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The Torch

The official newsletter for Indiana state employees

Going back to school for State Employees at WGU

State employees are some of the busiest professionals in Indiana, and Gwen Winderlich knows it. She is a program director with the Department of Workforce Development in Indianapolis and a married mother of three. Gwen's schedule is filled to the brim, personally and professionally. Nonetheless, she wanted to pursue her master's degree in business administration.

She and her husband researched MBA programs throughout the state and eventually Gwen determined that a traditional brick-and-mortar campus did not fit into her plans. Gwen looked into online, competency-based education, knowing that she could accelerate her learning at a quicker pace. WGU Indiana fit the bill.

"WGU Indiana was a fit for me because I was able to apply knowledge and skills from my years of working towards the coursework in a competency based setting," says Gwen. "I was able to work on coursework during my time and not have to rearrange my already busy schedule to ensure I could get to a classroom by a set time."

"Our students are busy," said WGU Indiana Chancellor Allison Barber. "Most are adults with full-time jobs and important commitments to their families and communities. That's why accessibility is so important within the WGU model."

Gwen's class work was flexible and often completed at home after dinner or before heading off to bed. She kept her family constantly informed of her progress, and after graduation told everyone she could find about her experience with WGU Indiana.

"My dad started asking questions about going back and the time constraints," added Gwen. "When he told me he was going to enroll with WGU Indiana, I was so excited. I told him I'd be more than happy to assist him with questions or concerns. I provided feedback and encouragement along the way."

Gwen's father recently obtained his MBA, receiving his diploma this past month at WGU Indiana's fall commencement ceremony.

State employees, like Gwen, receive a 5 percent tuition discount for up to four academic terms because of the State's corporate partnership with WGU. Whether you are looking to finish a bachelor's degree or start a new graduate program, online competency-based education is a perfect fit for hard-working state employees, and nobody provides better access to college for Hoosiers than WGU Indiana.

