



COMMENCEMENT IN NEW ORLEANS

MARCH 7, 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 425,000 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 stroke at the end.

*Scott D. Pulsipher, President
Western Governors University*

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Marc J. Spears

Senior Writer, ESPN's Andscape | Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Inductee

Marc J. Spears is a Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame inductee and the recipient of the prestigious 2023 Curt Gowdy Media Award. As a senior writer for ESPN's Andscape, Marc is widely regarded as one of the most influential storytellers in sports, celebrated for elevating narratives at the vital intersection of basketball, culture, race, and humanity.

With over 27 seasons of NBA coverage, Marc's award-winning journalism has shaped the conversation at Yahoo! Sports, The Boston Globe, and The Denver Post. Beyond the page, he is a fixture on ESPN's NBA Today and SportsCenter, a co-host of Hulu's The Conversation Project, and a featured voice in Netflix's Starting 5.

A true polymath, Marc also serves as a Wine Ambassador for Kendall-Jackson and has co-produced the award-winning documentary Katrina Cop in the Superdome. He holds a Master's in Sports Business Management from LSU and an Honorary Doctorate from Langston University, reflecting a career built on depth, authenticity, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE



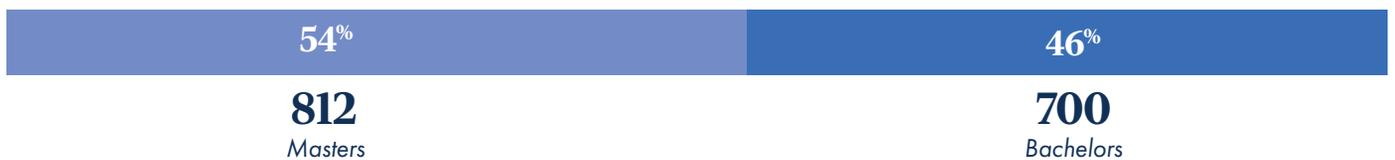
1,512

Total Number of Graduates

Degree distribution by college:



Degree type:



35%

Percentage of graduates from Texas

4,205

Furthest distance traveled from Wahiawa, HI

41

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

MORNING CEREMONY

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Linda Battles

Regional Vice President, South Region

ANTHEM SINGER

Za'hra Dabon, New Orleans, LA

B.A. Special Education and Elementary Education

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Hannah Buchanan, Fritch, TX

B.S. Human Resource Management

Jacobi Mitchell, New Orleans, LA

B.S. Human Resource Management

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Marc J. Spears

Senior Writer, ESPN's Andscape

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Deborah Fowler, J.D.

Senior Vice President, Academic Delivery

Leavitt School of Health

School of Education

School of Technology

School of Business

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer & Provost

AFTERNOON CEREMONY

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Linda Battles

Regional Vice President, South Region

ANTHEM SINGER

Alisha Glover, Fort Washington, MD

MA. Teaching, Science Education

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Katelin Krause, Mount Vernon, IL

M.A. Teaching - Special Education

Makiya Newman, Dallas, TX

M.S. Nursing - Leadership and Management

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Marc J. Spears

Senior Writer, ESPN's Andscape

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Deborah Fowler, J.D.

Senior Vice President, Academic Delivery

Leavitt School of Health

School of Education

School of Technology

School of Business

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer & Provost

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Frank O'Bannon*

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Tina Kotek*

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*The Honorable
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Nebraska

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Jim Pillen*

Texas

*The Honorable
Greg Abbott*

Colorado

*The Honorable
Jared Polis*

Nevada

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Idaho

*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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(1995–2003)*

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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 425,000 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.

