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## University gets millions to increase Houston enrollment

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**Western Governors University Texas** received \$2 million from the **Houston Endowment** to increase enrollment in high-demand career fields.

WGU Texas, an online university established in 2011, will use the funds to increase enrollment in the Houston region for its health care, teaching, information technology and business schools.

The university targets adults who need a flexible way to return to college to complete a bachelor's or master's degree.

By 2020, 62 percent of the jobs in Texas will require some post-secondary education, according to a study by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. Nearly half will require at least a bachelor's degree.

Although the greater Houston area ranks among the top five most populous metropolitan regions in the country, it ranks as one of the lowest of the largest metropolitan regions in terms of adults who have obtained a postsecondary degree, according to a 2013 **Lumina Foundation** study.

One-third of WGU's 4,300 students in Texas live in Houston or the surrounding area, Chancellor Ray Martinez told Houston Business Journal. The university employs 170 full-time workers in Texas.

"As we grow our student base, our (job) capacity will grow as well," Martinez said.

The Houston area is a hotbed for health care jobs, even while other hospitals nationwide have cut back staff. Three of the top five companies with the most job listings on SimplyHired.com in August were hospitals, according to **Simply Hired Inc.'s** August 2013 Employment Outlook.



WGU Texas will use its \$2 million grant to get more nurses, teachers, information technology and business professionals to hit the books.

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