



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

FALL VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023



OUR MISSION

To change lives for the better by creating pathways to opportunity.

OUR PROMISE

We endeavor to make opportunity work for everyone by improving quality, access, and outcomes of education through diverse, innovative programs, systems, and technologies.

The flower arrangements displayed on stage for today's commencement are placed in memory of those students and graduates who have passed away. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Graduates,

On behalf of all of us at WGU, I want to congratulate you and recognize all of the hard work that has led to today. Only you know the many sacrifices you made to complete your degree. This is your moment to pause and reflect on this significant accomplishment—and celebrate this life-changing milestone!

It has been our privilege to be on this journey alongside you, and we share in your excitement and pride. Your degree has the potential to change your life and make a real difference to your family and community. As you join the ranks of more than 325,000 WGU graduates, we hope you will stay in touch through the Alumni Association.

Again, thank you for joining us today. We are thrilled 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

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



KimArie Yowell

Chief Diversity of Rocket Companies and Chief Learning Officer of Rocket Central

KimArie Yowell is Chief Diversity of Rocket Companies and Chief Learning Officer of Rocket Central – the centralized hub for the Rocket Companies FinTech platform.

In these roles, she is responsible for team member development programs along with the diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies for the businesses that are part of Rocket Companies. This includes the learning and development initiatives, post-secondary education programs, career development, diversity and inclusion programming and organizational effectiveness.

KimArie has more than 25 years of experience in client service, sales, and corporate education. She has an intense passion for team member growth and helping organizations thrive. She also firmly believes that one's ability to create a dynamic and high performing team rests on their ability to be inclusive.

Rocket was in the top 10 on Forbes magazine's list of America's Best Employers for Diversity in 2022. The company has also ranked #1 on Essence magazine's 10 Best Workplaces for African Americans and has been included on Fortune magazine's list of Best Workplaces for Diversity since the list's inception in 2015.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER CONT'D

KimArie has received several awards and accolades, including being named one of Michigan Chronicle's Women of Excellence (2020), Savoy Magazine's "Most Influential Women in Corporate America" (2019) and "40 Under 40" by the Michigan Chronicle for her exceptional achievements and community service (2018). In addition to her roles at Rocket Companies, she serves on Siena Heights University's Board of Trustees.

KimArie earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Wayne State University. She also earned a Master of Arts in Adult Education and Training, a Master of Business Administration, Master of Management and Administrative Sciences from the University of Texas at Dallas. Most recently, she completed her Doctorate in Education at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ceremony Program

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Jessica Denham

Director, Midwest

ANTHEM SINGER

Nathalie Alcime, Spring Valley, NY

M.A. Teaching, Elementary Education

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Terrance Hopson

Regional Vice President, Midwest

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Leonard Kalimasi, Salt Lake City, UT

M.S. Data Analytics

Sahar Hassan, Buffalo Grove, IL

Master of Business Administration

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

KimArie Yowell

Chief Diversity of Rocket Companies and
Chief Learning Officer of Rocket Central

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Sarah DeMark

Interim Provost

College of Business

Michael O. Leavitt School of Health

College of Information Technology

School of Education

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott D. Pulsipher

President

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, M.D.

North Dakota

The Honorable
Doug Burgum

Wyoming

The Honorable
Mark Gordon

Idaho

The Honorable
Brad Little

Oklahoma

The Honorable
Kevin Stitt

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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and Co-Director of the Managing
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Harvard Business School

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Former Governor of Wyoming
(1995–2003)

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Former Lieutenant
Governor of Massachusetts

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Eric Holcomb

Governor, State of Indiana

Lenny Mendonca

Former Chief Economic and Business
Advisor, State of California

Talia Milgrom-Elcott

Founder of The Starfish Institute,
Co-Founder and Executive Director,
100Kin10

The Honorable

Jared Polis

Governor, State of Colorado

Scott D. Pulsipher

President, Western Governors University

David Simmons

Chairman, CEO,
Simmons Media Group

Dr. Samuel H. Smith

President Emeritus,
Washington State University

Jessie Woolley-Wilson

CEO and President,
DreamBox Learning



CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

Welcome to our growing alumni network,
now more than 325,000 strong.

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

Visit wgu.edu/alumni

GET SOCIAL

Share the excitement.

Use #WGUgrad to tag your commencement posts.



WGU  | ALUMNI