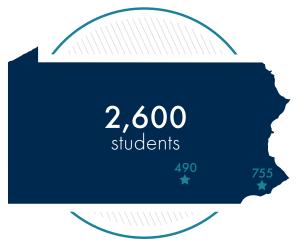
# EDUCATION WITHOUT BOUNDARIES<sup>TM</sup>

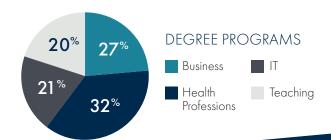
What's in a name? Our name tells the story of our founding in 1997, when a group of governors came up with an innovative answer to a question of growing concern: How can we ensure more of our residents have greater access to a college education that fits their schedule?

Today, the online, nonprofit, accredited Western Governors University continues to transform higher education by improving quality, expanding access, and optimizing student success through online, competency-based degree programs aligned with workforce needs. By redefining curricula design, faculty models that provide individualized support for each student, accountability, and access while leveraging technology, WGU has reinvented higher education and is delivering great student outcomes to more than 129,000 students and more than 214,000 graduates across all 50 states.



Today, WGU has more than 2,600 students in Pennsylvania, with 490<sup>1</sup> in the Capital Region and 755<sup>2</sup> in the Philadelphia metro area.

<sup>1</sup>Includes Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster and York counties.
<sup>2</sup>Includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.



### Serving Students in Pennsylvania

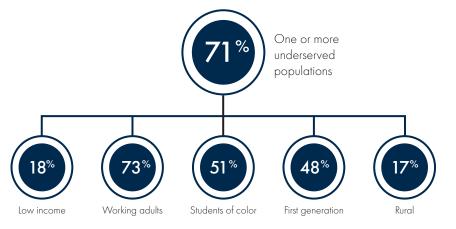
WGU is committed to more deeply and directly engaging with employers, policymakers, students, and alumni in Pennsylvania to help our students achieve their dreams for a degree and career success by providing a personal, flexible, and affordable education based on current real-world competencies. We've proudly partnered with the region's leading employers in highgrowth fields such as nursing and IT to ensure our low-cost, high-quality degree programs are closely aligned to the workforce needs of today's residents. More than 4,200 WGU alumni have secured promising careers at top regional companies, including Aetna, UPMC Medical, Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Comcast, The School District of Philadelphia, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Department of Veterans Affairs, Congreso De Latinos Unidos, AT&T Inc., and many more.

Our WGU leadership team is leading the charge to address necessary policy conversations that matter to New Yorkers, including the need to increase equity to higher education within the state. As many as 800,000 people living in Pennsylvania lack high-speed internet in their homes. The \$1 million set aside by WGU for the Online Access Scholarship will assist people who would like to earn a WGU degree, especially during COVID-19, but can't get access to high-speed broadband.

WGU has been named one of Fast Company's Most Innovative Companies, and was featured on NPR, NBC Nightly News, CNN, Forbes, and in The New York Times.



#### Historically Underrepresented Student Demographic



## Skills for the 21st Century: **Employer Needs**



of employers said WGU graduates were







#### Meet Rebecca Watts, Ph.D.

Rebecca Watts, Ph.D., serves as a regional vice president of Western Governors University. Rebecca oversees the university leadership in Pennsylvania to more deeply and directly engage with employers, policymakers, students, and alumni in the state. In her role, she focuses primarily on developing and strengthening relationships with partner organizations to expand student access, especially among the historically under-represented, to WGU's nationally recognized postsecondary programs.

Previously, Rebecca was chancellor of WGU Ohio, a partnership between the state of Ohio and WGU to expand access to affordable higher education through online, competency-based programs, and, before that, executive director for the University of Wyoming Trustees Education Initiative and associate vice chancellor for P-16 Initiatives at the Ohio Department of Higher Education. Rebecca holds a doctorate in higher education leadership from Ohio University.



