

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

Western Governors University and Northeast Community College

Western Governors University (WGU) and Northeast Community College (Institution) enter into this Collaborative Agreement (Agreement) as of the date of the last signature below. This Agreement outlines the collaboration that will occur between WGU and Institution to encourage Institution graduates and employees to pursue educational opportunities to advance their personal goals and the work of Institution.

Through this collaborative effort, WGU will provide Institution graduates and employees flexible, personalized learning pathways to higher education (bachelor's and master's degrees, and credentials) through WGU's innovative online university and applicable WGU affiliates. Together we seek to provide a streamlined approach and expand access to higher education. WGU is pleased to provide continuing education options to Institution graduates, employees and staff in support of workforce development and employee development goals.

WGU is a private, non-profit institution offering bachelor's and master's degrees in business, information technology, K-12 teacher education, and health professions, including nursing. The competency-based programs measure learning rather than time, allowing students to progress through courses as soon as they can demonstrate mastery of the material. WGU's online programs are mentor-supported and designed to fit into busy work and home schedules, assisting in the goal of building a future-ready workforce.

Purpose

- This Agreement formally recognizes that Institution will collaborate with WGU in order to provide greater educational opportunities to its graduates transferring to WGU.
- This Agreement focuses on developing strong transfer of credits to WGU programs with equal or natural transfer into one of four colleges: Business, Information Technology, Health Professions, and Teacher Education.
- Under the terms and conditions of this Agreement, participating graduates will maximize as much of their institution coursework and credits as outlined by the transfer articulation pathways.
- Students transferring to WGU without an associate degree will be encouraged to participate in a reverse articulation process enabled by data sharing through the National Student Clearinghouse.

WGU Community College Partner Scholarship

Graduates and staff from Institution are eligible to apply for the WGU Community College Partner Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500, which is disbursed in increments of \$625 per semester for up to 4 terms based on satisfactory academic performance.

Obligations of WGU

- WGU will develop, post, and maintain all transfer articulation pathways, which will be accessible through the <https://partners.wgu.edu> landing page.
- WGU will provide webinar training, print, and digital materials to faculty and staff to ensure understanding of the partnership and articulation pathways.
- While we expect that most of the Institution graduates and employees will be prepared for WGU's rigorous programs, WGU retains sole discretion in admission decisions.
- WGU is solely responsible for the funding and award decisions for the Community College Partner Scholarship.

Obligations of Institution

- Institution will establish a web link from their internal websites to the WGU partner landing page as well as highlight the partnership and education benefits of WGU through their standard internal communication channels with faculty, staff, students and graduates.
- Institution will provide WGU with timely curriculum updates of all articulated associate degrees. Institution shall retain sole discretion to determine its curriculum.
- Institution will share articulation and scholarship opportunities with graduates.
- If Institution offers other tuition assistance programs, WGU degree programs will be added to the list of programs eligible for the highest level of assistance.
- WGU will be invited by Institution to participate in any local education/benefit fairs, student, employee and leader information seminars or "lunch and learn" presentations that the Institution may offer.

Joint Obligations

- WGU and the Institution will collaborate on an announcement of the signing of this Agreement with a mutually agreeable press release. A signing event may also occur in conjunction with the announcement if mutually agreed between the parties.
- WGU will collaborate with Institution in developing methods of communication to share about WGU opportunities including the Community College Partner Scholarship.
- The parties agree to treat all education records created, disclosed, or maintained under this Agreement in accordance with the requirements of the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Each party assures that neither will discriminate against any individual based on race, religion, creed, color, gender, age, disability, veteran status, national origin, or other protected status.
- Each party reserves the right to control the use of its name and identifying marks in every respect including usage of its logos and trademarks, and each agrees to obtain prior express written permission from the other before such usage.

- The parties agree to maintain open communication to provide support and engagement for this Agreement and will work together to address transfer obstacles that may present themselves.
- Subject to any restrictions in applicable law and any other data sharing agreement to which Institution is a party, the parties agree to exchange data and documents as agreed, which will assist in the maintenance and improvement of the transfer arrangements identified in this MOU.

This Agreement serves as the basis of the collaboration between Institution and WGU and may be modified by mutual written consent or terminated by either party upon 30 days prior written notice to the other party. In the unlikely event the Agreement is terminated, WGU agrees that Institution graduates and staff then receiving any educational benefit described in this Agreement will receive the full value of that benefit towards their studies at WGU as long as they remain in good academic standing at WGU.

Our common goal for this Agreement between WGU and Institution is to support individuals to upskill and further their careers. WGU is committed to continuing to offer an affordable, flexible transfer option to students at the completion of their time with the institution. The parties will revisit this Agreement every 5 years, or on such other timeframe as determined by the parties, to ensure it is still meeting the needs of both WGU and Institution.

WGU

Institution

Terrance Hopson Aug 10, 2022

Leah A Barrett Aug 10, 2022

Dr. Terrance Hopson Date
Regional Vice President

Dr. Leah Barrett Date
President

Spencer Stewart Aug 17, 2022

Dr. Spencer Stewart Date
Vice President, Partnerships

Contact information – WGU

Contact Information – Institution

Christy Seawall
Lead Strategic Partnership Manager
christy.seawall@wgu.edu

Dr. Michele Gill
Vice President of Educational Services
micheleg@northeast.edu

Dr. Mary Hendrick
Transfer Engagement Executive
mhendrick@wgu.edu

Jessica Dvorak
Vice President of HR & Organizational Development
jessicad@northeast.edu