



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

SPRING VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT

MAY 10, 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 380,000 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

GRADUATE SPEAKER



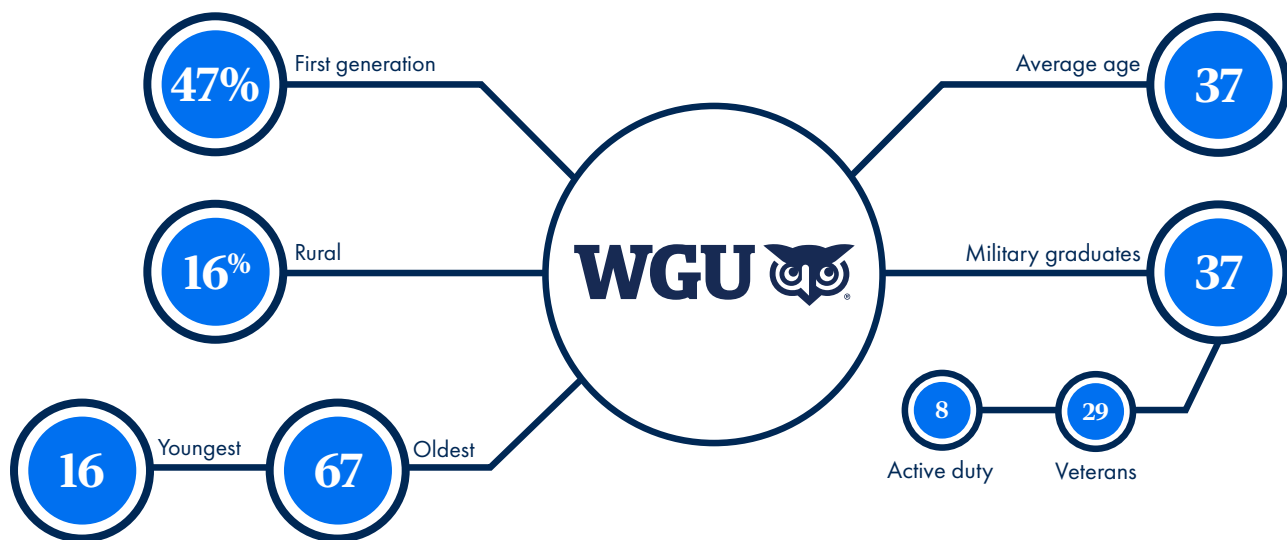
Jessica Burwell

M.S. Cybersecurity & Information Assurance

Jessica Burwell is a Cyber Engineer at Hexagon US Federal and a proud graduate of the Master of Science in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance program. Originally planning to pursue a career in the medical field, her journey into cybersecurity came after earning a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in chemistry. As a single mother determined to build a strong future for herself and her daughter, Jessica discovered a passion for tech and pivoted into cybersecurity—quickly realizing how naturally it came to her.

Outside of work, Jessica is a devoted mom to a 16-year-old daughter who dreams of becoming an engineer. She's also an aunt, a sixth-degree black belt in Taekwondo, and someone who finds joy in working out, reading, learning new things, attending church, and helping others. She loves speaking and inspiring others—especially women and moms—to keep pushing forward. Above all, motherhood is her greatest motivation and the driving force behind everything she does.

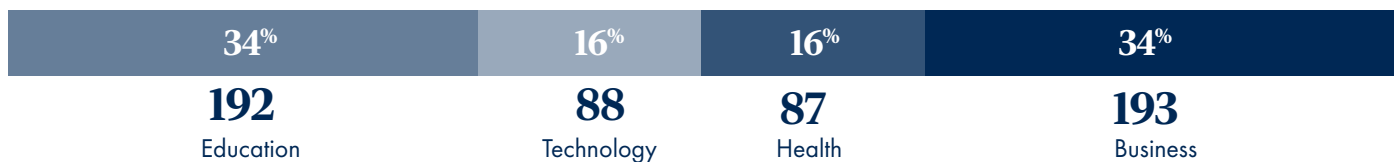
GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE



560

Total Number of Graduates

Degree distribution by college:



Degree type:



24

Average Months to
Graduation

22%

Scholarship Recipients

48

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

2025 SPRING VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Rick Benbow

Regional Vice President, West Region

Graduate Speaker

Jessica Burwell, Huntsville, AL

M.S. Cybersecurity & Information Assurance

Conferral of Degrees

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer & Provost

Leavitt School of Health

School of Business

School of Education

School of Technology

Closing Remarks

Rick Benbow

Regional Vice President, West Region

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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

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(1995–2003)

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Washington State University



CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

Welcome to our growing alumni network,
now more than 380,000 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.

