



# WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

*Fall Virtual Commencement*



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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 200,000 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



## **Stacey Bess**

*Inspirational Educator and Author*

Stacey Bess is an inspirational educator and author who speaks on the importance of service, mentorship, leadership, and overcoming adversity. Drawing on her fascinating and inspirational personal story—teaching homeless children in a small shed known as The School with No Name—she offers powerful insights and lessons that audiences yearning to make a difference can apply to their community or organization.

Through ups and downs and many personal struggles, including a battle with cancer, Stacey taught kindergarten through sixth grade for 11 years at The School with No Name. This experience caused a profound change in Stacey, as well as her students. During that time, she discovered that, by teaching and modeling love, self-worth, personal power, and courage, she could reach children with no homes and little hope, children who had previously been labeled “unteachable.”

These children grew into living proof that Stacey’s methods work. To inspire and motivate others with a passion for service, Stacey penned the memoir *Nobody Don’t Love Nobody*, which was adapted into the Hallmark Hall of Fame movie *Beyond the Blackboard*.

Stacey earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from the University of Utah and continues to be a leading advocate in the nation for the educational rights of impoverished children.

# *Virtual Ceremony Program*

## OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Dr. Rebecca Watts**

*Regional Vice President*

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

**Kimberly McGuire, Ellenwood, GA**

*Master of Science, Information Technology Management*

## WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Dr. Marni Baker Stein**

*Provost and Chief Academic Officer*

## GRADUATE SPEAKERS

**Kathryn Fadenrecht, Sacramento, CA**

*Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education*

**Mario Mejia, Ashburn, VA**

*Master of Business Administration*

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Stacey Bess**

*Inspirational Educator and Author*

## MASTER'S CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Dr. Angie Besendorfer**

*Regional Vice President and WGU Missouri Chancellor*

## BACHELOR'S CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Dr. Angie Besendorfer**

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Marni Baker Stein**

# 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 (~7 minutes):**

M.A. Educational Studies  
M.A. English Language Learning  
M.A. Mathematics Education  
M.A. Mathematics Education - Middle Grades  
M.A. Science Education - Geo  
M.A. Science Education - Secondary Biological Science  
M.A. Science Education - Secondary Chemistry  
M.A. Science Education - Secondary Earth Science  
M.A. Science Education - Secondary Physics  
M.A. Teaching, Elementary Education  
M.A. Teaching, English Education - Secondary  
M.A. Teaching, Mathematics  
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  
B.S. Sales and Sales Management

### **College of Health Professions**

#### **(~6 minutes):**

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

### **College of Information Technology**

#### **(~4 minutes):**

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

### **Teachers College (~5 minutes):**

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

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Governor, Utah 1993–2003

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*The Honorable*  
*Eric Holcomb*

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*The Honorable*  
*Kate Brown*

**Arizona**

*The Honorable*  
*Doug Ducey*

**Montana**

*The Honorable*  
*Steve Bullock*

**South Dakota**

*The Honorable*  
*Kristi Noem*

**California**

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*Gavin Newsom*

**Nebraska**

*The Honorable*  
*Pete Ricketts*

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*The Honorable*  
*Greg Abbott*

**Colorado**

*The Honorable*  
*Jared Polis*

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*Steve Sisolak*

**Utah**

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*Gary R. Herbert*

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*Lou Leon Guerrero*

**New Mexico**

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*Michelle Lujan Grisham*

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*Jay R. Inslee*

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*The Honorable*  
*David Ige*

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*Doug Burgum*

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*Mark Gordon*

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*The Honorable*  
*Brad Little*

**Oklahoma**

*The Honorable*  
*Kevin Stitt*

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

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*President, Simmons Media Group*

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*President Emeritus, Washington State University*

### **Jessie Woolley-Wilson**

*CEO & President, Dreambox Learning*



# CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

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now more than 200,000 strong!

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about the many resources and benefits available to you:

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**WGU**  | ALUMNI