



# WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

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COMMENCEMENT IN WASHINGTON D.C.

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APRIL 21-22, 2023



## OUR MISSION

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To change lives for the better by creating pathways to opportunity.

## OUR PROMISE

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

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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*Dear Graduates,*

*On behalf of all of us at WGU, I want to congratulate you and recognize all of the hard work that has led to today. Only you know the many sacrifices you made to complete your degree. This is your moment to pause and reflect on this significant accomplishment—and celebrate this life-changing milestone!*

*It has been our privilege to be on this journey alongside you, and we share in your excitement and pride. Your degree has the potential to change your life and make a real difference to your family and community. As you join the ranks of more than 320,000 WGU graduates, we hope you will stay in touch through the Alumni Association.*

*Again, thank you for joining us today. We are thrilled 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 fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Scott D. Pulsipher, President  
Western Governors University

# CONVOCAATION SPEAKER

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## **Nicole Walters**

*CEO and Founder of Inherit Learning Company*

After spending more than a decade in corporate America, Nicole Walters left her six-figure job to pursue a more purposeful and prosperous path. Within six months of stepping out on her own, she successfully turned her part-time side hustle into a full-time business. Since, she has built a multi-million dollar business education empire, Inherit Learning Company.

Leveraging her sales and business development expertise, she and her team design signature learning programs that break down complex business concepts to help entrepreneurs establish profitable and purposeful businesses. Through immersive training and step-by-step guidance, participants learn how to go from idea to implementation. From stay at home parents to small business owners, Walters offers transformative resources that inspire people to not only build the business and life they love, but to leave a legacy.

# CONVOCATION PROGRAM

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

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### OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Dr. Rebecca Watts**

Regional Vice President, Northeast

### ANTHEM SINGER

**Brittany Thoms, Wilson, NC**

B.A. Educational Studies in Elementary Education

### WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Scott D. Pulsipher**

President

### HONORARY DEGREE

**Tammy Johns**

CEO, Strategy & Talent

### GRADUATE SPEAKERS

**Troy Wilson, Springfield Gardens, NY**

B.A. Educational Studies - Mild to Moderate Exceptionalities Special Education

**Andrea Schindler, Fairfax, VA**

M.S. Curriculum and Instruction

### COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Nicole Walters**

CEO and Founder of Inherit Learning Company

### CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Dr. Sarah DeMark**

Interim Provost

### CLOSING REMARKS

**Scott D. Pulsipher**

President

# CONFERRAL PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
COLLEGE OF IT

**SATURDAY MORNING**

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## OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Dr. Sarah DeMark**

Interim Provost

## WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Casey Clark**

Vice President, College of Business

**Ashutosh Tiwary**

Senior Vice President, College of IT

## GRADUATE SPEAKERS

**Indranil Chakraborty, Montebello, CA**

M.S. Data Analytics

**Ronald Simms Jr., Chesterfield, VA**

B.S. Business Administration, Management

## CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Dr. Lucas Kavlie**

Vice Provost

*College of Business*

*College of Information Technology*

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Sarah DeMark**

Interim Provost

# CONFERRAL PROGRAM

*LEAVITT SCHOOL OF HEALTH*

*SCHOOL OF EDUCATION*

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

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## OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Dr. Sarah DeMark**

Interim Provost

## WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Dr. Keith Smith**

Senior Vice President, Leavitt School of Health

**Dr. Aaron Popham**

Academic Vice President, School of Education

## GRADUATE SPEAKERS

**Eric Miller, Otis Orchards, WA**

M.S. Nursing - Education (BSN to MSN)

**Rachel Willhite, St. James, MO**

B.A. Educational Studies in Elementary Education

## CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Dr. Lucas Kavlie**

Vice Provost

*Michael O. Leavitt School of Health*

*School of Education*

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Sarah DeMark**

Interim Provost

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Governor, Utah 1993–2003

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The Honorable  
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The Honorable  
Tina Kotek

## **Arizona**

The Honorable  
Katie Hobbs

## **Montana**

The Honorable  
Greg Gianforte

## **South Dakota**

The Honorable  
Kristi Noem

## **California**

The Honorable  
Gavin Newsom

## **Nebraska**

The Honorable  
Jim Pillen

## **Texas**

The Honorable  
Greg Abbott

## **Colorado**

The Honorable  
Jared Polis

## **Nevada**

The Honorable  
Joe Lombardo

## **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  
Josh Green, M.D.

## **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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OneTen

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& Co-Director of the Managing the  
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Harvard Business School

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Director of Policy & Public Sector

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Advancing the American Dream

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Governor, State of Indiana

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Former Chief Economic & Business  
Advisor, State of California

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Founder of The Starfish Institute, Co-  
Founder & Executive Director,  
100Kin10

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Governor, State of Colorado

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President, Western Governors University

### **David Simmons**

Chairman, CEO, Simmons Media  
Group

### **Dr. Samuel H. Smith**

President Emeritus,  
Washington State University

### **Jessie Woolley-Wilson**

CEO & President, DreamBox Learning



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# CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

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Welcome to our growing alumni network,  
now more than 320,000 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

Share the excitement!

Use #WGUgrad to tag your commencement posts.



**WGU**  | ALUMNI