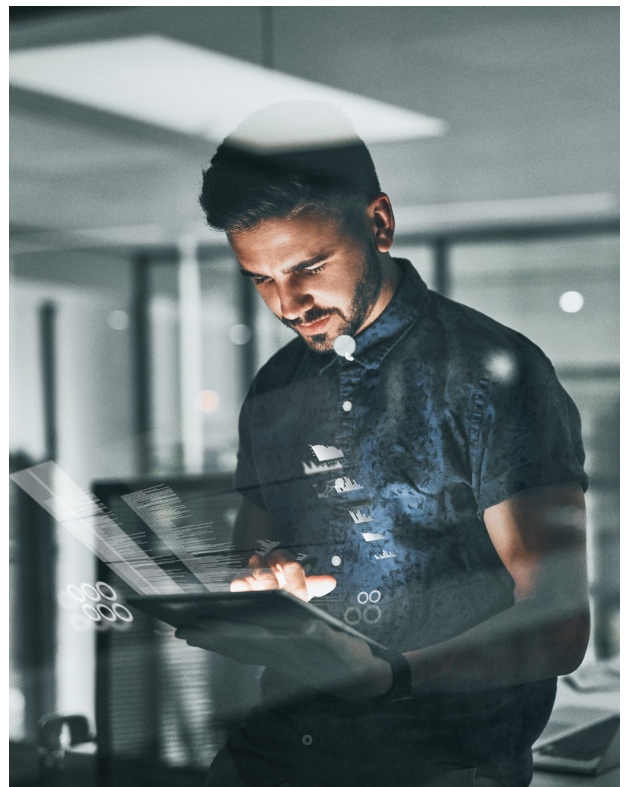# WGU

WGU's 10X Vision
WGU Labs

Scott Pulsipher
President, Western Governors University

WGU Labs

Our collaborative research arm, WGU Labs, was created to be both an idea generator and a testing ground focused on solving tough educational problems by rapidly designing, testing, and refining effective learning solutions. It employs the scientific method in research, experimentation, and piloting, to help define what the future of education can—and should—look like.

In the last 12 months, the Labs research team has examined environmental factors, tools, and strategies that may improve equity in both access and attainment. Insights from these studies are fueling the next generation of learning solutions and practices at WGU and beyond. Projects have included 23 research engagements with 12 different institutions including key partnerships in WGU's College of Business and College of IT, as well as our Financial Aid and Alumni Engagement.

This past year Labs has developed several solutions to major challenges in the education marketplace and here at WGU. For example:

- A competency-based evaluation for nursing programs;
- An LMS-integrated tool to test instructional materials;
- A platform that connects parents to educators for assistance in remote instruction; and
- Gamified exploration of ethics and social responsibility.

Like WGU, Labs exists to improve outcomes for every learner, particularly those underserved or poorly served by traditional educational models.

Founded by WGU Labs with grant support from the Charles Koch Foundation, the College Innovation Network, or CIN, is a growing network of higher education institutions committed to addressing the core challenge of promoting belonging and engagement in the modern higher education environment.

In 2021, the CIN recruited an additional seven institutions which, in addition to the original six members, represent more than 250,000 students. It developed a multi-phase EdTech needs assessment, piloted and evaluated three EdTech solutions in five member institutions, published groundbreaking EdTech Self-Efficacy research, and held convenings during which members discussed best practices and emerging needs.

Through its Accelerator program, WGU Labs provides research, market development, and product enhancement services to early-stage businesses in the learning-to-work domain. Through design and consultative engagements, combined with targeted capital deployment, the Accelerator advances the scale and impact of education companies that share our mission to expand access, improve quality, lower costs, and ultimately improve outcomes for individuals.

In the last 12 months, the Accelerator at WGU Labs has invested in and grown 13 EdTech companies, whose solutions address strategic moments in the student lifecycle. This support includes market development, research, and university trials with more than 1.35 million students impacted.