

# News Releases

## Dr. Fred Hurst Joins WGU as VP for Institutional Advancement News Brief - 6/8/16

*Longtime head of Northern Arizona University's Extended Campuses Moving to Nation's Largest Nonprofit, Competency-Based University*

SALT LAKE CITY — Dr. Fred Hurst, the architect of Northern Arizona University's (NAU) competency-based education programs and a leader in technology-enabled higher education, has joined Western Governors University (WGU) as Vice President of Institutional Advancement. In this role, Hurst will lead the university's efforts to support the expansion of competency-based higher education. He replaces Dr. Sally Johnstone, who was appointed President of The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems earlier this year.

Hurst joins WGU after serving as NAU's Senior Vice President for Extended Campuses for more than 16 years. In that role, he developed online and competency-based learning programs for the university and expanded access to NAU programs to regional, national, and international students. Hurst was also appointed by the U.S. House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, providing advice and counsel on financial aid policy to Congress as well as the Secretary of Education.

"Advancing and expanding the application of competency-based learning in higher education is a key objective for WGU, and Fred Hurst brings the ideal mix of knowledge and experience to this role," said WGU Provost Dr. David Leasure.

"My career has been focused on expanding higher education opportunities for nontraditional students, and joining WGU, the leader in competency-based learning, is a logical next step for me," said Hurst. "I look forward to working with the WGU staff as well as other higher education leaders and policy makers to increase awareness and understanding of the university's innovative learning model."

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