



COMMENCEMENT IN LOUISVILLE

JUNE 6, 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 500,000 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 black ink that reads "Scott D. Pulsipher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

*Scott D. Pulsipher, President
Western Governors University*

MORNING HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.

Former Governor of Indiana

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. served as a two-term governor of the state of Indiana from 2004 to 2012 and as the 12th president of Purdue University from 2013 to 2022.

He was elected governor in his first bid for any elected office, and then re-elected with more votes than any candidate in the state's history. During his tenure, Indiana went from an \$800 million deficit to its first AAA credit rating, led the nation in infrastructure building and passed sweeping education and healthcare reforms.

After a series of transformations, which included the biggest tax cut in state history, the nation's most sweeping deregulation of the telecommunications industry and a host of other reforms aimed at strengthening the state's economy, Indiana was rated a top five state for business climate and number one for state infrastructure and effectiveness of state government as Daniels exited office. Indiana's business climate is now rated among the nation's best.

At Purdue, Daniels prioritized student affordability and reinvestment in the university's strengths. He ended 36 years of consecutive tuition hikes by freezing tuition and mandatory fees at 2012 levels for all students. The hold on rates will continue at least until the 2024-25 academic year. While under his leadership, the university also went from the second most expensive school in the Big Ten for room and board costs to the most affordable by freezing room rates and reducing meal costs by 10%. Overall, aggregate student borrowing fell 37% under his tenure and it cost less to attend Purdue at the conclusion of his time as president than at the start, even without adjusting for inflation.

MORNING HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.

Former Governor of Indiana

In recognition of his leadership as both a governor and a university president, Daniels was named among the Top 50 Greatest World Leaders by Fortune Magazine in 2015 and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2019.

Prior to becoming governor, Daniels served as chief of staff to Senator Richard Lugar, senior advisor to President Ronald Reagan and Director of the Office of Management and Budget under President George W. Bush. He also was the CEO of the Hudson Institute, a major contract research organization. During an 11-year career at Eli Lilly and Company, he held a number of top executive posts including president of Eli Lilly's North American pharmaceutical operations.

Daniels earned a bachelor's degree from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a law degree from Georgetown. He is the author of three books and a contributing columnist in the Washington Post.

He and his wife Cheri have four daughters and seven grandchildren.

AFTERNOON KEYNOTE SPEAKER



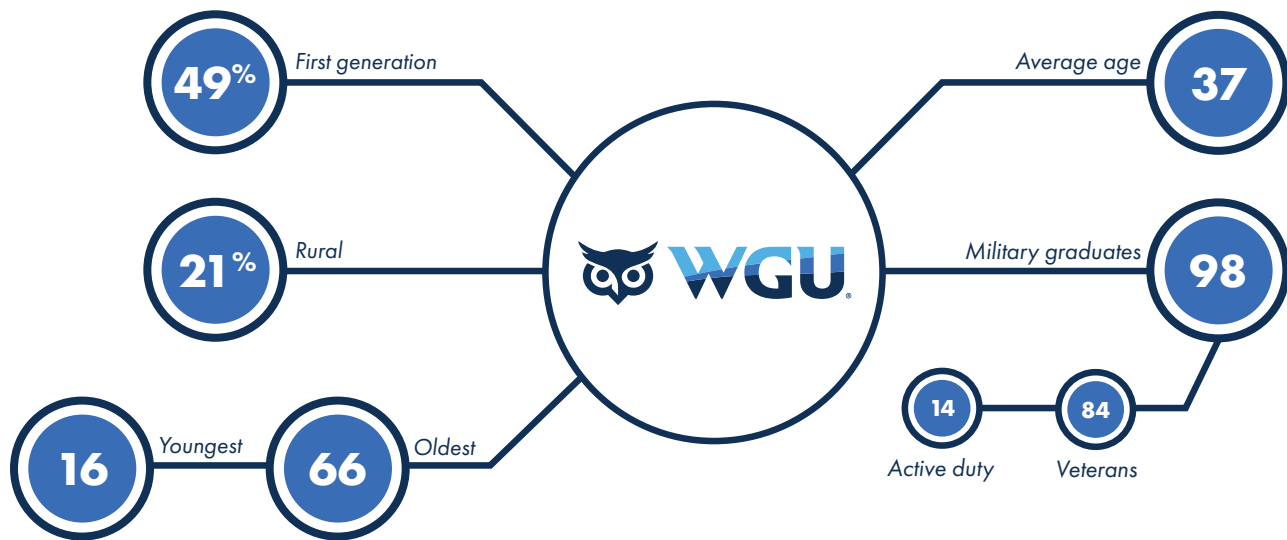
Ashli Watts

President & CEO, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

Ashli Watts was named the President and CEO for the Kentucky Chamber, the state's largest business association, in November 2019. Ashli joined the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce in November of 2012, and during her tenure as Senior Vice President of Public Affairs at the Chamber, she has led efforts in passing significant pieces of legislation such as felony expungement, right to work legislation, workers' compensation reform, unemployment insurance reform and tax reform. Prior to joining the Chamber, she worked at the Kentucky Bar Association and the Legislative Research Commission.

Ashli graduated from Campbellsville University with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and History in 2004 and holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Louisville. She currently serves on the boards for Campbellsville University, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of State Chambers, and the Louisville Orchestra. She also serves as the Chair of the U.S. Chamber's Committee of 100, comprised of the top 100 Chamber leaders in the nation. Ashli was appointed by Governor Andy Beshear, and confirmed by the Kentucky State Senate, to serve on the Energy Planning and Inventory Commission, where she was also elected Chair in 2025. In August of 2025, she served as the first female emcee of the Fancy Farm picnic. She currently resides in Frankfort with her husband Ryan and two children.

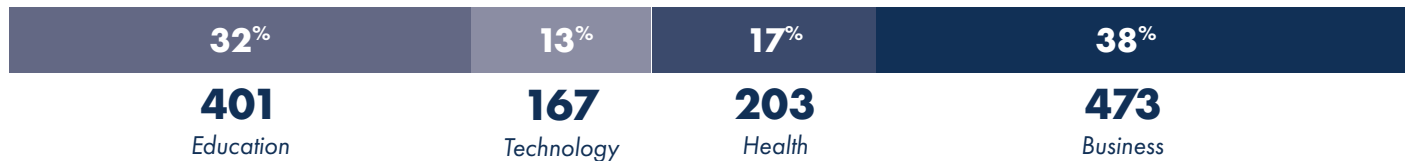
GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE



1,244

Total Number of Graduates

Degree distribution by college:



Degree type:



16%

Percentage of graduates from Indiana

4,251

Furthest mileage traveled from Belgium

43

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

MORNING CEREMONY

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Allison Bell

Regional Vice President, Central Region

ANTHEM SINGER

Alexandra Eisenbraun, Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Master of Business Administration

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Cara Serjak, Baltimore, MD

M.S. Nursing - Leadership and Management

AJ Rivera, District Heights, MD

B.S. Business Management

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Mitchell E. Daniels Jr.

Former Governor of Indiana

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Debbie Fowler

Senior Vice President, Academic Delivery

Leavitt School of Health

School of Education

School of Technology

School of Business

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott D. Pulsipher

President

AFTERNOON CEREMONY

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Allison Bell

Regional Vice President, Central Region

ANTHEM SINGER

John DeGraffenreid, Dayton, OH

B.S. IT Management

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Regina Roberts, Covington, GA

Master of Business Administration

Courtney Rogers, Chicago, IL

M.S. Curriculum and Instruction

Key Note Speaker

Ashli R. Watts

President & CEO, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Debbie Fowler

Senior Vice President, Academic Delivery

Leavitt School of Health

School of Education

School of Technology

School of Business

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott D. Pulsipher

President

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*The Honorable
Katie Hobbs*

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Greg Abbott*

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*The Honorable
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Nevada

*The Honorable
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*The Honorable
Spencer Cox*

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Michelle Lujan Grisham*

Washington

*The Honorable
Bob Ferguson*

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*The Honorable
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*The Honorable
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Mark Gordon*

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*The Honorable
Brad Little*

Oklahoma

*The Honorable
Kevin Stitt*

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Co-Head of the Managing the Future of Work Project at Harvard Business School*

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Former Governor, State of Wyoming
(1995–2003)*

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Washington State University*



CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

*Welcome to our growing alumni network,
now more than 500,000 strong!*

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

wgu.edu/alumni

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Share the excitement!

Use #WGUgrad to tag your commencement posts.

