



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

FALL VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT

OCTOBER 26, 2024



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 350,000 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

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Chaunte Lowe

4-Time Olympian, Author, TEDx Speaker, Breast Cancer Thriver

If there's an art to facing obstacles and coming out on top, Chaunte Lowe takes the Gold. The worldrenowned high jumper lives to conquer barriers, racking up 4 Olympic Games Appearances, 3 Global Championship medals, 3 American records, and several global accolades. Many are surprised to learn that she achieved most of these accomplishments while also holding the title of "mother of three."

Her performances on the field have earned her inductions into three separate halls of fame and four separate invitations to be honored at the White House by several US Presidents. Lowe, a worldrenowned resilience speaker, has been featured in numerous publications, including The New York Times, Huffington Post, Vogue, Glamour, Essence, and Sports Illustrated.

When speaking, she is true to how she performs. She is animated, entertaining, and humorous. She dances and plays to the crowd as she shares stories of beating impossible odds, time and time again. She possesses the ability to keep the group engaged and hanging on to her every word. Those who get a chance to encounter her leave inspired and motivated. Her infectious personality is electrifying. You can't help but leave an interaction with her with a winning, "I can do ANYTHING" attitude.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER CONT'D



Chaunte Lowe

4-Time Olympian, Author, TEDx Speaker, Breast Cancer Thriver

Chaunte would have never guessed, with all that she accomplished, that her biggest obstacles would come off the track. In 2019, Lowe was rattled with the devastating diagnosis of triple-negative breast cancer, which is among the most aggressive forms. In a state of disbelief, Chaunté took the crushing blow head-on, being forced to bow out of the national championships for a double mastectomy and miss the world championships for chemotherapy. Still, in Chaunté fashion, she decided that she would fight against the odds and still train through chemo in hopes of making the delayed 2020 US Olympic team. Now known as the utmost expert on resilience, her advocacy work focuses on early detection and breast cancer awareness to save lives. Reaching hundreds of millions of people, her work was honored with the NCAA Inspiration Award, The 'Hero Among Us' award, and she was recently named to Georgia Tech's 40 under 40 2021 Class.

GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE



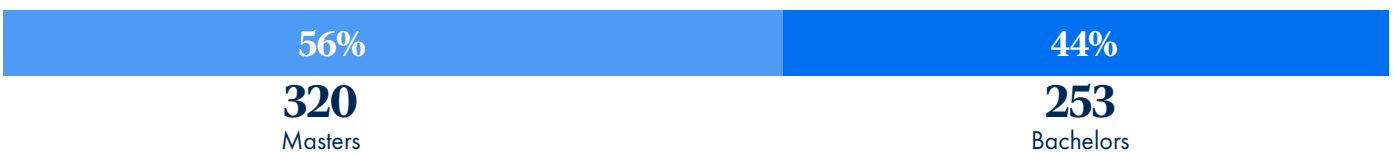
573

Total Number of Graduates

Degree distribution by college:



Degree type:



29

Average Months to
Graduation

112

Scholarship Recipients

50

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

2024 FALL VIRTUAL PROGRAM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Linda Battles

Regional Vice President, South Region

Graduate Speaker

Hillari Zweibohmer, Omaha, NE

B.S. Health and Human Services

Commencement Address

Chaunte Lowe

4-Time Olympian, Author, TEDx Speaker, Breast Cancer Thriver

Conferral of Degrees

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer and Provost

Leavitt School of Health

School of Business

School of Education

School of Technology

Closing Remarks

Dr. Linda Battles

Regional Vice President, South Region

MEMBER GOVERNORS

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt, Chairman Emeritus

Governor, Utah 1993–2003

Alaska

The Honorable
Michael J. Dunleavy

Indiana

The Honorable
Eric Holcomb

Oregon

The Honorable
Tina Kotek

Arizona

The Honorable
Katie Hobbs

Montana

The Honorable
Greg Gianforte

South Dakota

The Honorable
Kristi Noem

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
Jay R. Inslee

Hawaii

The Honorable
Josh Green

North Dakota

The Honorable
Doug Burgum

Wyoming

The Honorable
Mark Gordon

Idaho

The Honorable
Brad Little

Oklahoma

The Honorable
Kevin Stitt

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Joseph B. Fuller, Chair

Professor of Management Practice and
Co-Head of the Managing the Future of Work Project at Harvard Business School

John W. Bluford III

President & Founder
Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute

April Chou

Managing Director
Jasper Ridge Partners

Cole Clark

Managing Director, Higher Education
Deloitte

Dwana Franklin-Davis

CEO, Reboot Representation

Kerry Healey

Former Lieutenant Governor
State of Massachusetts

The Honorable Eric Holcomb

Governor, State of Indiana

Lenny Mendonca

Former Chief Economic & Business Advisor
State of California

Talia Milgrom-Elcott

Founder & Executive Director
Beyond100K & Starfish Institute

Eloy Oakley

CEO, College Futures Foundation

The Honorable Jared Polis

Governor, State of Colorado

Scott D. Pulsipher

President, Western Governors University

David Simmons

President & CEO
Simmons Media Group

Jessie Woolley-Wilson

Operating Partner
Owl Ventures

EMERITUS TRUSTEES

The Honorable Jim Geringer

Director, Policy & Public Sector, ESRI
Former Governor, State of Wyoming
(1995–2003)

Dr. Samuel H. Smith

President Emeritus,
Washington State University



CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

Welcome to our growing alumni network,
now more than 350,000 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.

