



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

Commencement in Dallas



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022



Our Mission

*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 congratulate you and welcome you to our commencement. 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 260,000 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



Christine Ha

American chef, writer and television host

Christine Ha is the first-ever blind contestant and season 3 winner of the competitive amateur cooking television show *MasterChef* with Gordon Ramsay. She defeated more than 30,000 home cooks across America to secure the coveted *MasterChef* title, a \$250,000 cash prize, and a cookbook deal.

Christine holds a Master of Fine Arts from the nationally acclaimed Creative Writing Program at University of Houston, where she served as Fiction Editor for Gulf Coast literary journal, and a Bachelor of Business Administration from The University of Texas at Austin. She is currently working on her memoir and second cookbook.

Recipes From My Home Kitchen: Asian and American Comfort Food, Christine's first cookbook, was a New York Times best-seller. She has been featured on NPR, the BBC, and CNN International, and travels around the globe to give keynote addresses and TEDx talks. Christine has also served as a culinary envoy overseas for the American Embassy as part of cultural diplomacy programs in Jordan, Serbia, Bosnia/Herzegovina, and Croatia. She was a co-host on the Canadian cooking show *Four Senses* and a judge on *MasterChef Vietnam*.

In 2014, Christine received the Helen Keller Personal Achievement Award from the American Foundation for the Blind, a recognition formerly bestowed upon Ray Charles, Patty Duke, and Stevie Wonder, among others. Christine's first restaurant in Houston, *The Blind Goat*, was named a semi-finalist for 2019 Best New Restaurant in America by the James Beard Foundation. Her second restaurant, *Xin Chào*, opened in September 2020.

Master's Ceremony Program

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Linda G. Battles

Regional Vice President and Chancellor, WGU Texas

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Jenelle English, Henderson, NV

M.S. Curriculum and Instruction

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Scott D. Pulsipher

President

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Melanie Kerr, The Dalles, OR

Master of Business Administration

Rhoda Chism, Morgantown, KY

Master of Health Leadership

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Christine Ha

American chef, writer and television host

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Marni Baker Stein

Provost and Chief Academic Officer

College of Business

College of Health Professions

College of Information Technology

Teachers College

ALUMNI WELCOME

Tracy Tanwar, Dallas, TX

M.S. Curriculum and Instruction '15

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott D. Pulsipher

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 loved ones.

Member Governors

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

Alaska

The Honorable
Michael J. Dunleavy

Indiana

The Honorable
Eric Holcomb

Oregon

The Honorable
Kate Brown

Arizona

The Honorable
Doug Ducey

Montana

The Honorable
Greg Gianforte

South Dakota

The Honorable
Kristi Noem

California

The Honorable
Gavin Newsom

Nebraska

The Honorable
Pete Ricketts

Texas

The Honorable
Greg Abbott

Colorado

The Honorable
Jared Polis

Nevada

The Honorable
Steve Sisolak

Utah

The Honorable
Spencer Cox

Guam

The Honorable
Lou Leon Guerrero

New Mexico

The Honorable
Michelle Lujan Grisham

Washington

The Honorable
Jay R. Inslee

Hawaii

The Honorable
David Ige

North Dakota

The Honorable
Doug Burgum

Wyoming

The Honorable
Mark Gordon

Idaho

The Honorable
Brad Little

Oklahoma

The Honorable
Kevin Stitt

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*President, Bluford Healthcare
Leadership Institute*

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Client Relations, Deloitte Services, LP*

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

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

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Eric Holcomb

Governor, State of Indiana

Tammy Johns

CEO, Strategy & Talent

Lenny Mendonca

*Former Chief Economic and Business
Advisor, Governor of California*

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 260,000 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