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## WGU Takes USDLA Best Practice Award for Fifth Time, 5/6/14



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### News Brief - 5/6/14

#### Western Governors University Takes USDLA Best Practice Award for Fifth Time

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#### Online, competency-based university recognized as 21st Century Best Practice in Distance Learning by United States Distance Learning Association

SALT LAKE CITY — For the fourth consecutive year and fifth time since 2008, Western Governors University (WGU,) [www.wgu.edu](http://www.wgu.edu), has been honored with the 21st Century Best Practices in Distance Learning for 2014 Award from the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA). The online university with more than 45,000 students and 33,000 graduates in all 50 states has been recognized for leading the way in higher education for nontraditional students.

"As a premier organization for the entire distance learning profession, we are honoring Western Governors University as a leader in the industry," said Dr. John D. Flores, Executive Director of USDLA, Program Professor at Nova Southeastern University.



The pioneer and leader in competency-based education, WGU offers affordable, online bachelor's and master's degree programs in business, information technology, K-12 teacher education, and health professions, including nursing. WGU's innovative learning model makes it possible for busy adults to earn accredited degrees without sacrificing work and family obligations. Students study and learn online, with one-to-one faculty support, moving at a pace that is personalized to their individual needs. Rather than logging into class, students have 24/7 access to online learning resources, allowing them to fit their studies into their lives. Because students advance as soon as they demonstrate mastery of course materials, they can accelerate their time to completion—the average time to complete a bachelor's degree at WGU is 34 months.

The USDLA also recognized WGU for providing guidance and support to other institutions as they implement competency-based learning programs. In 2012, with the support of The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, WGU began working with community colleges in several states to help them find ways to develop competency-based programs inside existing academic institutions and structures. In addition, WGU conducts regular onsite seminars for institutions interested in developing competency-based programs.

"Each year, these recognized leaders raise the bar and exceed best practice expectations for the industry as a whole and we are truly honored by their contributions within all distance learning constituencies," Flores said.

#### About United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)

The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit association formed in 1987 and is located in Boston, Massachusetts. The association reaches 20,000 people globally with sponsors and members operating in and influencing 46% of the \$913 billion dollar U.S. education and training market. USDLA promotes the development and application of distance learning for education and training and serves the needs of the distance learning community by providing advocacy, information, networking and opportunity. Distance learning and training constituencies served include pre-k-12 education, higher and continuing education, home schooling as well as business, corporate, military, government and telehealth markets. The USDLA trademarked logo is the recognized worldwide symbol of dedicated professionals committed to the distance learning industry. <http://www.usdla.org>

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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](#) »

### Take the Quiz

Is WGU a good fit for you?

### Learn More About WGU

- Admissions
- Tuition and Financial Aid
- About WGU
- Academic Experience

### WGU Resources

- Employment at WGU
- Newsroom
- Student Portal

### Degrees & Programs

#### TEACHERS COLLEGE

- Teacher Licensure Programs
- Graduate Programs for Licensed Teachers

#### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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

### WGU State Institutions

- WGU Indiana
- WGU Missouri
- WGU Tennessee

#### COLLEGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- IT Bachelor's Degrees
- IT Master's Degrees

#### COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

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

- WGU Texas
- WGU Washington