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.
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!

Scott D. Pulsipher, President
Western Governors University
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.
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

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Dr. Charles Sorenson
President and CEO Emeritus, Intermountain Healthcare

John W. Bluford III
President and Founder, Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute

April Chou
Chief Strategic Growth Officer, OneTen

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Professor of Management Practice and Co-Director of the Managing the Future of Work Project, Harvard Business School

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Kerry Healey
Former Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts

The Honorable 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.