# COMMITTEE ON
# EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

## Questions for the Record

## Full Committee Hearing:
## "American Education in Crisis"
## February 8, 2023
### 10:00 a.m.

### Representative Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA)

1. You mentioned in your testimony that higher education must meet the needs of the workforce. I commend the work you are doing at Western Governors University by improving the relevancy of credentials and offering only degree programs and certifications that lead into high quality in-demand jobs.

   • Can you elaborate on how Western Governors University uses data and workforce trends to plan and implement your curriculum?

A: We leverage real-time input from program advisory councils with representation from employers, associations, workforce, and academia. Also, at a geo-specific level, we map the skills and competencies WGU students acquire to real-world jobs and translate credentials into the high-demand skills they represent. This is facilitated through a partnership with Lightcast, a leading labor market analytics firm that maintains an Open Skills Library identifying nearly 30,000 skills from hundreds of millions of job postings, résumés, and professional profiles. This labor market intelligence enables us to tailor our offerings even further, and to update them over time to ensure our offerings remain current and focused on the specific skills and competencies that match a learner's career goals. Additionally, we design assessment to validate student proficiency against the learning outcomes that map to the skills for high demand roles. This transparency enables students to better demonstrate their capabilities with current and prospective employers.