



# Western Governors University





# WGU Background

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



# National Advisory Board

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Lumina Foundation
- Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
- Marriott Foundation
- Microsoft Corporation
- Hospital Corporation of America
- Tenet Healthcare
- Oracle Corporation
- AT&T
- Dell Computer Corporation
- Google, Inc.
- Hewlett Packard Company Foundation
- Simmons Media Group
- SunGard Higher Education
- Sun Microsystems
- Zions Bank



# Who We Are

- **Accredited**
- **Affordable**
- **Online**
- **Private, Non-Profit**
- **Growing over 30% annually**



# A Unique Model in Higher Education

- **Technology-based online university**
- **Competency-based**
- **Personal mentoring**
- **Monthly enrollment**
- **Self-paced learning**



# WGU Student Population

- Working adults with some competencies
- Average age is 36
- 70% work full time
- 75% from underserved populations

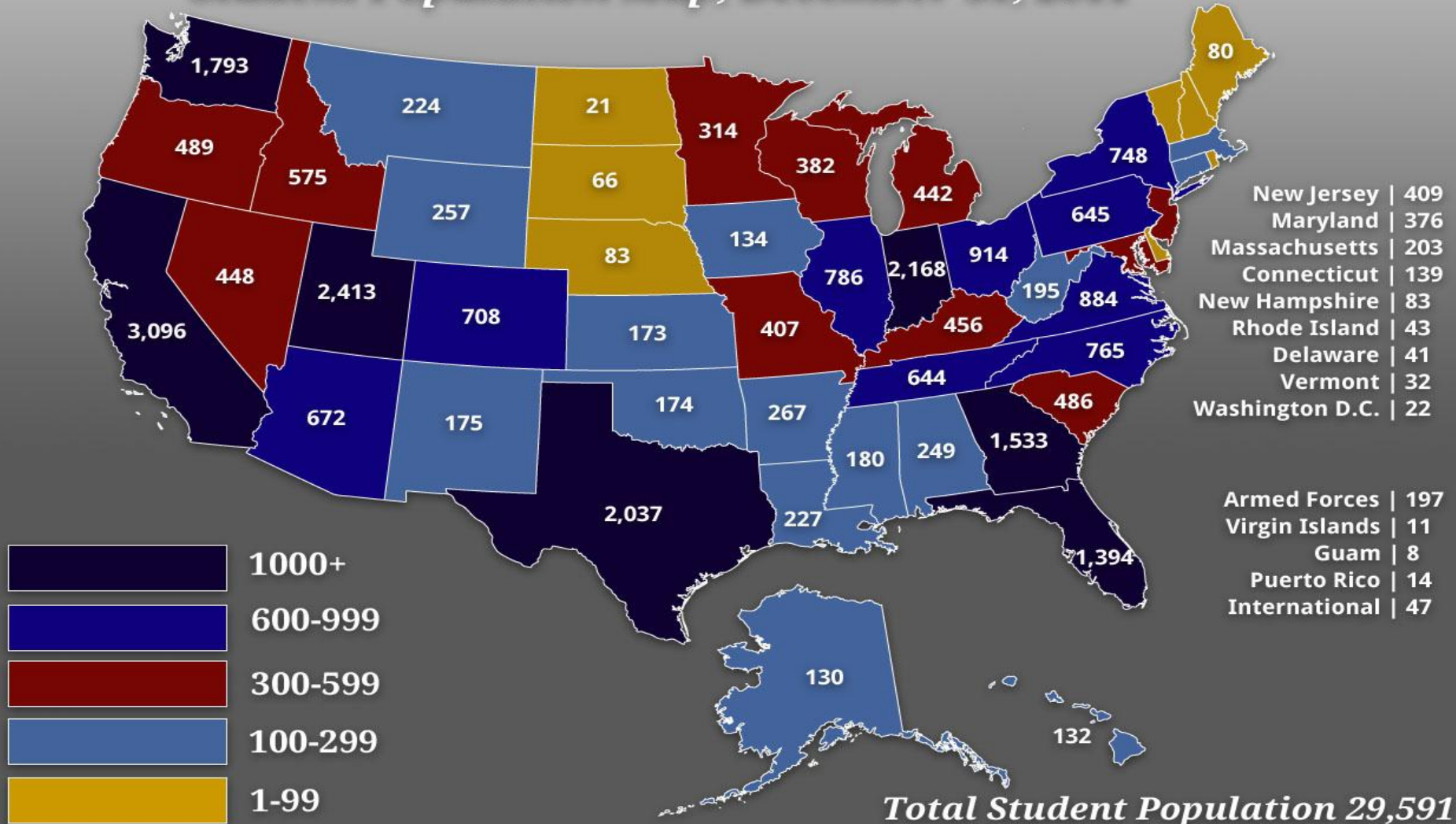




# WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

ONLINE. ACCELERATED. AFFORDABLE. ACCREDITED.

## Student Population Map, December 31, 2011





# Competency-based Education

- Competence must be demonstrated – by what you know and by what you can do – rather than accumulating a certain number of credit hours.
- Prior work, academic or life experience are a source of competencies that assist students to earn a degree.
- Acceleration is possible – not guaranteed.





# Personal Mentoring

- **Dedicated mentor assigned to each student**
- **Regular communication by phone and e-mail (every two weeks minimum)**
- **With the mentor, each student builds a personalized graduation plan which establishes pacing through the program**
- **Mentors are full-time, fully qualified WGU faculty**



# Nursing Mission

***The mission of the Nursing Programs is to  
prepare caring leaders who are  
technologically proficient nurses who  
preserve, promote, and improve the health  
and well-being of individuals, families,  
groups, communities, and populations.***



# Responsible Career Investment

**As a Non-profit university, WGU offers low cost programs with a total annual cost (tuition plus fees) of \$6,490 per year compared with other programs which even with a higher discount percentage, students still end up with annual costs in excess of \$20,000.**

***WGU offers a financially responsible academic progression alternative where career investment makes good economic sense.***



# Nursing Philosophy

.....nursing education needs to employ innovative methodologies and technology tools that support student development of ***cognitive knowledge, clinical reasoning, and ethical comportment***..... to develop competence and confidence prior to live patient clinical experiences, making the later experience of higher quality....Nursing education should strive to encourage development of a new type of nurse who utilizes ***clinical imagination and evidence based practice***. We see the new nurse ***as detective, scientist, and leader of the healing environment***.



# Imagine....a student-centric university where..

- **Students can enroll any month**
- **Working students can carry a full-time load, still take a class at a time and qualify for financial aid.**
- **Each student is assigned to an 'academic personal trainer' (mentor)**
- **Students progress at their own pace**
- **The curriculum is made up of real-world competencies and instead of grades, students graduate with competencies.**
- **Learning takes place when the student engages, whether that be five am in the morning or 7 pm at night.**





# Accreditation



- **Regionally Accredited**

- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).



- **Nationally Accredited**

- Distance Education and Training Council (DETC).

- **Teachers College**

- National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

- **Nursing programs**

- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management (CAHIIM).





# College of Health Professions

- **RN to BSN completion program (12 to 18 Months)**
- **MSN (24 to 30 Months)**
  - Education
  - Leadership
- **RN to MSN bridge program**
- **BS in Health Informatics**
- **MBA in Healthcare Management**



# National & Professional Standards Aligned with Nursing Competencies

- The Essentials of Baccalaureate Nursing for Professional Nursing Practice
- The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing
- Institute of Medicine (IOM)
- American Nurses Association (ANA)
  - Genetics & Genomics
  - Code of Ethics
  - Scope & Standards of Nursing Practice
- Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN Undergraduate and Graduate Nurse Competencies)
- Advisory Board- New Nurse Graduate Competencies



# 2010 IOM *Future of Nursing* Key Messages and Recommendations

- **Key Message #2:** *Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.*
- **Recommendation 4:** *Increase the proportion of nurses with baccalaureate degree to 80% by 2020.*
- **Recommendation 6:** *Ensure that nurses engage in lifelong learning.*

(IOM (Institute of Medicine), 2011)



# National Advisory Committee

- **Kathy Apple**, CEO, National Council of State Boards of Nursing
- **Geraldine Bednash**, Executive Director, American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- **Patricia Benner**, Professor and Chair, Carnegie Study on Teaching Nursing
- **Brenda Cleary**, Director, Center to Champion Nursing
- **Beverly Malone**, CEO, National League for Nursing
- **Margaret McClure**, Co-Chair, Committee on the Preparation of the Nursing Workforce, American Academy of Nursing





# Nursing Program Council

- **Jane Swanson**, RN, PhD, CNAA-B Director, Geri and Richard Brawerman Nursing Institute, Cedars-Sinai Hospital
- **Peggi Winter**, RN, MSN, Director of Distance Learning, Kaiser Permanente
- **Sylvain Trepanier**, DNP, RN, CENP, ***Regional Senior Director, Patient Care Services, Tenet Healthcare***
- **Dell Oliver**, MSN, MBA, RN, Director, Assistant V.P., Chief Nursing Officer Training Program, HCA Healthcare
- **Marge Hegge**, Ed.D., RN, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, South Dakota State University
- **Carol Easley Allen**, Ph.D, RN, Chair, Department of Nursing, Oakwood College
- **Richard C. MacIntyre**, Ph.D, RN, FAAN, Professor and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow, Samuel Merritt University
- **JoEllen Koerner**, Ph.D, RN, FAAN, Principal, NurseMetrix
- **Judy Papenhausen** RN, Ph.D, Director, School of Nursing, California State University, San Marcos—Consultant for California
- **Patricia Allen**, Ed.D., RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN, Professor and Director, Center for Innovation in Nursing Education



# RN-BSN Program

## ***Admission requirements***

- RN license in good standing
- A.A., A. S. or A.A.S. or Diploma in Nursing
- Currently working in Nursing

## ***Program Description & Outcomes:***

- Primarily online with Community Health practicum
- Monthly enrollment, progression is self-paced
- Typical time to completion is 2, 6 month terms
- Can maximize progress and tuition by accelerating at no additional cost
- High retention rate



# Prelicensure

## ***Admission requirements***

- Undergrad GE including sciences
- 2.5 Science GPA
- TEAS exam
- Clinical partner recommendation heavily weighted

## ***Program Description & Outcomes:***

- Hybrid with online didactic and face-to-face simulation and clinical
- Calendar is set collaboratively with clinical partner to avoid conflicts with other schools
- First 9 grads in CA- 100% NCLEX pass rate
- First TX grads pinning at Lake Pointe



# RN-MSN Program

## ***Admission requirements***

- RN license in good standing
- A.A., A. S. or A.A.S. or Diploma in Nursing
- Currently working in Nursing

## ***Program Description & Outcomes:***

- Primarily online with Community Health practicum & MSN Capstone in area of specialization
- Typical time to completion is 4, 6 month terms
- Monthly enrollment, progression is self-paced
- Can maximize progress and tuition by accelerating at no additional cost



# MSN Program

## ***Admission requirements***

- RN license in good standing
- B.S. in Nursing from a regionally accredited college or university
- Currently working in Nursing

## ***Program Description & Outcomes:***

- Primarily online MSN Capstone in area of specialization
- Typical time to completion is 3, 6 month terms
- Monthly enrollment, progression is self-paced
- Can maximize progress and tuition by accelerating at no additional cost





# MSN Capstones

Masters degrees in nursing at WGU are required to complete a Capstone project with both written research project and oral defense to demonstrate this competency:

***The Graduate integrates and synthesizes competencies from across the degree program and thereby demonstrates the ability to participate in and contribute value to the chosen professional field.***



# MSN Capstones: Recognition awards Feb 2012

## For Nursing Leadership and Management:

- *The Retention of Nurses in the Critical Care Unit after Two Years and its Effect on the Organization*
- *Sepsis Treatment in the Emergency Department: An Examination of the Relationship Between the Timing of Antibiotic Administration and Patient Survival*

## For Nursing Education:

- *Simulation as a Strategy to Increase Self-Confidence in Nursing Students*



# Business

- **Full range of Undergraduate Degrees**
  - Business Management, HR Management, Accounting, Sales and Sales Management, Marketing Management
- **Graduate Degrees**
  - MBA
  - MBA IT Management
  - MBA Healthcare Management



# Information Technology

- **Full range of Undergraduate Degrees**
  - Networks, Security, Databases, IT Management, Software
  - Health Informatics
- **Graduate Degrees**
  - M.S. Information Security and Assurance
  - M.S. Network Management
  - M.B.A. IT Management



# Focus on Student Success

- **One Year Retention Rate – 75%**
- **Student Satisfaction – 96%**
- **Students in Good Academic Standing – 83%**
- **Students Who Would Recommend WGU-97%**





# 2011 National Study of Student Engagement

*Independent survey of students at traditional and online universities nationwide. (Excellent= 4, Poor =1)*

- **Rating on Entire Educational Experience –Seniors**
  - WGU 3.58,
  - Private Nonprofit 3.23,
  - All schools 3.27
- **Satisfaction with Quality of Academic Advising**
  - WGU 3.64,
  - Private Nonprofit 2.96,
  - All schools 2.98



# Graduate Satisfaction

*2011 Survey on 3,979 Graduates Conducted by Lighthouse Research and WGU*

- **94% would choose WGU if making the choice again.**
- **96% would recommend WGU to others.**
- **73% found the competencies they gained at WGU directly related to their work.**
- **65% got a raise, promotion, or new job responsibility as a result of their WGU degree**



# Employer Satisfaction

*2011 Survey of Employers by Harris Interactive*

- **98% agree that WGU graduates meet or exceed their expectations.**
- **100% would not hesitate to hire another WGU graduate.**
- **97% rate WGU graduates as equal to or better than graduates of other universities.**
- **98% consider WGU graduates strongly prepared for their jobs.**



# Schools that have accepted WGU graduates

American Military University, WV  
Baylor University, TX  
Boise State University, ID  
Boston University, MA  
Bowling Green State University, OH  
Brigham Young University, UT  
Cornell University, NY  
Georgia State University, GA  
Gonzaga University, WA  
Kansas State University, KS  
Lamar University, TX  
Lewis & Clark, OR  
Northeastern University, MA  
The University of Alabama, AL  
University of North Carolina, NC  
University of Houston, TX

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL  
University of Michigan, MI  
University of Minnesota, MN  
University of New England, ME  
University of New Mexico, NM  
University of the Pacific - McGeorge School of Law, CA  
University of Utah, UT  
University of Virginia, VA  
University of Washington Tacoma, WA  
Villanova University, PA  
Virginia Tech, VA  
West Virginia University, WV  
Wharton Business School, PA



# WGU Summary

- **Private, non-profit university**
- **Online. Accelerated. Affordable. Accredited.**
- **Competency-based education**
- **Highly satisfied employers and graduates**





# Questions?





# Collaboration Ideas

- Customized Tool kits and webinars for collaborative partners
- Preparation of learners: remediation in Math, Sciences, Independent Study Skills
- Faculty support
- Other??