



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

Virtual Commencement Ceremony



SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020



Our Mission

The principal mission of Western Governors University is to improve quality and expand access to post-secondary education opportunities by providing a means for individuals to learn independent of time or place and to earn competency-based degrees and other credentials that are credible to both academic institutions and employers.

Our Promise

We help our students achieve their dreams for a degree and career success by providing a personal, flexible, and affordable education based on real-world competencies.

wgu.edu

Message from the President



Dear Graduates,

On behalf of all of us at WGU, I want to congratulate you and welcome you to our commencement celebration. We recognize and respect the hard work and sacrifices you have made to complete your degree, and today is your day to celebrate this important milestone in your life.

We share your excitement and pride in this achievement—one that has the potential to make a real difference for you, your family, and even future generations. As you join the ranks of the more than 182,000 WGU graduates, we hope you will stay in touch through the Alumni Network.

Again, thank you for joining us today. We are so grateful for the opportunity to share this day with you and your loved ones. Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott D. Pulsipher". The signature is written in a fluid, cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Scott D. Pulsipher, President
Western Governors University

Commencement Speaker



Chad Hymas

Influencer, Author, and World Traveler

Chad inspires, motivates, and moves audiences, creating an experience that touches hearts for a lifetime. He is one of the youngest recipients ever of the Council of Peers Award for Excellence (CPAE) and to be inducted into the prestigious National Speaker Hall of Fame.

In 2001, at the age of 27, Chad's life changed in an instant when a 2,000-pound bale of hay shattered his neck, leaving him a quadriplegic. But Chad's dreams were not paralyzed that day—he became an example of what is possible.

Chad is a best-selling author, president of his own communications company, and recognized world-class wheelchair athlete. In 2003, Chad set a world record by wheeling his chair from Salt Lake City to Las Vegas (513 miles).

Chad's speaking career in the areas of leadership, team building, customer service, and mastering change has brought him multiple honors. He served as president of the National Speakers Association Utah chapter and is a member of the elite Speakers Roundtable (one of 20 of the world's top speakers).

As a member of the National Speakers Association, Chad travels as many as 300,000 miles a year, captivating and entertaining audiences around the world. He has graced the stages of hundreds of professional and civic organizations, including Wells Fargo, Blue Cross Blue Shield, AT&T, Rainbird, Intermountain Healthcare, American Express, Prudential Life, Vast FX, and Merrill Lynch.

Virtual Ceremony Program.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Marni Baker Stein

Provost and Chief Academic Officer

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Vincent Lawyer, Columbus, GA

Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Scott Pulsipher

President

CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

Catherine Truitt

Chancellor, WGU North Carolina

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Sharon Test, Concord, NC

Master of Science, Management and Leadership

Master of Business Administration

Leigh Ann Brooks, Huntertown, IN

Master of Science, Nursing – Leadership and Management

Sparrkyl Butler, Garland, TX

Bachelor of Science, Human Resource Management

Miranda Joseph, Raleigh, NC

Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies (K-8)

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Chad Hymas

Influencer, Author, and World Traveler

MASTER'S CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Marni Baker Stein

BACHELOR'S CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Marni Baker Stein

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott Pulsipher

Member Governors

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt, Chairman Emeritus
Governor, Utah 1993–2003

Alaska

The Honorable
Michael J. Dunleavy

Arizona

The Honorable
Doug Ducey

California

The Honorable
Gavin Newsom

Colorado

The Honorable
Jared Polis

Guam

The Honorable
Lou Leon Guerrero

Hawaii

The Honorable
David Ige

Idaho

The Honorable
Brad Little

Indiana

The Honorable
Eric Holcomb

Montana

The Honorable
Steve Bullock

Nebraska

The Honorable
Pete Ricketts

Nevada

The Honorable
Steve Sisolak

New Mexico

The Honorable
Michelle Lujan Grisham

North Dakota

The Honorable
Doug Burgum

Oklahoma

The Honorable
Kevin Stitt

Oregon

The Honorable
Kate Brown

South Dakota

The Honorable
Kristi Noem

Texas

The Honorable
Greg Abbott

Utah

The Honorable
Gary R. Herbert

Washington

The Honorable
Jay R. Inslee

Wyoming

The Honorable
Mark Gordon

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President, Crane Associates; Former Executive with Apple and AOL

Joseph Fuller

Professor of Management Practice & Co-Director of the Managing the Future of Work Project, Harvard Business School

The Honorable Jim Geringer

Director, Policy & Public Sector, ESRI Governor, State of Wyoming (1995–2003)

The Honorable

Eric Holcomb

Governor, State of Indiana

Tammy Johns

CEO, Strategy & Talent; Former Executive, Manpower Group

Talia Milgrom-Elcott

Co-Founder and Executive Director, 100Kin10

The Honorable

Jared Polis

Governor, State of Colorado

Scott D. Pulsipher

President, Western Governors University

David Simmons

President, Simmons Media Group

Dr. Samuel H. Smith

President Emeritus, Washington State University

Jessie Woolley-Wilson

CEO & President, Dreambox Learning

CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

Welcome to our growing alumni network,
now more than 182,000 strong!

Stay connected, network with colleagues, and learn
about the many resources and benefits available to you:

Visit wgu.edu/alumni

GET SOCIAL

Share the excitement!
Use [#WGUgrad](#) to tag your commencement posts.



WGU  | ALUMNI

The flower arrangements displayed on stage for today's commencement are placed in memory of those students and graduates we have lost. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.