

WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

MARTINSBURG (April 7, 2021) – Western Governors University (WGU) today announced a <u>transfer</u> agreement partnership with <u>Blue Ridge Community and Technical College</u>. The signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) agreement will ease the transition for graduates to pursue Bachelor's or Master's degrees in WGU's Business, Information Technology, and Healthcare programs.

"At WGU, we aim to develop meaningful partnerships with community colleges and are privileged to have this new partnership with Blue Ridge Community and Technical College as we share a commitment to providing seamless opportunities for students who are looking to transfer between colleges," said WGU Regional Vice President Alison Bell. "We look forward to continued growth and collaboration in West Virginia to help students pursuing IT degrees fulfill their full potential and eliminate barriers in the transfer process."

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, with a focus on affordability and achievement, offers transfer opportunities for current students and graduates. The transfer agreements provide clear pathways and opportunities for students who plan to pursue or complete a 4-year degree after graduation.

"Blue Ridge CTC is proud to partner with WGU to offer a new transfer pathway to students," said Dr. Peter Checkovich, Blue Ridge CTC Founding President. "Our mission is to provide life-changing educational opportunities to our community. This new agreement promotes lifelong learning to both our graduates and our staff who may be continuing their studies at WGU."

Per the agreement, graduates and staff of Blue Ridge Community and Technical College will be eligible to apply for scholarships offered through the <u>WGU Community College Partnership Scholarship</u>. Scholarships are valued at up to \$2,500 and recipients will receive a \$625 tuition credit each term and may be renewable up to four terms based on academic performance.

"In partnership with Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, students in West Virginia will be met where they are, ultimately preparing them for the state's future workforce needs," said WGU Transfer Pathways Manager Krista Spencer. "The WGU team looks forward to this mutual commitment to furthering the quality, affordability and accessibility of higher education."

"Blue Ridge CTC is excited about the advantages and benefits this new articulation agreement with WGU brings to our students and staff," said Blue Ridge CTC Cybersecurity Program Coordinator Kay Ogilvie. "We look forward to building upon this relationship and the continued success of our students."

WGU was recently named as a <u>top college</u> for developing transfer pathways that lead to excellence and success among community college transfer students. The online university is open to all qualified West

Virginia residents and offers affordable tuition and a competency-based model that provides students with more flexibility to graduate at their own pace and on their own schedule. For more information on WGU, visit wgu.edu.

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About Western Governors University

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 133,000 students nationwide and has more than 221,000 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 the development of innovative workforce-focused approaches to education. 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.

About Blue Ridge Community and Technical College

Blue Ridge Community and Technical College offers more than 60 associate degree and certificate programs, as well as workforce development training. Blue Ridge Community and Technical College is conveniently located on Route 45 West past the Commons Center, at 13650 Apple Harvest Drive. For more information on Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, please call 304-260-4380 or visit our website at www.blueRidgeCTC.edu