Western Governors University

OVERVIEW

Oregon Education Investment Board
February 7, 2012

WGU Background

- **History**
  - Founded by 19 Governors
  - Supported by 20 major corporations
- **Mission**
  - Improve quality and accessibility of higher education for working adults

Private Supporters

(National Advisory Board)

AT&T

Dell Computer Corporation

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Google, Inc.

Hospital Corporation of America

Hewlett Packard Company Foundation

Lumina Foundation

Marriott Foundation

Microsoft Corporation

Oracle Corporation

Qwest Communications

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Simmons Media Group

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

SunGard Higher Education

Tenet Healthcare

Wasatch Property Management

Zions Bank

Who We Are

- Private, Nonprofit
- Over 30,000 students
- 13,729 total graduates (4,841 in 2011)
- Growing over 30% annually
- Online
- Affordable
- Accredited

A New Model in Higher Education

- Technology-based
- Competency-based
  - Tied to employer needs
  - Mastery of content
- Personal mentoring
- Accelerated

Competency-based Education

- Competencies developed by industry experts and implemented by course faculty
- Students demonstrate what they know and can do
- Competency set and assessed by third party
- No grades or “seat-time” required
- Holds learning constant and time to completion varies

Personal Mentoring

- Dedicated mentor assigned to each student
- Mentors are full-time WGU faculty
- Mentor stays with student as a partner, coach, advisor, teacher and motivator from the beginning through graduation
- With the mentor, the student builds a personalized graduation plan which establishes pacing through the program

Acceleration

- Students know different things and learn at different rates
- Students learn at their own pace
- All graduates have demonstrated mastery of all required competencies
- Average time to graduation is 30 months (vs. 60 months national average)

Online & Term-based

- Go to class anytime, anyplace
- Focus on adult learners with some college but no degree
- Six month terms
- Terms begin every month

Assessments

- Objective
- Performance
- Projects & Portfolios
- Capstone Projects for Master's Degree Programs
- Online Proctoring Technology

Degree Programs

WGU offers over 50 bachelor's and master's degrees in four high-need areas

- Business
- Information Technology
- Teacher Education
- Health Professions

WGU Tuition

- Application Fee: $65
- Tuition: $2890 per 6 month term
- MBA & Nursing: $3250
- Flat rate per 6 month term
- Self supporting on Tuition

Accreditation

- **Regionally Accredited**
  - Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
- **Nationally Accredited**
  - Distance Education and Training Council (DETC)
- **Teachers College Accreditation**
  - National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)

    (Note: WGU is the only exclusively online institution in the nation to receive NCATE accreditation)
- **College of Health Professions**
  - Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

WGU Students

Current WGU Student Population

- Working adults with some competencies
- Average age is 36
- 70% work full time
- 75% from underserved populations
  - •Rural •Minority •Low-income •First Generation College Student
- 79% of undergrad students receive Federal Financial Aid

Oregon

- Approximately 500 students – 250 Graduates
- 75% from underserved student populations
- Average age is 38
- Evenly spread across our degree programs
- A student in almost every county

Partnerships with States

- Include in postsecondary strategic planning
- Expand access without recurring state funds
- Introduce and recommend to working adults, CC graduates, and employers
- WGU students access to available need based aid
- Partner to support health or teaching professions
- One-time projects for dislocated workers
- Retrieval for adults with some college but no degree