



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT IN ORLANDO

SEPTEMBER 21, 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



Brandon P. Fleming

Educator, author, and Founder & CEO of The Veritas School

Over the past decade, Brandon P. Fleming has become one of the most highly awarded and sought-after educators, entrepreneurs, authors, and speakers in the world. Fleming's miraculous story of transformation, captured in his book [Miseducated](#), has become such a national hit that it is currently being optioned for television and film, and it is in the process of becoming a major theater production.

An at-risk youth and college dropout turned award-winning educator, Fleming is a former debate coach at Harvard University and Founder & CEO of the Veritas School of Social Sciences, a prestigious private school in Atlanta, GA.

In 2017, Fleming was recruited to become Harvard University's assistant debate coach at the age of 26. Fleming soon made history at Harvard as the founder of the first pipeline program called the Harvard Debate Council Diversity Project, which was designed to increase Black and brown enrollment at Harvard's residential debate program where hundreds of gifted young scholars from over 25 different countries study and compete in an international academic debate competition.

Over seven years, Fleming has raised millions of dollars to enroll more than 250 students of color into Harvard's summer debate residency on full scholarship. But there was one challenge that Fleming faced: How would he take Black and brown youth from mostly under-resourced schools in Atlanta, who had never been exposed to the rigors of academic debate, and prepare them in just one year to compete against some of the most elite debaters from across the globe?

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER CONT'D



Brandon P. Fleming

Educator, author, and Founder & CEO of The Veritas School

Fleming created a transformative curriculum that is designed to level the playing field for underserved students. And it did. For seven consecutive years, since the program's inception in 2017, every cohort trained by Fleming has won the international competition as seven-time consecutive champions. News of the achievement has gone viral and broke national headlines, being featured on CNN, Good Morning America, the Steve Harvey Show and many more. Fleming's school has gained the financial backing of Fortune 100 companies such as The Coca-Cola Company, UPS, Chick-fil-A, and many more.

As a renowned speaker, Fleming has keynoted for international governmental organizations such as the United Nations. Fleming has spoken at the nation's most prestigious colleges, universities, and K-12 conferences. Fleming has also keynoted conventions for corporate executives at the nation's largest brands such as Walmart, Bank of America, FedEx, and many more. At the age of 29, Forbes Magazine named Fleming to the Forbes 30 under 30 list. In 2020, The Root Magazine named Fleming one of the top 100 most influential African Americans in the United States. And in May 2021, North Carolina Wesleyan College bestowed upon Fleming the honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE



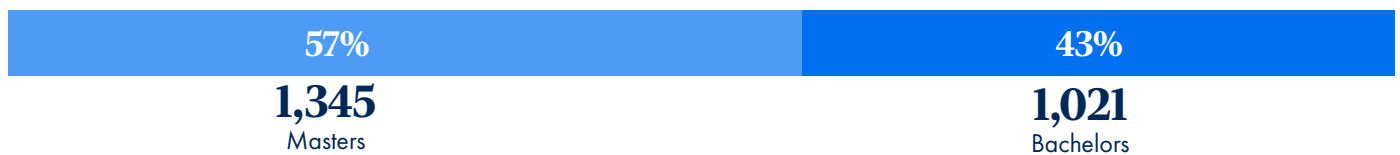
2,366

Total Number of Graduates

Degree distribution by college:



Degree type:



39%

Percentage of graduates
from Florida

4,741 Mi

Furthest distance traveled
from Wahiawa, HI

39

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

LEAVITT SCHOOL OF HEALTH & SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Ben Coulter

Director, Southeast Region

Anthem Singer

Kimberlee Cabrera, Deland, FL

M.S. Nursing - Education

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Kim Estep

Regional Vice President, Southeast Region

Graduate Speakers

Kyle Brewer, Bushnell, IL

M.S. Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner

Madelyn Hurst, Celebration, FL

B.A. Educational Studies - Special & Elementary Education

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Brandon P. Fleming

Educator, Author, and Founder & CEO of The Veritas School

Conferral of Degrees

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer and Provost

Leavitt School of Health

School of Education

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott D. Pulsipher

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Ben Coulter

Director, Southeast Region

Anthem Singer

Paige Olson-Cramer, Stanley, ND

M.S. HR Management

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Kim Estep

Regional Vice President, Southeast Region

Graduate Speakers

Laura Anderson, Mount Pleasant, WI

M.S. Management & Leadership

Ralene Berry, Conroe, TX

M.Ed Education Technology and Instructional Design &
M.S. IT Management

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Brandon P. Fleming

Educator, Author, and Founder & CEO of The Veritas School

Conferral of Degrees

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer and Provost

*School of Business
School of Technology*

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Kim Estep

Regional Vice President, Southeast 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, 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 and 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, 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.

