improved student success rates by 24%. He recently served on a national steering committee for accountability in education and a national commission on the future of education in America.

Dr. Goben and his wife Kelly, a native of Hannibal, are moving to Missouri with their three daughters.

WGU Missouri was established February 15, 2013, by Governor Jay Nixon. The state's only fully online, competency-based university, WGU Missouri offers more than 50 accredited bachelor's and master's degrees in business, information technology, K-12 teacher education, and health professions, including nursing. A state-based subsidiary of nationally recognized, nonprofit Western Governors University, WGU Missouri is open to all qualified Missouri residents.

WGU Missouri uses an innovative learning model called competency-based education, which measures learning rather than time spent in class. Designed to meet the needs of adult learners, competency-based education allows students to take advantage of prior learning and experience to move quickly through material they already know so they can focus on what they still need to learn. WGU Missouri faculty members serve as mentors, working one-on-one with students, offering guidance, support, and individualized instruction. While WGU Missouri's programs are rigorous and challenging, competency-based learning makes it possible for students to accelerate their programs, often finishing sooner, saving both time and money. Tuition at WGU Missouri is affordable, approximately \$6,000 for a 12-month year, and it is charged at a flat rate, so students can take as many courses as they are able with no increase in tuition costs.

"WGU Missouri represents the future of higher education and offers a unique opportunity for working adults in the state to complete a bachelor's or master's degree," said Dr. Goben. "I am looking forward to working with community and business leaders and to partnering with other higher education institutions throughout the state to establish WGU Missouri as one of the state's great higher education opportunities. And I'm excited to begin the work of building a vibrant community of WGU Missouri students, alumni, and faculty."

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NBC News Reports on WGU



"The dreams of 19 governors have become [WGU Grad Angie Gonzalez's] dream fulfilled."

—Tom Costello
NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams

[Watch the video](#) »

Featured News

Find out why Fast Company calls WGU one of the world's 50 most-innovative companies, CNN says we're "a school without boundaries," and major news outlets from NPR to Bloomberg BusinessWeek are touting WGU's "potential to transform the higher education industry."

[Read about WGU in the news](#) »

Why We Are Different

WGU has an innovative learning model for helping working adults earn bachelor's and master's degrees. Learn more about how it can help you.

[Watch the video](#) »

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- Teacher Licensure Programs
- Graduate Programs for Licensed Teachers

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

- Business Bachelor's Degrees
- Business Master's Degrees

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- WGU Missouri
- WGU Tennessee

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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- IT Master's Degrees

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

- Healthcare Bachelor's Degrees
- Healthcare Master's Degrees