

WGU | ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



COLLEGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Dear Graduate,

It has been an extraordinary few weeks as our world faces historic challenges. We want to let you know we are thinking of each one of our alumni across the country and world. We have been inspired by the good that you are all doing in your communities and wish you good health and safety.



10 Suggestions to Help You Lead During a Pandemic

During the coronavirus health pandemic, it has become very clear that the world is not short on leaders. There are many different types of leaders all around us. What is clear is that many leaders are not necessarily experienced in leading during these circumstances. This article provides a variety of ways to help leaders continue to inspire others during this time. **Tip:** it's time to cultivate hope.

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Time Management: Working from Home

Working from home is a great opportunity, but it can also be difficult to stay focused and on task (trust us—working for an online university is just as hard!). Watch this course by productivity expert Dave Crenshaw. It highlights the best ways to set up your desk, organize your schedule, and tips on how to avoid burnout. Watch this **FREE** course now with your WGU credentials.

WATCH NOW



Cybersecurity Fight Against Hacking

A group of about 400 volunteers spanning 40 countries have teamed up to fight cyber hacking. Experts have seen an increase in cybersecurity attacks related to Coronavirus. Also, [check out this article](#) on how hackers are using automation.

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A Fresh Landscape of IT Certs

Microsoft recently announced the retirement of a handful of certifications, including Microsoft Certified IT Professional and Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert. According to Steve Linthicum, this change underlines the desire to move with cloud computing and away from general operations.

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Remember Your Why

By Eric Rasmussen | WGU Alum and Program Faculty Manager, College of

Our reasons for going to school at WGU are varied, but we share one thing in common now: we are alumni of WGU. Our “**why statements**” for why we came to WGU are different, but we now share the common goal of applying our degrees to our current jobs, promotion with our current companies, trying to find a job in a new field, or entering doors opened by our new degrees.

My own “why statement” was centered on finding a new career after an unexpected layoff after more than 20 years with a company. I often joked that I had a job where I changed companies and worked for multiple organizations without ever moving my office. As is often the case when companies get acquired by progressively larger organizations that move from private to public status, the company’s ethos and focus changes. I remember our first acquisition did a good job by having the owner of the private parent company come in and speak with us about their viewpoint and principles. **They also promised to provide us a copy of those principles to keep on our desks and guide us. I never did see that list ever again.** The public company shifts your concentration further to be focused on every three months to ensure a good report to the stockholders. The customer focus easily becomes a lower priority to the shareholders.

READ THE FULL POST

Stay Involved & Get Connected

WGU Alumni LinkedIn Group and College of IT Facebook

Being successful is equal parts what you know and who you know. You already know a lot. Now you can help yourself even more by becoming part of the [LinkedIn WGU Alumni group](#) and [Facebook College of Information Technology group](#). Join now and start connecting.



Use the Alumni LinkedIn Tool



Did you know that there are more than 140,000 Night Owls on LinkedIn? Once you've joined the [WGU Alumni group](#) on LinkedIn, [update your LinkedIn profile](#) so you can start networking. You can also use the [LinkedIn Alumni tool](#) to find alumni in your target industry. Connect with them and try conducting [informational interviews](#).

Apply to Be an Alumni Ambassador

Do you consider yourself WGU's biggest fan?

Then why aren't you a WGU Alumni Ambassador? This is a leadership opportunity for alumni who are dedicated to representing the university. Members share their time and experience by engaging with potential students, current students, and other alumni. Click [here](#) to learn more and apply.

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Career & Professional Development on Facebook

Join the Career & Professional Development Facebook group! Created for students and alumni to assist in career coaching, advice, recommendations, suggestions, and career opportunities. [Join here!](#)

Career & Professional Development Team

Experience can be essential. Identifying gaps in skill sets can help to focus on next steps. Look at job descriptions that align to your interests and identify required qualifications that you lack. Consider additional [tech training courses](#) to fill those gaps. Maintaining your [IT network](#) can also help to connect to peers best positioned to tap into entry-level jobs or internships. You can [schedule time](#) with our career advisors to explore other strategies and resources.



Three Promising IT

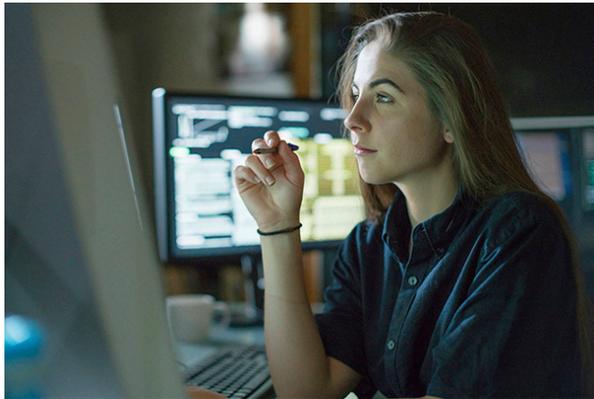
Three Promising IT Leadership Careers



If an IT management position is on your career path, here are three areas to consider, including what the positions might look like and the skills needed to succeed in them. Dive in to start career planning!

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Addressing the Gender Bias in the Tech Industry



Women still face inequality in the workplace (and elsewhere too). This is often seen through salary differences, stereotypes, and in many other areas. We can work together to fight these gender biases in the IT industry, but first it's important to understand the underlying causes. What does it mean to be a woman in tech?

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Capstone Excellence Award Recipients | Biannual Report

August 2019 – January 2020 CEA Awards

The WGU Excellence Program is proud to recognize the 147 students who received the prestigious Capstone Excellence Award in the past six months.

These culminating capstone projects must meet strict criteria, including ingenuity, mastery, or synergy for the greater good. Capstone Faculty Evaluators nominate deserving capstone projects, followed by a two-step Evaluation Management review. See additional eligibility criteria [here](#).

The [CEA Biannual Report - January 2020](#) shows by college the WGU graduates who received the Capstone Excellence Award for their work. Please join us in celebrating the success of our most recent Capstone Excellence Award recipients, as they begin a new season in their careers as distinguished WGU graduates.



WGU Labs, MajorClarity Partner to Advance Career Readiness for High School Students

WGU Labs, Inc. has announced an agreement with MajorClarity that will allow for students to “discover their future careers and the postsecondary paths needed to attain them.” This project will include the creation of new content for interactive simulations.

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Whooo's in the News!

WGU alumni are doing incredible things!
Here's a small sampling of what they've been up to. If you have any great news to share, please send it our way!

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