COMMENCEMENT IN CINCINNATI

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024
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.

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.
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 325,000 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!

Scott D. Pulsipher, President
Western Governors University
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Grandmaster Maurice Ashley

Maurice Ashley made history in 1999 when he became the first African American chess Grandmaster. He is a national championship coach, many time author, chess commentator, puzzle inventor, video course creator, and motivational speaker.

Maurice has spent decades providing dynamic live tournament coverage of world-class chess competitions and matches. His high-energy, unapologetic, and irreverent commentary combines Brooklyn street smarts with professional ESPN-style sports analysis. He has covered every class of elite event, including the World Chess Championships, the US Chess Championships, the Grand Chess Tour, and the legendary “Man vs. Machine” matches between Garry Kasparov and IBM’s Deep Blue.

Traveling the world as an ardent spokesperson for the many character-building effects of chess, Maurice shares how chess principles and strategies can be applied to improve business practices and assist with personal growth. Maurice also acts as a master of ceremonies and inspirational speaker at business conferences and high-class chess events.

Maurice has received multiple community service awards from city governments, universities, and community groups for his work. In recognition of his immense contribution to the game, he was inducted into the US Chess Hall of Fame in 2016 and the Brooklyn Technical High School Hall of Fame in 2018. His latest books are Move by Move: Life Lessons on and off the Chessboard and The Life Changing Magic of Chess, a picture book for early readers.
2024 COMMENCEMENT IN CINCINNATI GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE

1,308
Total Number of Graduates

Degree distribution by school:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>218</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>452</td>
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Degree type:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>594</td>
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19% Percentage of graduates from Ohio

2,540 Furthest distance traveled from Smith River, California

41 Number of states represented (including U.S. territories)
OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT
Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth
Chief Academic Officer and Provost

ANTHEM
Tadric Robinson, Lawrenceville, GA
MBA, IT Management

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Alison Bell
Regional Vice President, Central Region

GRADUATE SPEAKERS
Tiara Jones, Tigard, OR
M.S. Nursing - Leadership and Management

Daniel Baker, Orange, CA
M.Ed. Technology and Instructional Design

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Grandmaster Maurice Ashley

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES
Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth
Chief Academic Officer and Provost

Michael O. Leavitt School of Health
School of Education

CLOSING REMARKS
Scott D. Pulsipher
President
OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT
Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth
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ANTHEM
Tadric Robinson, Lawrenceville, GA
MBA, IT Management

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Alison Bell
Regional Vice President, Central Region

GRADUATE SPEAKERS
Shelby Hepner, Nashville, TN
M.S. Learning Experience Design and Educational Technology
B.S. Business Administration – HR Management

Joshawa Stell, Minooka, IL
M.S. Cybersecurity and Information Assurance
B.S. Cybersecurity and Information Assurance

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Grandmaster Maurice Ashley

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES
Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth
Chief Academic Officer and Provost

School of Business
School of Technology

CLOSING REMARKS
Scott Pulsipher
President
## MEMBER GOVERNORS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Governor Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>The Honorable Katie Hobbs</td>
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<td>California</td>
<td>The Honorable Gavin Newsom</td>
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<td>Colorado</td>
<td>The Honorable Jared Polis</td>
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<td>Guam</td>
<td>The Honorable Lou Leon Guerrero</td>
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<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>The Honorable Josh Green, M.D.</td>
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<td>Idaho</td>
<td>The Honorable Brad Little</td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
<td>The Honorable Eric Holcomb</td>
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<td>Montana</td>
<td>The Honorable Greg Gianforte</td>
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<td>Nebraska</td>
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<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham</td>
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<td>The Honorable Kevin Stitt</td>
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<td>Oregon</td>
<td>The Honorable Tina Kotek</td>
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<td>Texas</td>
<td>The Honorable Greg Abbott</td>
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<td>Utah</td>
<td>The Honorable Spencer Cox</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td>The Honorable Jay R. Inslee</td>
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<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>The Honorable Mark Gordon</td>
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Joseph B. Fuller
Professor of Management Practice and Co-Director of the Managing the Future of Work Project, Harvard Business School

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President and Founder, Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute

April Chou
Managing Director, Jasper Ridge Partners

Cole Clark
Managing Director, Higher Education, Deloitte

Dwana Franklin-Davis
CEO, Reboot Representation

The Honorable Jim Geringer

Kerry Healey
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The Honorable Eric Holcomb
Governor, State of Indiana

Lenny Mendonca
Former Chief Economic and Business Advisor, State of California

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President Emeritus, Washington State University

Jessie Woolley-Wilson
Former CEO and President, DreamBox Learning
CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

Welcome to our growing alumni network, now more than 325,000 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 to tag your commencement posts.