



# WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

*Commencement in Philadelphia*



SATURDAY MAY 21, 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 275,000 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*



## **Johnny C. Taylor, Jr.** *SHRM-SCP*

Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., SHRM-SCP, is President and CEO of SHRM, the Society for Human Resource Management. With over 300,000 members in 165 countries, SHRM is the largest HR trade association in the world, impacting the lives of 115 million workers. A nationally bestselling author, Mr. Taylor is a sought-after voice on all matters affecting work. He is frequently asked to testify before Congress and authors the weekly USA Today column “Ask HR.”

He is the author of *RESET: A Leader’s Guide to Work in an Age of Upheaval*. Immediately upon its release in September 2021, *RESET* was in the top three of the Wall Street Journal’s list of best-selling hardcover business books. All author proceeds benefit the SHRM Foundation, which is committed to empowering HR as a social force for change.

He was appointed chairman of the President’s Advisory Board on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and served as a member of the White House American Workforce Policy Advisory Board during the Trump Administration. He is Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Miami, Governor of the American Red Cross, and member of the corporate boards of Guild Education, iCIMS, and XPO Logistics (NYSE: XPO).

# *Bachelor's Ceremony Program*

## OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Dr. Rebecca Watts**

*Regional Vice President*

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

**Sean Gilbert**

*B.S. Data Management/Data Analytics*

## WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Dr. Marni Baker Stein**

*Provost and Chief Academic Officer*

## GRADUATE SPEAKERS

**Priscilla Sayles**

*B.S. Nursing*

**Rosa Ballenilla Mateo**

*B.A. Educational Studies - Elementary Education*

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Johnny C. Taylor, Jr.**

*Chief Executive Officer of the Society for Human Resource Management*

## CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Dr. Lucas Kavlie**

*Vice Provost, Accreditation and Compliance*

*College of Business*

*College of Health Professions*

*College of Information Technology*

*Teachers College*

Alumni Welcome

**Shayne Moore**

*B.S. Information Technology, Class of 2014*

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Marni Baker Stein**

*Provost and Chief Academic Officer*

*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.*

# *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*

**Washington**

*The Honorable*  
*Jay R. Inslee*

**Wyoming**

*The Honorable*  
*Mark Gordon*

# *Board of Trustees*

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*Professor of Management Practice  
& Co-Director of the Managing the  
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Harvard University*

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

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*Governor, State of Indiana*

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*CEO, Strategy & Talent*

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

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*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 275,000 strong!

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

Visit [wgu.edu/alumni](https://wgu.edu/alumni)

## GET SOCIAL

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**WGU**  | ALUMNI