



# **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!

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

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

---



## **Jamie Valvano**

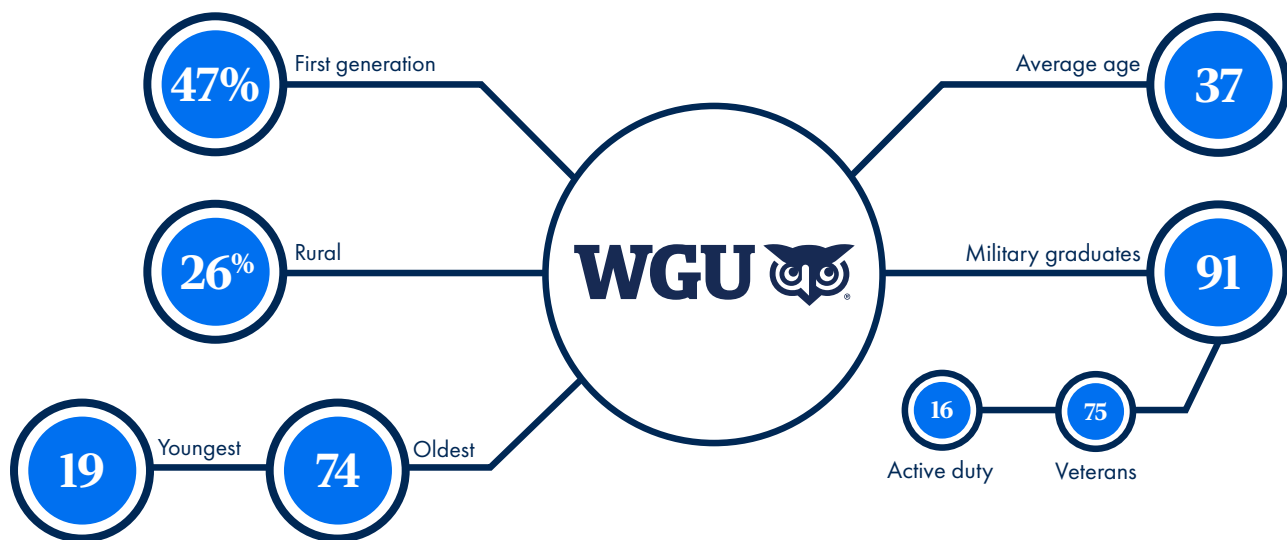
*Inspirational Speaker, Advocate, and Cancer Survivor*

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



**1,160**  
Total Number of Graduates

## Degree distribution by college:



## Degree type:



**19%**

Percentage of graduates  
from Indiana

**3,091**

Furthest distance traveled  
from Alaska

**43**

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

# 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, Louisville, 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

# 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 385,000 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.

