



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT IN BOSTON

AUGUST 23, 2025



OUR MISSION

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

OUR PROMISE

We provide strong returns on students' educational investments through a deep connection to workforce needs, respected and relevant credentials, eliminating unnecessary costs, and generous financial assistance and transfer policies.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear graduates,

On behalf of all of us at WGU, I want to congratulate you on this incredible achievement. Your hard work, perseverance, and dedication have led you to this moment, and only you fully understand the sacrifices it took to reach this milestone.

It has been an honor to support you on this journey. Your degree represents not only a life-changing opportunity for you but also the potential to make a meaningful impact on the lives of others. As you join a proud network of more than 395,000 WGU graduates, we encourage you to stay connected through the Alumni Association.

Thank you for letting us share this moment with you and your loved ones. We are proud of all you've achieved and excited for the opportunities ahead. Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in dark blue 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

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT



Bridget Terry Long, PhD

*Harvard University Distinguished Service Professor,
Saris Professor of Education and Economics*

Bridget Terry Long is a Harvard University Distinguished Service Professor and the Saris Professor of Education and Economics at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE). She is a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Education. Long is an economist whose work focuses on improving educational opportunities and student success with a focus on the transition to higher education and beyond. Her work has provided evidence on financial aid policies, postsecondary remedial education, and college support programs. She has also developed and evaluated interventions that help students complete financial aid forms, save for college, and persist in higher education.

Long served as Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education from 2018 to 2024 and led the school through a major redesign of their master's program, the COVID pandemic, and the creation of its first online master's degree. She also substantially increased student financial aid through a successful fundraising initiative, and she expanded HGSE's external engagement with practitioners, leaders, and communities around the world. She served as Academic Dean from 2013 to 2017 and Faculty Director of the Ed.D. and Ph.D. programs from 2010 to 2013.

Long is the Chair of Board of Directors for MDRC, a founding Board Member of Axim Collaborative, and a member of the Board for the Red Sox Foundation. She is co-Chair of the Commission on Opportunities After High School, sponsored by the American Academy. During the Obama administration, she served as Chair of National Board for Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education. She has testified numerous times before U.S. Senate Committees, and she has won numerous major research grants, including from the Gates Foundation, the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), and the National Science Foundation. Long was awarded the Peter H. Rossi Award from APPAM, the Spencer Foundation Mentor Award, and the Robert P. Huff Golden Quill Award for excellence in research and published works on student financial assistance. She earned her Ph.D. and M.A. from the Harvard University Department of Economics and her A.B. from Princeton University in Economics with a Certificate in Afro-American Studies.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Corey Alexander

Former Two-Sport Collegiate Athlete, U.S. Army National Guard Soldier, and Transformational Healthcare Executive

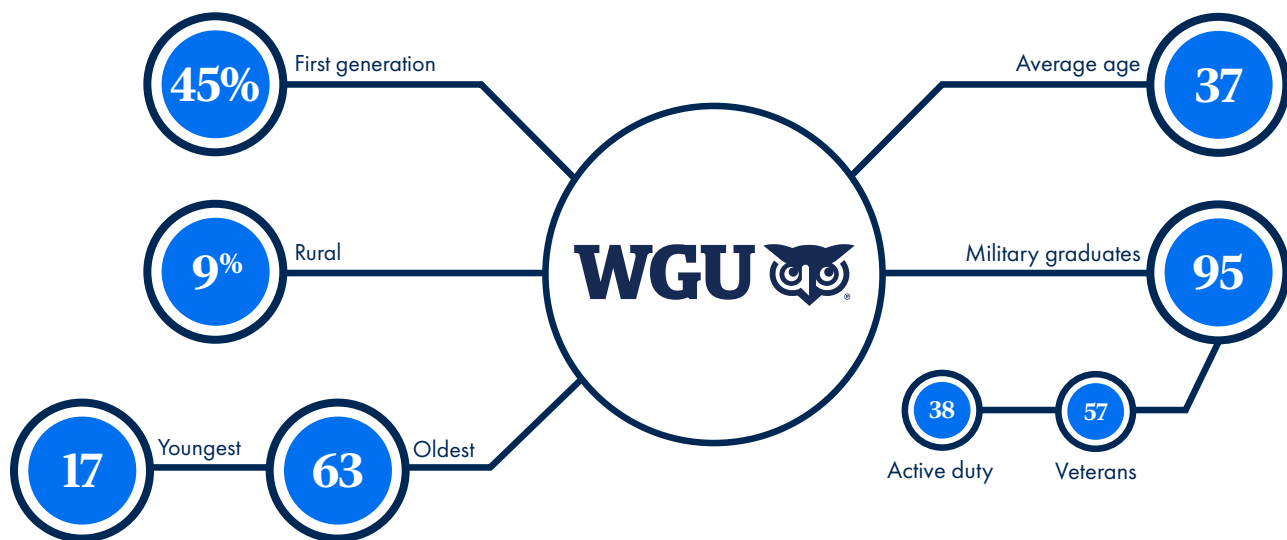
Dr. Corey Alexander is a former two-sport collegiate athlete, a soldier in the U.S. Army National Guard, and a transformational healthcare executive. Throughout his career, he has built mission-driven organizations that blend operational excellence with compassion and culture. In his current role with DaVita Kidney Care, he oversees multiple dialysis centers in New York City, ensuring regulatory compliance and clinical excellence while nurturing a values-based, mission-driven team.

Earlier executive roles at Ross Health Group and other healthcare organizations highlight his talent for cultivating inclusive environments, supporting staff development and guiding organizations through change. As the founder and Executive Director of College Bound Athletics, Alexander created a nonprofit that mentors student athletes, championing their wellbeing and academic success.

Alexander's background as a multi-sport athlete and a service member instills discipline and resilience that inform his approach to leadership. He is passionate about mentorship, diversity and inclusion, and advocating for health equity.

Holding a doctorate in Leadership & Professional Practice, a Master of Business Administration (From WGU, GO Night Owls!), and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, he complements his professional experience with a strong academic foundation. As a TEDx speaker, he shares insights on culture, teamwork, and the intersection of sports, service and healthcare. His holistic perspective and people-first philosophy make him a trusted leader and advocate across the communities he serves.

GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE

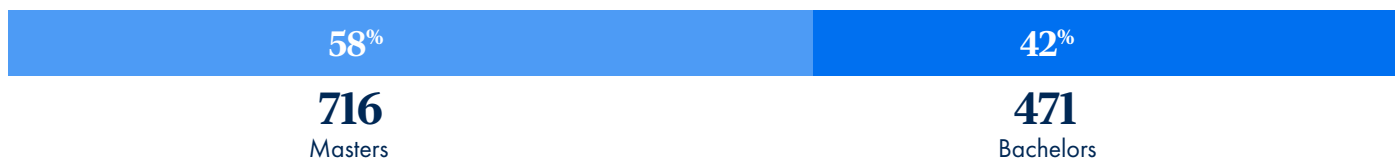


1,187
Total Number of Graduates

Degree distribution by college:



Degree type:



12%

Percentage of graduates
from New York

4,500

Furthest distance traveled
from Alaska

48

Number of states
represented
(including U.S. territories)

LEAVITT SCHOOL OF HEALTH & SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. K.L. Allen

Regional Vice President, Northeast Region

Anthem Singer

Rilyn Celeste Gardner, Revere, MA

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

Graduate Speakers

Rachel Painter, Latrobe, PA

PMC Family Nurse Practitioner

Ping Yan, Princeton, NJ

M.Ed. Education Technology and Instructional Design

Honorary Degree Recipient

Bridget Terry Long, PhD

Harvard University Distinguished Service Professor,
Saris Professor of Education and Economics

Conferral of Degrees

Deborah Fowler

Senior Vice President, Academic Delivery

Leavitt School of Health

School of Education

Closing Remarks

Scott D. Pulsipher

President

SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY & SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. K.L. Allen

Regional Vice President, Northeast Region

Anthem Singer

Christy Michelle Hotard, Memphis, TN

B.S. Business Administration – Management

Graduate Speaker

Devon Briganti, Greenacres, FL

M.S. Cybersecurity & Information Assurance

Asia Proctor-Abron, Washington, DC

B.S. Business Administration – Management

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Corey Alexander

Former Two-Sport Collegiate Athlete, U.S. Army National Guard Soldier,
and Transformational Healthcare Executive

Conferral of Degrees

Deborah Fowler

Sr. Vice President of Academic Delivery

School of Technology

School of Business

Closing Remarks

Scott D. Pulsipher

President

MEMBER GOVERNORS

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt, Chairman Emeritus

Governor, Utah 1993–2003

Alaska

The Honorable
Michael J. Dunleavy

Indiana

The Honorable
Mike Braun

Oregon

The Honorable
Tina Kotek

Arizona

The Honorable
Katie Hobbs

Montana

The Honorable
Greg Gianforte

South Dakota

The Honorable
Larry Rhoden

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
Bob Ferguson

Hawaii

The Honorable
Josh Green

North Dakota

The Honorable
Kelly Armstrong

Wyoming

The Honorable
Mark Gordon

Idaho

The Honorable
Brad Little

Oklahoma

The Honorable
Kevin Stitt

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Joseph B. Fuller, Chair

Professor of Management Practice and
Co-Head of the Managing the Future of Work Project at Harvard Business School

April Chou

Managing Director
Jasper Ridge Partners

Cole Clark

Managing Director, Higher Education
Deloitte

Dwana Franklin-Davis

CEO, Reboot Representation

Dr. Harold Lee Martin, Sr.

Chancellor Emeritus, North Carolina
Agricultural and Technical State University

Lenny Mendonca

Former Chief Economic and Business
Advisor
State of California

Talia Milgrom-Elcott

Founder & Executive Director
Beyond100K & Starfish Institute

Eloy Oakley

CEO, College Futures Foundation

The Honorable Jared Polis

Governor, State of Colorado

Scott D. Pulsipher

President, Western Governors University

Dr. Ruth Watkins

President, Postsecondary Education
Strada Education Foundation

Jessie Woolley-Wilson

Operating Partner, Owl Ventures

EMERITUS TRUSTEES

The Honorable Jim Geringer

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

David Simmons

Chairman & CEO
Simmons Media Group

Dr. Samuel H. Smith

President Emeritus,
Washington State University



CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

Welcome to our growing alumni network,
now more than 395,000 strong!

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

[Visit the Alumni Resources Website](#)

GET SOCIAL

Share the excitement!

Use #WGUgrad to tag your commencement posts.

