

# Memphis Business Journal

## Western Governors University looking to train 100,000 STEM teachers



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Western Governors University, which launched its Tennessee online college in summer 2013, has formed a partnership with 100Kin10, an organization dedicated to training 100,000 science, technology, engineering and math teachers by 2021.

100Kin10 was created in 2011 by a group of educators and the Clinton Global Initiative with financial support from Carnegie Corporation of New York and the S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation. The organization has nearly 200 partners across the U.S.

With the WGU partnership, the Tennessee Department of Education, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Public Education Foundation and Memphis Teacher Residency have all become affiliated with 100Kin10.

“This is a tremendous achievement for WGU Tennessee and its Teachers College, as well as a testament to the quality of our education degree programs and our amazing faculty and students,” Kimberly Estep, WGU Tennessee’s chancellor, said in a statement. “Just last month WGU was named one of the leading producers of STEM graduates in the country.”

In January, 100Kin10 launched a \$5 million fund which was created by the The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, and the Overdeck Family Foundation. That funding adds to more than \$57 million the organization has received since 2011. An estimated \$31 million has been distributed in 99 grants since the organization was created.

Through the WGU partnership, 100Kin10 has committed to recruit and train 12,412 teachers, with an estimated 37,000 teachers being trained by 2016.

WGU Tennessee provides degrees in K-12 teacher education, through its WGU Teachers College. That program provides online courses accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. It currently has 11,000 students enrolled and has graduated 11,000 students. WGU Tennessee was created through \$5.75 million in grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the state of Tennessee. Western Governors University was launched in 2010, and has a total of five schools across the country. Other locations include WGU Indiana, WGU Washington, WGU Texas and WGU Missouri.

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