

- ▶ Degrees & Programs
- ▶ Admissions
- ▶ Tuition & Financial Aid
- ▼ About WGU
 - The WGU Story
 - About Our Students
 - About WGU Faculty
 - Student and Grad Success
 - How We're Different
 - What Others Say
 - Accreditation and Recognition
 - University Governance
 - Online Library
 - Employment at WGU
 - The Night Owl Blog
 - ▼ WGU Newsroom
 - In the News
 - Featured Coverage
 - News Releases
 - Profiles
 - Newsletters
 - Resources
 - ▶ Why WGU
 - ▶ The WGU Experience

Home :: About WGU :: WGU Newsroom :: News Releases :: WGU to Honor More than 4,000 Graduates, 7/12/13

WGU to Honor More than 4,000 Graduates, 7/12/13



Contact for media inquiries

Joan Mitchell
VP of Public Relations
801.428.5463 or
jmitchell@wgu.edu

[WGU RSS Feed](#)

More Information: 866-225-5948

[BACK TO THE NEWSROOM](#) →

News Brief - 7/12/13

Western Governors University to Honor More than 4,000 Graduates at Semi-Annual Commencement

20 [Tweet](#)
[Like](#)

Online university has graduated more than 25,000 students since its inception

SALT LAKE CITY — Online Western Governors University (WGU), www.wgu.edu, will host its 25th semi-annual commencement on Saturday, July 13, at the EnergySolutions Arena in Salt Lake City. This graduating class includes 4,173 bachelor's and master's graduates, surpassing a milestone of more than 25,000 graduates since the nonprofit university was established 16 years ago.

More than 575 graduates and more than 4,000 family members, friends, faculty and staff, are expected to attend the event, traveling to Salt Lake from 41 states, and one graduate on military assignment traveling from Germany to walk in the ceremony. While WGU students complete their degree program requirements online, WGU holds in-person commencement ceremonies twice per year. Students who are unable to attend the ceremony in person can watch via live stream on the [WGU website](#).

Brad Smith, General Counsel and Executive Vice President, Legal and Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Corporation, will give the commencement address. Four student speakers will share their WGU stories at the ceremony: Kathleen Cadman, MSN—Education, from Ogden, Utah; Diana Rexroat Cardenas, B.S. Finance, from Phoenix, Arizona; Erica Martin-Cole, B.S. IT, from Bushkill, Pennsylvania; and Alex Sandoval, Jr., B.A. Special Education, from San Diego, California.

WGU will confer 2,587 undergraduate and 1,586 graduate degrees in four disciplines: business, K–12 teacher education, information technology, and health professions, including nursing. WGU's online, competency-based model makes college possible for busy adults who must balance work, family, and financial obligations. It allows them to set their own study schedules and move quickly through material they already know so they can focus on what they still need to learn. While WGU's [online degree programs](#) are rigorous and challenging, students with work and family responsibilities can schedule their studies to fit their lives. As a result, the average time to complete a bachelor's degree is about three years.

For more information about WGU's 25th semi-annual commencement or to watch the event live, go to: http://www.wgu.edu/wgu/commencement_summer2013.

[APPLY NOW](#) →
[REQUEST INFO](#) →

NBC News Reports on WGU



"The dreams of 19 governors have become [WGU Grad Angie Gonzalez's] dream fulfilled."

—Tom Costello
NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams

[Watch the video](#) »

Featured News

Find out why Fast Company calls WGU one of the world's 50 most-innovative companies, CNN says we're "a school without boundaries," and major news outlets from NPR to Bloomberg BusinessWeek are touting WGU's "potential to transform the higher education industry."

[Read about WGU in the news](#) »

Why We Are Different

WGU has an innovative learning model for helping working adults earn bachelor's and master's degrees. Learn more about how it can help you.

[Watch the video](#) »

Take the Quiz



Learn More About WGU

- Admissions
- Tuition and Financial Aid
- About WGU
- Academic Experience

WGU Resources

- Employment at WGU
- Newsroom
- Student Portal

Degrees & Programs

TEACHERS COLLEGE

- Teacher Licensure Programs
- Graduate Programs for Licensed Teachers

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

- Business Bachelor's Degrees
- Business Master's Degrees

WGU State Institutions

- WGU Indiana
- WGU Missouri
- WGU Tennessee

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- IT Bachelor's Degrees
- IT Master's Degrees

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

- Healthcare Bachelor's Degrees
- Healthcare Master's Degrees

- WGU Texas
- WGU Washington