IT’S ALL ABOUT THE STUDENT
CBE AND INNOVATING BEYOND

DR. KIM ESTEP
CHANCELLOR, WGU TENNESSEE
WGU

- Nonprofit, founded in 1997 by 19 governors
- Competency-based, all online
- 50+ degrees in high-demand fields in four Colleges:
  - Business
  - K-12 teacher education
  - IT
  - Health professions
- $6,000 per year, “all you can learn”
- 74,000 students and 70,000 graduates in all 50 states

Created to expand and enhance higher education opportunities for busy adults
NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS ARE THE MAJORITY

…and they have different needs

• Flexibility
• Access
• Affordability
• Recognition of knowledge and skills already acquired
WGU: COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

Recognizes adults have different levels of knowledge and learn at different rates.

- Hold learning constant, let time vary
- Advance when mastery demonstrated
- Personalize and adapt learning path
- Regular, substantive progress

ONLINE ≠ CBE
### WGU: CBE AT SCALE

#### Quality
- College & Program councils
- Academic & industry advisors
- Assessments designed into curriculum
- Data-driven

#### Relevancy
- Aligned with workforce needs
- Regular review by employers
- Graduate surveys

#### Assessment
- Knowledge & Application
- Expert, independent evaluators
- Secure, online proctoring
- Integrated field / clinical experiences

#### Faculty
- Specialized roles
- One-to-one, personalized support
- Guided by real-time data
- 100% student focused

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**Technology-enabled Student Learning & Experience**
PROGRAM & COURSE DESIGN

- Required competencies defined and updated in collaboration with academic and industry experts
- Leverage best third-party course materials, where available
- 6-month terms, beginning each month
  - Allows for shorter cycle advancements in programs/courses
- Competency validated through expert assessments
  - Students move quickly through what they already know
  - Focus on what they don’t know and need to master
FACULTY AT WGU – SPECIALIZATION

Student Mentors
• Dedicated, regular one-to-one support for students

Course faculty
• Provide individualized instruction
• Lead group discussions
• Support students engaged in specific courses

Evaluators
• Experts grading / evaluating students performance

Curriculum and assessment faculty
• Select and develop course materials and assessments
WGU: A LOW-COST OPPORTUNITY

Our Focus
- Teaching
- High-volume, high-demand degree programs
- All-you-can-learn pricing

Low Cost
- $6,000 / year
- No increase in 8 years
- E-books and learning resources included
- Well-Connect included

Less Debt
- 30 months to graduation
- Responsible borrowing
- Lower debt
- Fewer defaults
IT WORKS

Lower Tuition, Faster Time to Graduate

Individualized Learning

Greater Student Support
DELIVERING A BETTER STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Job-Related Knowledge
- WGU: 79%
- US Avg: 69%

Challenging Work
- WGU: 77%
- US Avg: 60%

Quality of Faculty Interactions
- WGU: 72%
- US Avg: 60%

Quality of Academic Support
- WGU: 85%
- US Avg: 73%

Would Attend Again
- WGU: 92%
- US Avg: 82%

Rating of Entire Experience
- WGU: 93%
- US Avg: 87%

Source: National Survey on Student Engagement
DELIVERING VALUE TO GRADUATES

WGU graduates find the jobs they seek.

Employed Full Time

- WGU: 86%
- US Avg: 74%

Employed in Field

- WGU: 86%
- US Avg: 76%

... And earn more.

Higher Raises

- WGU Grads: $14,700
- U.S. Avg: $8,900

Source: Harris Online poll
DELIVERING VALUE TO EMPLOYERS

• 100% said WGU grads were prepared for their jobs.
• 98% said WGU grads meet or exceed expectations; 92% said they exceed.
• 93% rate WGU grads’ job performance excellent or very good.
• 94% rated WGU grads’ soft skills equal to or better than other grads.
GREAT JOBS, GREAT LIVES

Perfect School for Me

- WGU: 92%
- US Avg: 65%

A Mentor Encouraged Me

- WGU: 89%
- US Avg: 53%

Passionate About My Success

- WGU: 80%
- US Avg: 59%

Academically Challenging

- WGU: 83%
- US Avg: 77%

Worth the Cost

- WGU: 91%
- US Avg: 65%

Source: Gallup
THANK YOU

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