



A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS, there is a significant need in Nevada to provide adults with greater access to opportunities to obtain higher education degrees; and

WHEREAS, Nevada currently ranks 47th in the nation with a percentage of its adult population 25 years or older with an associates or bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, there are 377,000 adults in Nevada with some college and no degree; and

WHEREAS, for Nevada's citizens to be competitive in the global economy, more citizens need the skills and knowledge that come with degree completion and college credentials; and

WHEREAS, Nevada is committed to a strengthening the linkage between higher education and economic and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, Nevada recognizes the unique needs of adult students and the imperative to provide flexible, affordable options for pursuing a postsecondary credential; and

WHEREAS, Western Governors University (WGU) is a nationally-recognized non-profit and independent university that is regionally accredited offering online degrees based on demonstrating competency as opposed to degrees based on credit hours, clock hours, or grades; and

WHEREAS, Nevada provided funding to create WGU in 1996 ("1996 MOU") to provide access to affordable education and training opportunities through online, competency-based programs and pledged to take appropriate actions to support the goals of WGU; and

WHEREAS, WGU has demonstrated success in providing online, competency-based education to Nevada adults, and proven success in partnering with states to expand educational opportunity for working adults; and

WHEREAS, over 800 Nevadans have graduated from WGU since its creation in 1996; and

WHEREAS, currently, over 800 Nevadans are active WGU students; and

WHEREAS, WGU provides a viable and self-sustaining complement to traditional learning methods through online, competency-based distance learning methods; and

WHEREAS, expanding Nevada's already successful partnership with WGU provides a unique opportunity to increase the number of adult Nevadans from Ely to Caliente to Tonopah to Winnemucca with a postsecondary credential; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada welcomes WGU as it expands its services in Nevada for the benefit of adult learners;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SANDOVAL, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim the partnership between the State of Nevada and WGU is consistent with the goal of improving access to higher education opportunities for adults in Nevada.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 15th day of June, 2015.

By the Governor:

Governor

Bonnie K. Legaspe
Secretary of State

By _____

Deputy