

WGU  | ALUMNI

## COLLEGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

### **WGU Commencement**

#### **Commencement Weekend in Philadelphia**

On Saturday, May 21, WGU celebrated more than 700 graduates in two ceremonies at the Liacouras Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Keynote speakers Johnny C. Taylor from SHRM as well as WGU alum Shayne Moore inspired the crowd in addition to four graduate speakers who shared their motivating stories. The commencement ceremony can be found here:

[www.wgu.edu/alumni/previous-commencements/philadelphia.html](http://www.wgu.edu/alumni/previous-commencements/philadelphia.html)

The night before, more than 2,000 graduates and guests joined the Alumni Celebration at the National Constitution Center where they engaged with fellow night owls, met with faculty and staff, and enjoyed a night of entertainment and fun.

[WGU 2022 Commencement in Philadelphia Playlist](#)

#### **Upcoming Commencement Weekend in Seattle and Salt Lake City**

WGU's next commencements are set for July 16 and August 6. We are so excited to celebrate you all again! There's still time to RSVP if you haven't already. The deadline to RSVP for Seattle is June 24 and for Salt Lake City is July 15. For details about the events, locations, speaker applications, anthem singer auditions, and more, click on the buttons below.

## WGU News

WGU recently announced its recent partnership with Amazon and McDonald's—two of the largest employers in the country—to bring educational benefits to their workforces. Eligible employees are now able to earn a WGU degree at little to no cost through the Amazon Career Choice and McDonald's Archways to Opportunity programs. Those who are already WGU students benefit as well—eligible employees will have their tuition costs covered for future terms.\*



As a WGU grad, you understand what an exciting opportunity this is for so many. Please share the news with those you know who are currently working for or considering working for these companies to see if they are eligible.

[Learn More](#)

## Industry News



### **10-Minute Meditation for Peace of Mind**

Social media, heavy workload, traffic, finances. These are only a few items that can cause frustration in our day-to-day lives. Holding in frustration and anger is not healthy for both mental and physical aspects. That's why meditation is one of the best forms to release some of the tension and get peace of mind. Headspace is a great resource for meditation and they have a few free videos on YouTube to help you

meditate. Watch this 10-minute meditation from their channel to help with peace of mind.

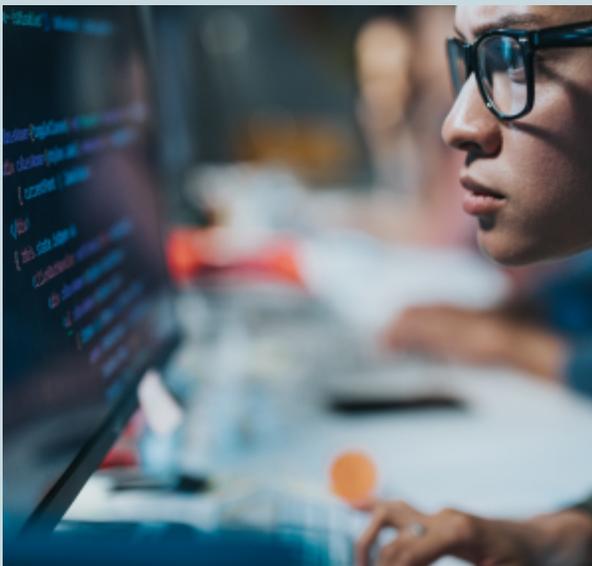
[Watch Video Here](#)



## Certificate vs. Degree: Which is Best?

With certificate programs becoming increasingly popular, the question is being asked: why earn a full degree? Although both paths have their benefits, they aren't the same. In the debate over "certificate vs. degree," these options shouldn't be viewed as interchangeable. Read more about their differences and see which is best for you.

[Read More](#)



## 7 Practical Tips to Avoid Cybersecurity Threats

In 2018 there were 80,000 cyberattacks per day or over 30 million attacks per year. At the onset of the pandemic, the potential for cyberattacks increased further when a mass amount of Americans found themselves working from home offices, sometimes on less protected networks or devices. Click below to learn how to avoid these cybersecurity threats.

[Read More](#)

## Pride Month

Happy Pride Month! This month brings communities together to celebrate freedom for individuals to be themselves. Learn more about Pride Month [here](#). Here are a few videos of graduate speakers who are a part of the LGBTQ+ community.



### **Zach Johnson**

[Listen to Zack's journey](#) of figuring out how he helped other people, which led him down the path of becoming a nurse. Zack is a prime example of why it's never too late to follow your dreams.

[Listen Here](#)



### **Salomon Torrescano**

[Listen to Salomon's story](#) of his upbringing from foster care to being a WGU graduate.

[Listen Here](#)

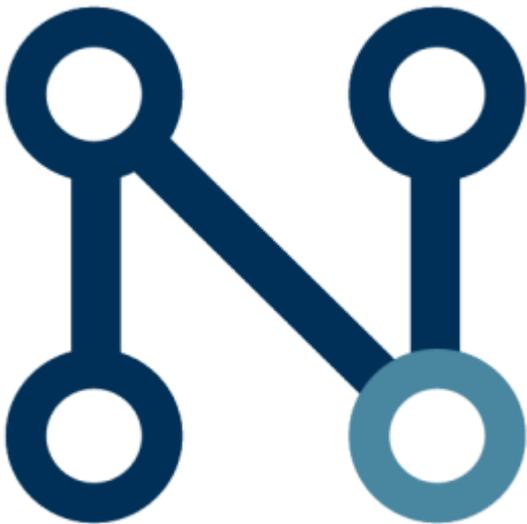
## Career & Professional Development

### **How Handshake Offers Different Opportunities for Professional Development**

Today's IT professional begins a new job with a strong grasp of current technology knowledge and

skills. To truly thrive and optimize your career, you will need to set high standards for yourselves. Moreover, all professionals may benefit from shifting their perspective of what learning truly means. Obtaining a degree in an IT field was typically enough for most. A college education mostly guaranteed that one would secure a lucrative job that would set them up for life. More is expected today. For many graduates to be successful at their job search or current roles, lifelong learning is necessary. IT professionals must all commit themselves to self-improvement each and every day in every area of life. [The Career & Professional Development Center](#) offers [professional development events](#) and employer insight sessions through the very powerful resource, Handshake. Another great way to keep learning is to explore [online resources](#) you can access from the career center. These can help you remain sharp as far as building your skills and advancing your goal. Be current. Be relevant. Keep learning.

## [WGU Resources and Giveaway](#)



### **Join the Night Owl Network**

Have you heard of our Night Owl Network (NON)? The NON is a place for you to communicate with other grads and help each other out. You can join groups, post jobs, and more. Plus, there are giveaways on the NON every month. Go to <https://wgunightownetwork.com/> and use your WGU credentials to sign in and create your profile.

[Join Here](#)

### **iPad Giveaway!**

We are giving away a free iPad! To enter, fill out the form below by June 20 at 5:00 pm MT. One winner will be selected at the end of June.

[Enter Here](#)