



WGU INDIANA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 29, 2011**

WGU Indiana News – For Immediate Release

**Contact for media inquiries:**

Chad Mertz – WGU Indiana

317-631-6400

304-550-8883 cell

[chad.mertz@borshoff.biz](mailto:chad.mertz@borshoff.biz)

Follow WGU Indiana:



**Contact for enrollment information:**

877-214-7014

[indiana.wgu.edu](http://indiana.wgu.edu)

## **WGU Indiana earns Board of Nursing approval for innovative degree program**

Indianapolis, IN (August 29, 2011) – WGU Indiana will soon begin enrolling Hoosier students in its innovative B.S. in Nursing (Prelicensure) program thanks to a recent approval from the Indiana Board of Nursing. Offered in partnership with several Indiana hospitals and community based healthcare agencies, the program is designed to prepare students for initial licensure as registered nurses. Enrollment will begin this fall, and applications are now being accepted.

The innovative program was initially launched by WGU Indiana’s parent institution, Western Governors University, in 2009. The CCNE-approved program, which has also been approved by the California, Texas, Utah and Florida state nursing boards, combines WGU Indiana’s online, competency-based academic approach with intensive clinical simulations and clinical practice supervised by onsite clinical coaches and clinical instructors serving as WGU Indiana adjunct faculty. More than 100 students are currently enrolled, and the first class of students from across the county graduated in July of this year.

“Indiana is facing a growing shortage of registered nurses, and there is not enough capacity in the state’s nursing schools to meet demand,” said WGU Chief Nursing Officer Jan Jones-Schenk. “WGU Indiana’s program, which works with hospitals in the state, offers another option in quality nursing education. More importantly, the program provides each student with one-on-one coaching and clinical instruction in addition to individualized mentoring by qualified nursing faculty and learning lab experiences using simulation.

“This innovative program provides yet another avenue for Hoosiers to go further with their education,” said WGU Indiana Chancellor Allison Barber. “And we are incredibly appreciative of the high-caliber representation on the National Advisory Committee. Having such a prominent group of national nursing and healthcare leaders ensures this program is, and will continue to be, one of the nation’s best.”

The B.S. in Nursing (Prelicensure) program was developed with the support and partnership of the U.S. Department of Labor and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The program operates under the guidance of a National Advisory Committee comprised of leaders in nursing and nursing education:

- Kathy Apple – CEO, National Council of State Boards of Nursing Colleagues
- Brenda Cleary – Director, AARP Center to Champion Nursing
- Maggie McClure – Past President, American Academy of Nursing
- Bev Malone – CEO, National League for Nursing
- Polly Bednash – CEO, American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- Patricia Benner – Professor and Co-PI, The Carnegie Foundation on Teaching in Nursing and author of “Educating Nurses: A Call for Radical Transformation”
- Linda Burnes-Bolton – Chief Nursing Officer, Cedars Sinai Medical Center (Partner representative)
- Marilyn Chow – Vice President National Patient Care Services, Kaiser Permanente (Partner representative)

In addition to the B.S in Nursing (Prelicensure) program, WGU Indiana offers B.S. degrees in Nursing (RN to BSN online) and Health Informatics, M.S. degrees in Nursing Education and Nursing Leadership and Management, and an MBA in Healthcare Management.

Interested students can visit [www.indiana.wgu.edu](http://www.indiana.wgu.edu) or call (877) 214-7014 for more information.

###

### **About WGU Indiana**

WGU Indiana has been established by the State of Indiana as a non-profit, online, competency-based university to expand access to higher education for Indiana residents. Formed through a partnership with Western Governors University, WGU Indiana is open to all qualified Indiana residents. The university offers 50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Business, Education, Information Technology, and Healthcare Professions, including Nursing.

Degrees are granted under the accreditation of Western Governors University, which is regionally accredited through the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and nationally accredited through the Distance Education and Training Commission (DETC). Teachers College programs are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and Nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

WGU Indiana is an approved education provider for Indiana state grants and scholarships offered through the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI). In addition, the university has partnered with Ivy Tech to offer graduates who have completed their associate’s degrees a seamless transfer to complete their bachelor’s degrees at WGU Indiana, including application fee waivers and tuition discounts.

**CONFIDENTIAL NOTICE:** This e-mail message from Borshoff (including all attachments) is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, copying or distribution is strictly

prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.