



Phenomenal 3 Years for Western Governors University

WGU has undergone tremendous growth over the past three years. Overall, enrollment went up from 950 as of June 2003 to 5,500 as of June 2006. Teachers College enrollment increased from 630 in June 2003 to 3,400 in June 2006, a total increase of 440%. There was an increase of 830% for the Business College, which had 140 enrolled in June 2003 and 1,300 in June 2006, and the IT College enrollment went from 100 to 750 for the same period, a 650% increase. Graduates increased from 40 through June 2003 to 1,050 through June 2006. Revenues also rose substantially over that same period, from \$8 million in fiscal year 2003 to \$31 million in fiscal year 2006. To keep up with the growth, WGU staff grew from 70 to 300 during that same time period.



Bucking the Trend – No Tuition Increase

Going against the national tide, WGU is not increasing tuition in 2006. Most colleges and universities are typically raising tuition 8-12 percent and have done so the past three to four years. Nationally, tuition at both public and private colleges has been increasing at more than double the overall rate of consumer inflation for several years.

In this era of escalating college costs, including high student loan debt, WGU is already a low-cost higher education provider keeping the current rate of \$2,790 per six-month term, with MBA students slightly higher at \$3,250 per six-month term. WGU's tuition remains attractive compared to the national average of \$21,235 per year for private colleges and \$5,491 per year for public 4-year colleges. (College Board, Fall 2005 data). Many states subsidize higher education at a level higher than WGU's total tuition. WGU does not receive any state funding.

Tuition accounts for more than 85% of WGU's total revenue. The university has increased productivity and reduced costs. President Robert Mendenhall says, "Higher education can't significantly improve productivity and costs without changing the model. We run a university that's doing it." The unique model includes being online, with no brick and mortar classrooms, and no athletics. In addition, WGU does not develop or teach its own courses, utilizing instead the best available third party learning resources from both universities and corporations. WGU faculty serve as student mentors and focus their time –not on teaching –but on mentoring and guiding the student through the duration of their education. Dr. Mendenhall served this past year on the Secretary's Commission on the Future of Higher Education, which recently addressed this very issue of affordability in its final report.

College of Health Professions Set to Open

It's new, it's innovative and it's on its way. WGU's College of Health Professions is set to open later this year, with an MBA in Healthcare Management. This will be followed early next year with an M.S. in Health Education and an M.S. in Nursing, followed by undergraduate level programs, including a B.S. in Health Informatics in summer 2007 and a B.S. in Nursing degree completion program,

planned for winter 2007.

WGU President Robert Mendenhall says, "The College's primary focus is on adults who are already working in health and health-related positions, but need access to additional education to further their career goals." The College of Health Professions offers the first, accredited, online, competency-

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"I believe I got an excellent value here mainly because of the flexibility issue. It's something I would recommend to any vet. . .and as vets—we're all about results!" — Ervin Willis

Student Spotlight

Ervin Willis

If you ask Ervin Willis a question in Arabic, he'll understand you completely and answer you right back. That's because as a military veteran (Navy, Army, and National Guard), his tours of duty have taken him to the far corners of the globe, bringing his skills in communications, intelligence, biomedical technology and electronics to bear in the toughest of situations. Part of his service time was in the U.S. Special Operations.



Ervin Willis

In between his active tours of duty, Willis earned many credits at five different U.S. colleges and universities. After serving in Iraq in 2003 and leaving the military, Willis started working toward an IT certification. The Special Forces' Enlightened Warrior educational project led him to WGU. Willis says, "It's a matter of you laying down what you know and moving forward on the program and a student is rewarded for his effort." Willis completed his Bachelor of Science in Information Technology degree with an emphasis on Network Management in June.

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Linda Clark

Linda Clark, mother of three grown children, a real estate agent and a full-time teacher, has developed her own phonics program called "Super Phonics to the Rescue." It deals with word analysis strategies using learning modalities and vowel choices with visual graphics. She's already sold more than 100 programs to parents and teachers and will market it nationally soon. "I have one student I tutor who has Fragile X Syndrome and was a total non-reader. He's an 18-year-old high school graduate, and now he is finally reading at a beginning third grade level and continues to make steady progress!" Linda says excitedly.



Linda Clark

Linda is also now the proud recipient of a Master of Education in Measurement and Evaluation, having graduated from WGU in July. She started teaching in 1979 and through the years has garnered teacher awards and nominations, but she wanted an advanced degree. Linda's schedule doesn't fit well with meetings and classes, so WGU suited her. "Way cool," she says, "The classes are not easy. You have to study for those assessments. But it was so convenient. I did many conference calls in my pajamas!"

With her phonics program, she's well on her way to becoming a classroom innovator.

Sorenson Legacy Foundation Supports WGU College of Health Professions Launch

The Sorenson Legacy Foundation has donated \$150,000 to help start the school's new College of Health Professions.

The foundation is a charitable organization established by the James LeVoy Sorenson family to promote altruistic and philanthropic endeavors. Mr. Sorenson, a Utahn, is one of America's top biotechnology pioneers and invented many medical devices that today are standard equipment in operating rooms and intensive care units. He is known foremost for developing the computerized heart monitor; he also invented the first disposable paper surgical mask, the first plastic venous



James LeVoy Sorenson

catheter and the first blood recycling system for trauma and surgical procedures.

Mr. Sorenson believes in WGU's new college and its unique approach to education. "People who are called to the health-care professions to ease pain and suffering and to improve the lives of others deserve our help as well as our everlasting respect," said Mr. Sorenson. "And WGU is an innovative way to serve those who can't further their healthcare education in the traditional way."

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—James LeVoy Sorenson

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“WGU broke the 900 year mold of higher education in the western world and began a revolution. Today you graduate from one of the most important universities in the world because it was designed from the ground up to serve the needs of 21st century learners.” —Dr. Douglas Johnstone



July 2006 Graduation Marks 10-Year Vision and Largest Class Ever at WGU

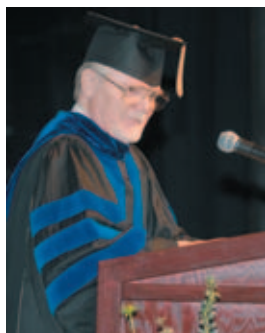
Ten years ago, 19 governors had a vision: to create an online, competency-based university that would improve quality and expand access to higher education, allowing students to learn at a time and place convenient to them. The vision became reality and 10 years later, WGU had its largest graduating class ever – 392 students from 43 states and 3 countries.

Seventy-two of the graduating students from all over the country made the trip to Salt Lake City to receive their diplomas July 15th at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center. A total of 323 undergraduate degrees and 69 graduate degrees were conferred, including 283 degrees from the WGU Teachers College, 55 business degrees, and 47 Information Technology degrees.

It was the first opportunity for many students to meet their fellow students and faculty mentors face-to-face.

This graduation also marked a special transition for Dr. Douglas Johnstone, the university's first provost. Recently named Provost Emeritus of WGU, he will be retiring at the end of this year. He led WGU for seven years, through its formative development, accreditation, the growth in degree programs from three to 35, and the accelerated growth of the past three years.

Dr. Johnstone delivered the commencement address, speaking to a standing-room-only crowd of graduates and families. “You took a leap of faith in yourselves, and in us. You are risk takers,” he told the audience. “You broke the bonds of whatever held you back, whatever had prevented you from earning that degree earlier in your life, whether it was time, lack of access or the demon of low self-confidence.”



Dr. Douglas Johnstone



He issued a challenge to this class – to live up to the responsibilities of increased citizenship, which includes carrying out those responsibilities by applying their new knowledge in their personal and work lives.

WGU Briefs...

- **GetEducated.com** named WGU's Bachelor of Science in Business as a “Best Buy” in summer 2006. This follows its listing of WGU's MBA on the “Best Buy” list for regionally accredited distance MBA's in spring 2006.
- **30 of WGU's faculty members** or academic administrators have published academic papers or made professional presentations nationally thus far in 2006.

New Board of Trustee Members

Western Governors University has added two new members to its distinguished Board of Trustees, which is composed of educators, industry leaders, and governors.

David E. Simmons, President and CEO of Simmons Media Group LLC, and Frank D. Alvarez, President and CEO of TMC Healthcare, have been elected to the governing board. WGU President Robert Mendenhall says,

“Both Mr. Simmons and Mr. Alvarez bring considerable expertise



David E. Simmons

to the university at a time of rapid growth, especially as we open the new College of Health Professions.”

Since 1998, Mr. Alvarez has overseen a three-hospital regional system serving Tucson, southern Arizona and northern New Mexico at TMC Healthcare. The company is the region's largest independent healthcare provider. Prior to 1998, Mr. Alvarez headed Maricopa



Frank D. Alvarez

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“I'm delighted by the opportunity to serve on the board of trustees for WGU. I believe WGU represents a major paradigm shift for higher education and that during our lifetimes we will see its model become the norm for millions of college students.”

— David E. Simmons



"I believe that WGU is the most innovative higher education institution in the U.S., with a single-minded focus on improving the cost and quality of higher education, and I want to be a part of that." — Craig D. Swenson

Two New Academic Leaders Join WGU

Craig D. Swenson

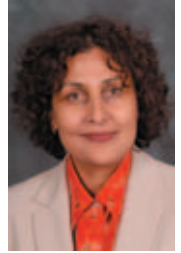
Craig D. Swenson, Ph.D. joined WGU as its new Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs in May of 2006. Craig joined the university after a distinguished career as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Phoenix system and president at Apollo Publishing and Learning Technologies. Prior to that, he served in various executive communications positions with First Interstate Bank. He taught at the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, Union Graduate Institute and Capella University. Craig did extensive academic writing over the past 15 years, including articles in Change, CAEL, Educause, Journal of Excellence in Higher Education and other professional publications.



Craig D. Swenson

Ruki Jayaraman

Ruki Jayaraman, WGU's new Director of Information Technology programs, has an eclectic background. She holds a doctorate in political science from Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, and also several IT industry certifications such as MSCE+I, MCT, and CNA. Ruki initially started out as an adjunct professor at Brigham Young University where she taught Political Science and International Relations, but she switched her career emphasis to Information Technology. She was hired by IKON Education Services where she was a technical trainer and a network administrator. Later, she became a senior leader at IKON in Utah. Prior to joining WGU, Ruki worked as Director of Customer Solutions for Tomax Corporation, a software firm.



Ruki Jayaraman

College of Health Profession Sets to Open... *Continued from page 1.*

based degree programs for healthcare professionals.

Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) is a founding sponsor of the new College, as well as a WGU National Advisory Board member. The company has actively consulted in the development of the degree programs.

Sorenson Legacy Foundation is also a founding sponsor and has given significant support for the new college.

Provost Craig Swenson feels the competency-based model values the student's existing knowledge and experience, individualizes the course of study, and potentially accelerates the time to completion. "Employers who are looking for the future leaders and managers and need them 'yesterday' are going to be thrilled to have our graduates and to have a program like ours available," Swenson says.

New Board of Trustee Members... *Continued from page 3.*

Integrated Health System and was V.P.-San Francisco Market Leader for Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and Health Plan. He serves on the Hospital Council of Arizona and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and has served on the Arizona State Board of Education.

In addition to heading Simmons Media Group LLC, Mr. Simmons also heads two affiliated companies, Western Broadcasting LLC and Crestwood Communications. He was born and raised in Utah and attended the University of Utah and BYU. Simmons graduated from Harvard Business School in 1983. He is an appointee to the Utah State Board of Business and Economic Development, and serves on the board of directors of First National Bank of Utah and on the governing boards of numerous community groups.

In addition to Mr. Alvarez and Mr. Simmons, the current

board includes Jim Geringer, former Governor of Wyoming and Director, Policy and Public Sector, ESRI; Dr. Carl A. Cohn, Superintendent, San Diego Unified School District; Dr. Therese Crane, Senior Education Advisor, Infotech Strategies, Inc.; Robert Evanson, Former President, McGraw-Hill Education; Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr., of Utah; Kim Jones, V.P. Academic and Research Computing, Sun Microsystems; Dr. Clara M. Lovett, President Emerita, Northern Arizona University; Dr. Mark Milliron, Endowed Fellow, Director, National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development, University of Texas-Austin; Governor Janet Napolitano of Arizona; Dr. Samuel H. Smith, President Emeritus, Washington State University; Bess Stephens, Vice-President and Global Director, Philanthropy and Education, Hewlett Packard Company; Dr. Jerry Wartgow, Former Superintendent, Denver Public Schools; and Robert Mendenhall, President, WGU.

Western Governors University...

offers the only accredited online competency-based degrees in the country.

At the University's website, www.wgu.edu, students can find competency-based degree programs, an online library, bookstore, and access to a personal WGU mentor who will guide a student through his or her customized degree program.

WGU was founded and is supported by 19 states and governors, as well as 23 leading corporations and foundations. WGU offers bachelor's and master's degrees in multiple areas: business, information technology and teacher education.