



COMMENCEMENT IN SEATTLE

JULY 24 - 25, 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 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*

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT



David R. Grow

Chief Operating Officer, WGU

David Grow is the Chief Operating Officer at Western Governors University where he leads teams focused on co-curricular services, including financial aid, marketing, regional and state operations, and alumni engagement, among other services.

Previously, Grow served as WGU's Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration from 2005 until 2019. He was responsible for finance, accounting, budgeting, human resources, information technology, and student services. During that time, Grow's leadership contributed to the growth of a small institution still in its startup phase—sustained by investment and serving fewer than 4,000 students and just 400 graduates—to one of the nation's largest universities.

Grow introduced a flat-rate tuition model under which students pay per term rather than per course or credit, saving money when they complete extra coursework and graduate early. He oversaw the creation of WGU's responsible borrowing initiatives, a personalized student advising program that has decreased student borrowing—already low by national standards—by 30% since its launch in 2013.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Kiesha King

U.S. Head of Strategic Engagement and Market Development, K-12 Education at Apple

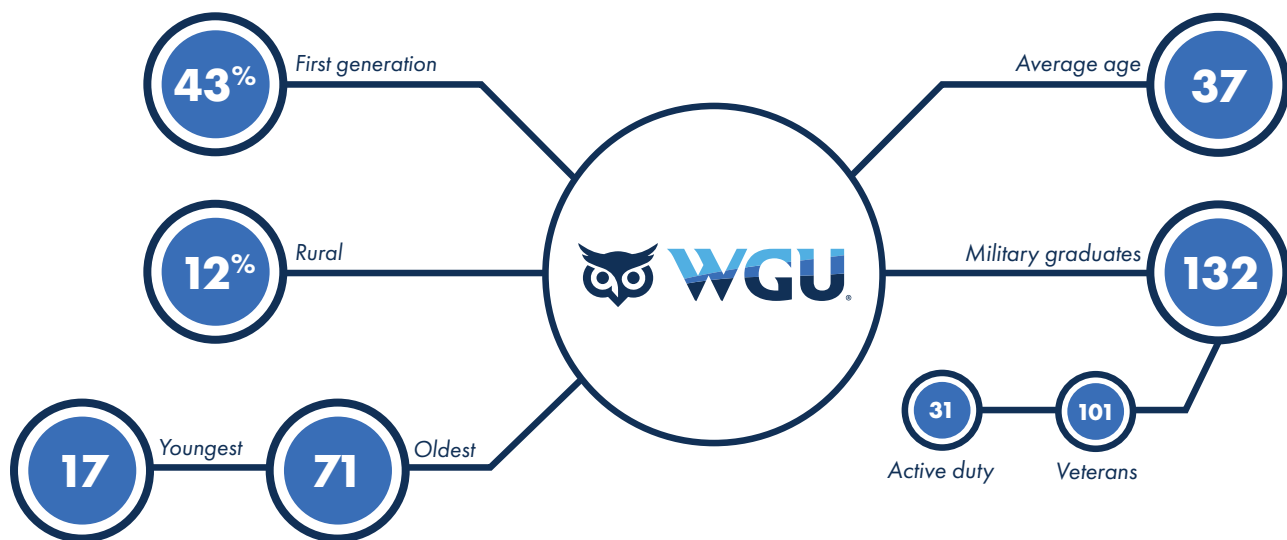
Dr. Kiesha King is a globally recognized education strategist, executive leader, and systems innovator. Her work has shaped national and international conversations around education access, workforce readiness, digital access and equity, and large-scale institutional transformation.

A five-time Forbes contributor, Harvard guest lecturer, WGU Distinguished Graduate and MBA alumna, TRIO achiever, and FCC Digital Equity Honoree, Dr. King serves as Executive-in-Residence at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she supports researchers and emerging leaders at the intersection of education, innovation, and organizational strategy. She volunteers in national and global board service across multiple sectors. Her implementation experience spans K-12, higher education, adult education, workforce development, and emerging technology.

Dr. King currently serves as U.S. Head of Strategic Engagement and Market Development, K-12 Education at Apple. Prior to this role, she served as National Head of Education Division Strategy at T-Mobile, where she led Project 10Million — a \$10.7 billion initiative that connected more than 7 million student households to reliable internet access and supported more than \$1 billion in Federal Communications Commission Emergency Connectivity Fund requests.

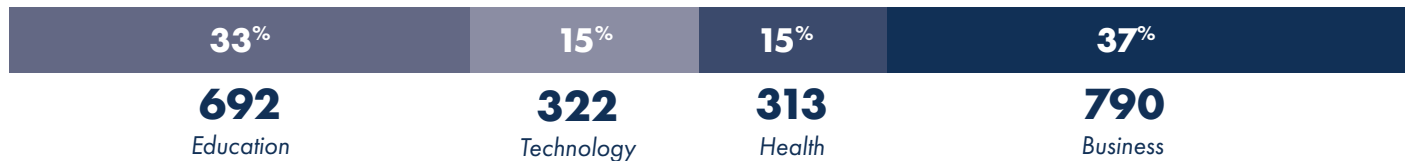
She is also the Founder of Prevail Edu, a leadership and learning community helping professionals, educators, and emerging leaders navigate the future of work and innovation with clarity and purpose.

GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE



2,117
Total Number of Graduates

Degree distribution by college:



Degree type:



47%

Percentage of graduates
from Washington

5,674

Furthest mileage traveled
from Guam

47

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

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CEREMONY

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Tonya Drake

Regional Vice President, Northwest Region

ANTHEM SINGER

Melissa Hardcastle, Umtalla, OR

B.S. Human Resource Management

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Amedeo Rondon, Richland, WA

MBA - Healthcare Administration

Chelli Kluchesky, Boise, ID

B.S. Data Analytics

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Kiesha King

*U.S. Head of Strategic Engagement and Market Development,
K-12 Education at Apple*

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 D. Pulsipher

President

SATURDAY MORNING CEREMONY

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Tonya Drake

Regional Vice President, Northwest Region

ANTHEM SINGER

Chelsea Anderson, Nashville, TN

M.S. Management and Leadership

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Juliet Jacob, Dallas, TX

M.S. IT Management

Yazan Alkhatib, Olympia, WA

B.S. Business Management

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

David R. Grow

Chief Operating Officer

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School of Education

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CLOSING REMARKS

Scott D. Pulsipher

President

SATURDAY AFTERNOON CEREMONY

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Tonya Drake

Regional Vice President, Northwest Region

ANTHEM SINGER

Chloe Pierce, Yakima, WA

M.S. Curriculum and Instruction

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Kimberly Thomas, Spokane Valley, WA

B.S. Health Science

Riley Ramcke, Snohomish, WA

M.A. Teaching - Special Education

Key Note Speaker

Dr. Kiesha King

U.S. Head of Strategic Engagement and Market Development,

K-12 Education at Apple

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

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Chief Academic Officer & Provost

Leavitt School of Health

School of Education

School of Technology

School of Business

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott D. Pulsipher

President

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Tina Kotek*

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*The Honorable
Katie Hobbs*

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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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President, Western Governors University

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*President, Postsecondary Education
Strada Education Foundation*

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*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 500,000 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.

