

News Releases

Dr. Richard Cummins to Join WGU Washington as Chancellor

News Brief - 2/10/17

Cummins Brings More than 25 Years' Experience in Washington Higher Ed to New Role

SALT LAKE CITY — Western Governors University announced today that Dr. Richard Cummins, who has served as President of Columbia Basin College since 2008, will lead WGU Washington as Chancellor, effective April 10. Cummins succeeds former WGU Washington Chancellor Jean Floten, who retired last month.

While at Columbia Basin College (CBC), Cummins led the development of a number of programs, including bachelor's degrees, that expanded access to higher education programs in the Tri-Cities area. He worked closely with other community college leaders in the state to develop and implement competency-based courses and programs based on the WGU model.

“Rich Cummins is well known in Washington as a higher education innovator who has leveraged data to improve student success,” said WGU President Scott D. Pulsipher. “His ability to build partnerships that benefit students, graduates, and the community will enable WGU Washington to continue its growth and success throughout the state.”

Cummins joined CBC as a faculty member in 1990. During his time at CBC, he served as dean, vice president of instruction, executive vice president, and acting president before being appointed president in 2008. In addition, Cummins has been a Commissioner for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities since 2014. He earned a Ph.D. in Leadership Studies from Gonzaga University.

WGU Washington, established by the State Legislature in 2011, now has 10,000 students and more than 7,600 graduates. State-endorsed and nonprofit, the online, competency-based university offers more than 60 bachelor's and master's degrees in business, information technology, K-12 teacher education, and health professions, including nursing.

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