

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

Western Governors University and Springfield Technical Community College

Western Governors University (WGU) and Springfield Technical 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, faculty, and staff to pursue educational opportunities to advance their personal goals and the work of Institution.

Through this collaborative effort, WGU will provide Institution graduates, faculty, and staff flexible, personalized learning pathways to higher education (bachelor's and master's degrees, and credentials) through WGU's innovative competency-based model. 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, faculty, 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 as well as industry-recognized credentials in business, information technology, K-12 teacher education, and health professions, including nursing. WGU's competency-based programs measure learning achieved rather than time spent, 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 to expand available educational opportunities to its graduates transferring to WGU and its faculty and staff seeking higher educational opportunities through WGU.
- This Agreement focuses on developing guaranteed transfer of credits to WGU programs with equal or natural transfer into one of WGU's four Colleges: Business, Information Technology, Health Professions, and Teacher Education.
- Under the terms and conditions of this Agreement, participating graduates will be awarded block transfer credits for Institution coursework and credits as outlined by the transfer articulation pathways.

WGU Community College Partner Scholarship

Graduates from Institution are eligible to apply for the WGU Community College Partner Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500, which is disbursed to recipients 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 to Institution faculty and staff to ensure understanding of the collaboration and articulation pathways.
- WGU will provide print and digital materials to ensure awareness of WGU offerings.
- While we expect that most of the Institution's 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 its websites to the WGU partner landing page as well as highlight the collaboration and education benefits of WGU through its standard internal communication channels with faculty, staff, students, and graduates.
- Institution will provide WGU with timely curriculum updates of all articulated associate degrees.
- Institution will ensure graduates are made aware of the WGU articulation and scholarship opportunities by posting and/or sharing information for graduates to review.
- If Institution offers other tuition assistance or reimbursement programs to graduates, faculty, or staff, WGU programs will be added to the list of programs eligible for the highest level of assistance.
- Institution will invite WGU 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 Institution will collaborate on an announcement of the signing of this Agreement with a mutually agreeable press release.
- 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 Rights and 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.
- 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 Agreement.

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, faculty, 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 high quality, low-cost, flexible transfer option to students at the completion of their programs with 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 learners at both WGU and Institution.

WGU

Rebecca J. Watts

Name: Rebecca Watts
 Title: Regional Vice President
 Date: 11/08/2021

Contact information – WGU

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Institution

Geraldine de Berly

Geraldine de Berly (Nov 8, 2021 10:57 EST)

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