

WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT IN LOUISVILLE

JUNE 7, 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 385,000 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!

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Scott D. Pulsipher, President Western Governors University

<u>wgu.edu</u>

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Jamie Valvano

Inspirational Speaker, Advocate, and Cancer Survivor

Jamie Valvano is an ordinary person that has been transformed by extraordinary circumstances. She witnessed the amazing victory when her beloved father, legendary basketball coach Jim Valvano, realized his life-long dream of winning the National Championship in 1983. Years later, however, her family was devastated when Jim was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Jamie was in the audience during his famous ESPY speech in 1993 when he stated, "We are establishing The V Foundation for Cancer Research. It may not save my life, it may save my children's lives, it may save someone you love."

After graduating from North Carolina State University, Jamie worked for The V Foundation for Cancer Research in its formative years and helped to establish the organization that has now awarded over \$330 million to cancer facilities across the nation. In 2005, at the age of 33, Jamie was diagnosed with breast cancer. As a result of ground breaking research, doctors were able to uncover the genetic mutation that she had inherited from her father, and create a course of treatment that would increase her odds of survival. The prophetic words her father spoke took on an entirely different meaning now that she was facing her own battle.

Eighteen years after her diagnosis, Jamie continues to share private and personal insights to a variety of audiences in her role as a public speaker. She uses her voice as a cancer survivor, mother, and writer always pushing others to embrace their personal vision. Individuals cannot help but be inspired by the open, honest, and often heartbreaking lessons.

GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE



Degree distribution by college:



LEAVITT SCHOOL OF HEALTH & SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Welcome and Opening Remarks Alison Bell

Regional Vice President, Central Region

Anthem Singer

Nicole Rae Kastning, Appleton, WI

M.S. Learning Experience Design & Educational Technology

Graduate Speakers Brittany Kizzee, Houston, TX

B.A. Educational Studies - Elementary Education

Meagan S. Wright-Burnett, Dayton, TN

Master of Healthcare Administration

Keynote Speaker Jamie Valvano

Inspirational Speaker, Advocate, and Cancer Survivor

Conferral of Degrees Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer and Provost

Leavitt School of Health School of Education

Closing Remarks **Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth**

Chief Academic Officer and Provost

SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY & SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Welcome and Opening Remarks **Alison Bell**

Regional Vice President, Central Region

Anthem Singer Bridger Silvester, Layton, UT

B.S. Finance

Graduate Speaker Brandi Ash, Louisa, KY

B.S. Business Administration - Human Resource Management

Clarence Miller, Dayton, KY

M.S. IT Management & B.S. Information Technology

Keynote Speaker Jamie Valvano

Inspirational Speaker, Advocate, and Cancer Survivor

Conferral of Degrees

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer and Provost

School of Technology School of Business

Closing Remarks Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer and Provost

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Hawaii The Honorable Josh Green

Idaho The Honorable Brad Little **Indiana** The Honorable Mike Braun

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Nebraska The Honorable Jim Pillen

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New Mexico The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham

> North Dakota The Honorable Kelly Armstrong

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CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

Welcome to our growing alumni network, now more than 385,000 strong!

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

Vist the Alumni Resources Website

GET SOCIAL

Share the excitement!

Use #WGUgrad to tag your commencement posts.

