



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

Winter Virtual Commencement



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021



Our Mission

The principal mission of Western Governors University is to change lives for the better by creating pathways to opportunity.

Our Promise

We endeavor to make opportunity work for everyone by improving quality, access, and outcomes of education through diverse, innovative programs, systems, and technologies.

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 215,000 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 cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Scott D. Pulsipher, President
Western Governors University

Commencement Speaker



Marques Ogden

Former NFL Player, Author, & Executive Coach

Growing up in a single-parent home with a father who inspired perseverance and fairness, Marques Ogden learned how to define his values and set goals. Marques attended Howard University from 1998-2002 where he played Division I football.

In 2003, Marques was drafted into the NFL as an offensive lineman, playing with the Titans, Bills, Ravens, and Jaguars. After five years of playing in

league, he decided to retire and pursue a career in construction and contracting. At the age of 27, Marques founded a construction company called Kayden Premier Enterprises. The company had fast growth and in 2010, Marques won the African American Subcontractor of the Year Award in the state of Maryland. Eventually his business went bankrupt, losing almost \$2M dollars on one project in a matter of 90 days.

During his darkest hours, Marques pulled himself together, got a part-time job as a custodian, and with hard work and determination, became an inspirational keynote speaker, executive coach, best-selling author and marketing leader, helping to build the success of others.

Ceremony Program

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Alison Bell

Regional Vice President and WGU Indiana Chancellor

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Tyler Carter, Eagle Mountain, UT

Master of Business Administration

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Scott D. Pulsipher

President

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Sarah Talarico, Euclid, OH

Master of Science, Nursing - Leadership and Management

Nisreen Karkotli, Sugar Hill, GA

Bachelor of Science, Accounting

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Marques Ogden

Former NFL Player, Author, and Executive Coach

MASTER'S CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Marni Baker Stein

Provost and Chief Academic Officer

BACHELOR'S CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Marni Baker Stein

Provost and Chief Academic Officer

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott D. Pulsipher

Conferral of Degrees

MASTER'S DEGREES

College of Business (~14 minutes)

M.S. Accounting
M.S. Management and Leadership
Master of Business Administration
MBA, Healthcare Management
MBA, IT Management

College of Health Professions (~8 minutes)

M.S. Nursing - Education
M.S. Nursing - Leadership and Management
M.S. Nursing - Nursing Informatics
Master of Health Leadership

College of Information Technology (~3 minutes)

M.S. Cybersecurity and Information Assurance
M.S. Data Analytics
M.S. Information Technology Management

Teachers College (~10 minutes)

M.A. English Language Learning
M.A. Mathematics Education
M.A. Mathematics Education - Middle Grades
M.A. Mathematics Education - Secondary
M.A. Science Education - Middle Grades
M.A. Science Education - Secondary
Biological Science
M.A. Science Education - Secondary
Chemistry
M.A. Science Education - Secondary Physics
M.A. Teaching, Elementary Education
M.A. Teaching, English Education - Secondary
M.A. Teaching, Mathematics Education - Middle Grades
M.A. Teaching, Mathematics Education - Secondary
M.A. Teaching, Science Education - Secondary
M.Ed. Instructional Design
M.Ed. Learning and Technology
M.S. Curriculum and Instruction
M.S. Educational Leadership
M.S. Special Education

BACHELOR'S DEGREES

College of Business (~12 minutes)

B.S. Accounting
B.S. Business - Healthcare Management
B.S. Business - Human Resource Management
B.S. Business - Information Technology Management
B.S. Business Administration - Accounting
B.S. Business Administration - Healthcare Management
B.S. Business Administration - Human Resource Management
B.S. Business Administration - Information Technology Management
B.S. Business Administration - Management
B.S. Business Administration - Marketing
B.S. Business Management
B.S. Marketing Management

College of Health Professions (~6 minutes)

B.S. Health Information Management
B.S. Nursing

College of Information Technology (~4 minutes)

B.S. Cloud and Systems Administration
B.S. Cloud Computing
B.S. Computer Science
B.S. Cybersecurity and Information Assurance
B.S. Data Management/Data Analytics
B.S. Information Technology
B.S. IT - Security Emphasis
B.S. Network Operations and Security
B.S. Software Development

Teachers College (~9 minutes)

B.A. Early Childhood Education
B.A. Educational Studies
B.A. Elementary Education
B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies
B.A. Mathematics
B.A. Science - Bio
B.A. Special Education
B.A. Special Education - Mild to Moderate
B.A. Special Education and Elementary Education
B.S. Mathematics Education - Secondary
B.S. Mathematics Education - Middle Grades
B.S. Science Education - Middle Grades
B.S. Science Education - Secondary Biological Science
B.S. Science Education - Secondary Earth Science

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
Greg Gianforte

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
Spencer Cox

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Jared Polis

Governor, State of Colorado

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*President Emeritus,
Washington State University*

The Honorable Jane Swift

*President and Executive Director,
LearnLaunch, Former Governor of
Massachusetts*

Jessie Woolley-Wilson

CEO & President, Dreambox Learning

CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

Welcome to our growing alumni network,
now more than 215,000 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](https://twitter.com/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 who have passed away. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.