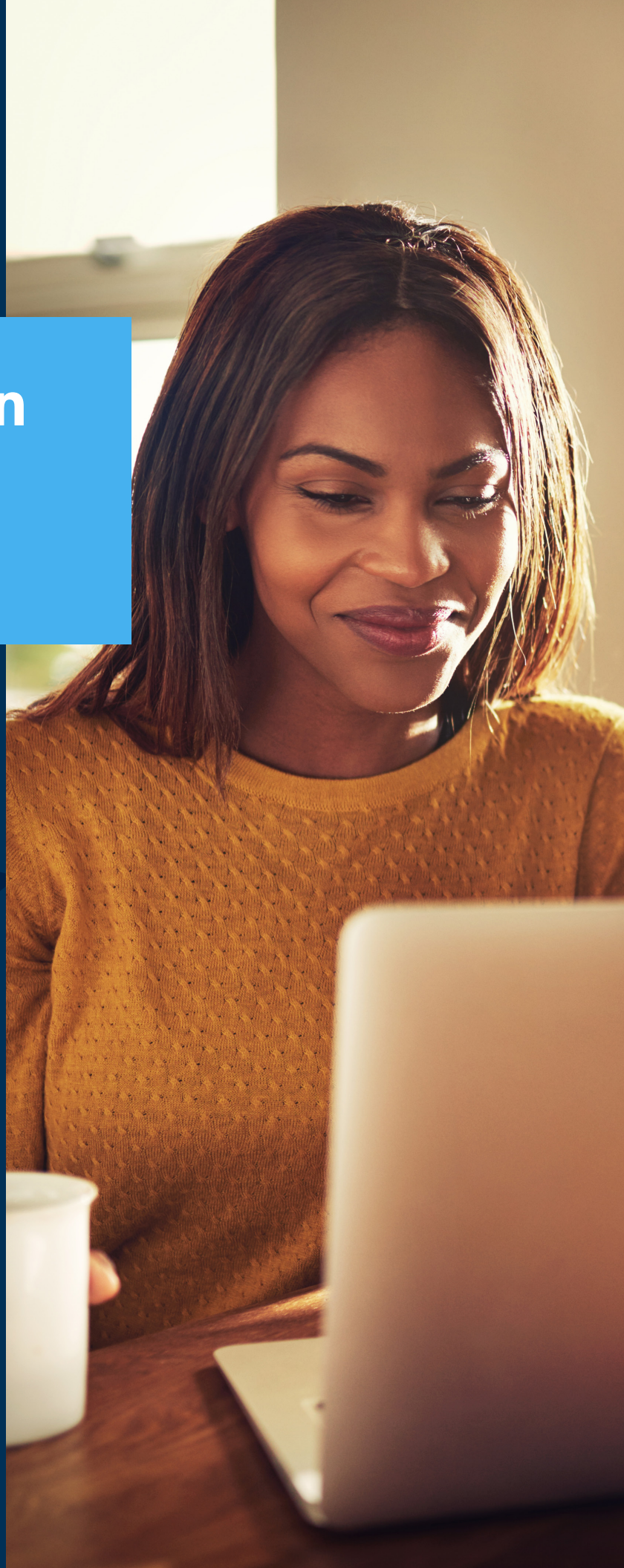




WGU's 10X Vision WGU Academy

Scott Pulsipher

President, Western Governors University



WGU Academy

As further example of WGU's commitment to transforming education, in 2019, we launched WGU Academy. WGU Academy provides a low-risk, low-cost on-ramp for preparing individuals for success in post-secondary learning. Since its launch, Academy has served nearly 20,000 individuals, with nearly 5,000 completing the college readiness program to date. In 2021 alone, more than 6,200 students enrolled in Academy, and nearly 2,500 completed and then enrolled in their bachelor's degree programs at WGU.

WGU Academy

With its focus on holistic readiness, WGU Academy strives to impact learners' academic success well after they've completed Academy. Those completing the Academy program continue to have high achievement in course completion, on-time progress, and persistence at WGU. Based on our research that began in 2020, we have shown that students, who were not fully prepared but completed Academy prior to enrolling with WGU, have demonstrated improved engagement and increased odds of success.

Specifically, a higher proportion of Academy graduates achieved on-time progress after their first term at WGU. This was found during a comparison analysis focused on first-year academic performance by students who completed Academy before they entered WGU compared to a demographically similar cohort of non-Academy WGU enrollees, which showed incredible results:

- Overall, 7% more students achieved on-time progress;
- 10.5% more among first-generation students; and
- 6.7% more among students of color.

While WGU Academy has served as a low-risk, low-cost on-ramp for thousands of WGU students, the vision for its impact across the higher education ecosystem is much bigger, and in 2021 the college readiness program continued to build and expand partnerships and pilot initiatives to serve students beyond WGU. Such as with the Suazo Business Center, Goodwill of San Antonio, and Service to Scholars, a pilot initiative of active-duty service members, veterans, and military spouses who are preparing for career transitions.