Quality and Flexibility of Online Education Are Key to WGU Student Satisfaction

Robin Yacus

“Western Governors University provided a unique opportunity to get credit for what I already knew, and best of all, to do it from home without having to interrupt my schedule and drop everything to go off to college. It was convenient, but very challenging. Anyone who does a degree online needs to be very committed because you’re responsible for what you’re doing. I felt like I made significant progress in completing the program quickly because I was focused. I’m immensely proud of my achievements.”

Connie Keogh

“It has always been my desire to complete a master’s degree, but for various reasons, I have been unable to obtain my advanced degree. When I learned about WGU, I realized I would now be able to complete a master’s degree. With this format, I have been able to increase my skills and abilities to utilize technology. WGU opened doors for me that I would not have been able to access without extreme inconvenience for my family, my career, and myself.”

Leigh Ann Riding

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Western Governors University Receives Accreditation

Western Governors University (WGU) was granted accreditation from the Intergovernmental Accrediting Committee (IRAC), representing four regional accreditation commissions, effective February 13, 2003. Based upon a comprehensive full-scale evaluation, WGU received accreditation at the associate, baccalaureate and master’s degree levels. In addition, three new programs: the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (BAS), the Master of Arts in Mathematics Education (MAME) and the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) were reviewed and approved for inclusion under the accreditation of the University. As a result of the actions taken by IRAC, WGU’s accreditation was approved by each of the four members of IRAC: the Commission on Colleges and Universities of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, the...
Western Governors University

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Western Governors University

making them accessible to working adults, and are the only competency-based degrees in the country.”

Dr. Marti Watson Garlett, Dean of the Teachers College at WGU said, “The WGU Teachers College will be particularly important to large, urban districts that have the largest populations of paraprofessionals and uncertificated teachers, as well as the greatest need for more qualified teachers. For example, the University is already partnering with the Clark County School District (Las Vegas, Region II in Texas (Greater Houston), and the Los Angeles Unified School District.” WGU is in the process of seeking individual state approvals and has already received approval from Arizona, Nevada, and Texas. Through reciprocity agreements with these three states, WGU license for teachers is accepted in a total of 46 states.

Dean Garlett said significant scholarship dollars are available to qualified applicants. The Western Governors Foundation has committed to raise 1,000 scholarships for teachers in the west to pursue their education at WGU, while the University also has a national scholarship fund, and has received federal grants to provide additional scholarships. In addition, the University is authorized to provide federal financial aid to its students.

“Our goal is to meet the needs of current and future teachers,” she said, “and we realize that providing financial assistance meets an important need for these individuals.”

WGU is not new to teacher education. The University has offered a master’s degree in learning and technology for the past three years and has current enrollment of more than 275 students, making it one of the largest programs in the nation.

Western Governors University

Receives Accreditation

Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. This represents an historic event in accreditation, as WGU is the only university ever to be simultaneously accredited by multiple regions. WGU is already nationally accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC).

More importantly, according to Governor Michael O. Leavitt (Utah), a founding governor and current Co-Chair of the University’s Board of Trustees, “this represents a watershed event in American higher education, in that regional accreditation provides a significant external validation of competency-based education as an accepted, viable alternative to the traditional credit-based system. At WGU, students graduate by demonstrating their competencies, rather than by accumulating credits,” explained Governor Leavitt.

“Western Governors University, members of the armed forces can earn an online, competency-based bachelor’s degree with K-8 licensure, a master’s degree in learning and technology, mathematics education, teaching (with K-8 licensure), or post-baccalaureate teacher licensure. This is particularly convenient for members of the armed forces who need flexibility of time and geography because degrees can be earned from any location and on any schedule. A full description of the program is located on the web at www.wgu.edu/troops.

“Troops to Teachers” at Western Governors University Assists Military Personnel Meet Teacher Shortage

Retired and retiring military personnel who may be interested in becoming teachers will find a program in place now to help them obtain and pay for teacher certification. “Troops to Teachers” (TTT), established in 1994 as a Department of Defense program and continued by The No Child Left Behind Act, has a primary objective of helping recruit quality teachers for schools that serve low income families throughout America. TTT helps relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education and other “high-need” subject areas, and assists military personnel in making successful transitions to second careers in teaching.

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Counseling, referral, and placement assistance is provided through a network of TTT state placement assistance offices. Twenty-five TTT State Support Offices have been established to assist participants with certification requirements and employment leads. The TTT homepage, www.proudtoserveagain.com, provides information and resource links, including a job referral system to allow participants to search for job vacancies as well as links to state departments of education, state certification offices, model resumes, and other job listing sites in public education.

On the www.wgu.edu/troops (801) 274-3280
On line www.proudtoserveagain.com
Job Openings On line www.jobs2tsach.doded.mil
Western Governors University Receives Accreditation (Continued from front page.)

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WGU Launches Nation’s Only Online Competency-based Teachers College (Continued from front page.)

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Financial assistance is provided to eligible individuals as stipends up to $5,000 to help pay for teacher certification costs or as bonuses of $10,000. Stipend and bonus recipients must agree to teach for three years in a school located in a "high-need" district. (b) Bonuses of $10,000 are available to those who agree to teach for three years in a school that serves a high percentage of students from low-income families.

Troops To Teachers Information and Resources

On the www.wgu.edu/troops (801) 274-3280
General TTI information Toll Free 1-800-231-6242
On line www.proudtoserveagain.com
Job Openings On line www.jobs2tsach.doded.mil
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Robin Yucas

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