



WGU®

WGU News – For Immediate Release

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New Gallup Research: WGU’s Faculty Model Delivers Better Experiences that Result in Better Outcomes for Graduates

WASHINGTON, D.C. — (April 10, 2018) Gallup has released the results of a new study that compares the satisfaction and overall well-being of Western Governors University (WGU) graduates with graduates from other institutions in the U.S. According to the study, WGU graduates are reporting significantly higher levels of overall well-being and career success than the national average. In the report, WGU graduates credit their student experience, relevant curriculum, and individualized faculty support as key contributors.

View the 2017 Gallup Report here: www.wgu.edu/wgu/gallup-report-2018.pdf

Details of the findings were reviewed Tuesday at Gallup headquarters in Washington, D.C., by a panel led by Gallup’s Brandon Busteed. Panel members included author and *Washington Post* columnist Jeff Selingo, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* senior writer Goldie Blumenstyk, and WGU President Scott Pulsipher. A recording of the event is available [here](#).

The survey, which included 2,452 WGU graduates, compared the WGU responses to the national data included in the Gallup-Purdue Index. The study examined WGU alumni outcomes based on Gallup’s measures of workforce and life outcomes – including employee engagement, well-being, and emotional attachment to the university. The study provides insight into these outcomes and the graduates’ reflections on their undergraduate experiences.

According to the study:

- WGU graduates’ full-time employment rate exceeds the national average by almost 20 percentage points.
- WGU graduates are nearly twice as likely to be thriving in all five elements of well-being identified by Gallup—purpose, social, financial, community, and physical—compared with the national average.
- WGU graduates are more likely to be engaged employees—5 percentage points higher than the national average.
- WGU graduates are far more likely to work in jobs closely related to their undergraduate studies – 72% compared with a national average of just 39%.

- Two-thirds of WGU graduates strongly agree that they had a mentor who encouraged them to pursue their goals and dreams — nearly double that of the graduates from the survey’s comparison groups.
- 72% of WGU graduates strongly agree that their education was worth the cost – more than double that of private not-for-profit graduates who say the same (31%).
- 74% of WGU graduates say they are extremely likely to recommend the university to their family, friends, and colleagues. Less than half of graduates who were nontraditional students (47%) — the group with the next-highest percentage — say the same.

"Gallup has been tracking WGU graduates for four years, and every year, we see data that reinforces WGU is providing its students with the personalized faculty support and high-quality degree programs that are leading to important long-term outcomes for graduates," said Gallup’s Brandon Busted.

Nonprofit and fully online, WGU offers more than 60 bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in business, K-12 teacher education, information technology, and health professions, including nursing. WGU’s learning model, competency-based education, is ideal for busy adults, allowing them to study and learn on a schedule that fits their lives. Students work through course materials with consistent, one-on-one faculty support, advancing as soon as they demonstrate, through assessments, that they have mastered the subject matter. Because they are not tied to traditional semesters and course schedules, many students are able to accelerate and finish their degrees faster—the average time to a bachelor’s degree at WGU is less than three years.

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 95,000 students nationwide and has 105,000 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 21 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 was featured on NPR, *NBC Nightly News*, CNN, and in *The New York Times*. Learn more at www.wgu.edu.

About Gallup

Gallup delivers analytics and advice to help leaders and organizations solve their most pressing problems. Combining more than 80 years of experience with its global reach, Gallup knows more about the attitudes and behaviors of employees, customers, students and citizens than any other organization in the world.