



COMMENCEMENT IN ATLANTA

OCTOBER 10, 2026



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 congratulate you and welcome you to our commencement. We recognize and respect the hard work and sacrifices you have made to complete your degree, and today is your day to celebrate this important milestone in your life.

We share your excitement and pride in this achievement—one that has the potential to make a real difference for you, your family, and even future generations. As you join the ranks of the more than 526,000 graduates and counting, we hope you will stay in touch through the Alumni Association.

Again, thank you for joining us today. We are so grateful for the opportunity to share this day with you and your loved ones. 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



Joy King

PhD(c), DNP, MBA, APRN, NP-C, FAIHM

Joy is President of the Georgia Nurses Association and a seasoned Family Nurse Practitioner whose career is dedicated to advancing equitable healthcare and elevating the nursing profession. A proud WGU graduate, Joy earned her MBA in Healthcare Management in 2020 and was selected as a WGU Distinguished Graduate earlier this year. Her experience spans primary care, telehealth, clinical leadership, and higher education, and she currently provides care to diverse and underserved populations while advocating for the nursing profession across Georgia.

Joy also serves as adjunct faculty, teaching graduate nursing and healthcare finance, and is a PhD candidate in Nursing after recently successfully defending her research proposal and advancing to PhD candidacy. Her research focuses on the relationships among body image, sleep quality, social media use, and perceived cardiovascular disease risk among overweight and obese African American women in rural Georgia. Throughout her career, Joy's leadership has reflected compassion, advocacy, and a steadfast commitment to improving health outcomes and strengthening the nursing profession.

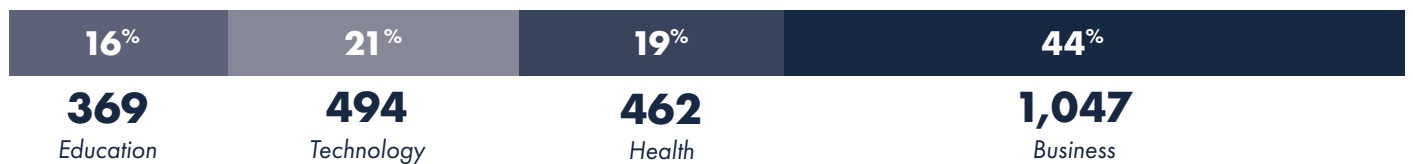
GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE



2,372

Total Number of Graduates

Degree distribution by college:



Degree type:



24%

Percentage of graduates
from Georgia

7,153

Furthest mileage traveled
from South Korea

46

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

SATURDAY MORNING CEREMONY

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Kim Estep

Regional Vice President, Southeast Region

ANTHEM SINGER

Alicia Nesmith, Lithonia, GA

M.A. Teaching - Elementary Education

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Jim West, Kuwait, AE

M.S. Cybersecurity and Information Assurance

Nakeitha L Carter, Griffin, GA

M.S. Management and Leadership

Keynote Speaker

Joy King

PhD(c), DNP, MBA, APRN, NP-C, FAIHM

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer & Provost

Leavitt School of Health

School of Education

School of Technology

School of Business

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott Pulsipher

President

SATURDAY AFTERNOON CEREMONY

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Kim Estep

Regional Vice President, Southeast Region

ANTHEM SINGER

Christine Wilkerson, Beech Island, SC

M.S. Marketing - Digital Marketing

M.S. Management and Leadership

B.S. Business - HR Management

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

McKenzi Millard, Lansdale, PA

B.S. Human Resource Management

Ania Joseph, Fairburn, GA

MBA - IT Management

Keynote Speaker

Joy King

PhD(c), DNP, MBA, APRN, NP-C, FAIHM

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer & Provost

Leavitt School of Health

School of Education

School of Technology

School of Business

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott Pulsipher

President

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Frank O'Bannon*

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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

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Utah

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Brad Little*

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*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 526,000 strong!*

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

wgu.edu/alumni

GET SOCIAL

Share the excitement!

Use #WGUgrad to tag your commencement posts.

