



**WGU**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WGU and CEI Partner to Offer Graduates Pathways to Complete University Degrees**

*SALT LAKE CITY, Utah* — Online, nonprofit [Western Governors University](https://www.wgu.edu) (WGU) and College of Eastern Idaho (CEI) announce an agreement to offer graduates of CEI pathways to in-demand university degrees. The partnership extends a generous transfer credit policy to CEI alumni enrolling at WGU – meaning more of their hard work at CEI will be recognized, saving them money and allowing them to graduate sooner. Additionally, those individuals, plus CEI staff, will be eligible to apply for the [WGU Community College Partnership Scholarship](#), valued up to \$2,000.

Headquartered in Salt Lake City, WGU offers more than 60 bachelor's and master's degrees in business, IT, teacher education and health professions, including nursing. The university's online, competency-based model allows students to study and learn whenever and wherever it is convenient and at a pace that fits their lifestyles.

"Just like CEI, our university provides educational opportunities that allow students to remain in their communities – working and raising families – while pursuing degrees," said Dr. Tonya Drake, WGU's Regional Vice President. "I admire CEI's forward-thinking, technology-focused approach to instruction and know its graduates will be well-prepared for success at WGU."

"College of Eastern Idaho is enthusiastic for this new partnership with Western Governors University," said Dr. Rick Aman, President of CEI. "As a new community college, CEI has structured hiring faculty and student service professionals with the intention of 50% or more of our degrees being delivered online. Given our student demographic of working professionals and first-generation college students, this seamless transition from an online associate degree into an online WGU baccalaureate degree will serve our students well."

More than 160 current WGU students and nearly 250 graduates call Idaho Falls home. Across Idaho, 2,000 individuals are currently enrolled at WGU, while more than 3,200 have already earned degrees from the online university.

WGU is well-suited for busy, working adults and traditionally underserved student populations. The university provides students with individualized experiences and personalized guidance from dedicated faculty mentors and course instructors – from the time they enroll through graduation. WGU is also committed to keeping tuition costs low. Students pay about half as much as their counterparts at similar institutions with tuition for most WGU degree programs at approximately \$7,000 per year.

For more information about WGU's community college partnerships and scholarship opportunities, visit [www.wgu.edu/cc](http://www.wgu.edu/cc).

### **About WGU**

Established in 1997 by 19 U.S. governors with a mission to expand access to high-quality, affordable higher education, online, nonprofit WGU now serves more than 121,000 students nationwide and has more than 178,000 graduates in all 50 states. Driving innovation as the nation's leading competency-based university, WGU has been recognized by the White House, state leaders, employers, and students as a model that works in postsecondary education. In just 23 years, the university has become a leading influence in changing the lives of individuals and families, and preparing the workforce needed in today's rapidly evolving economy. WGU is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, has been named one of Fast Company's Most Innovative Companies, and has been featured on NPR, NBC Nightly News, CNN, and in The New York Times. Learn more at [www.wgu.edu](http://www.wgu.edu).

### **About CEI**

College of Eastern Idaho (CEI, formerly EITC) is Idaho's newest comprehensive community college. CEI now offers academic associate of arts and science degrees with transferable general education credits. Another new opportunity is Early College Programs for high school students. CEI continues to offer career technical programs, basic skills instruction, workforce training and continuing education, and online learning. CEI maintains its fully accredited status by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The College was created in 1969 to serve citizens in a nine-county service area. Now CEI's mission enlarges to provide affordable, open-access, and quality education for all of eastern Idaho. Visit [cei.edu](http://cei.edu) for more information.

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