



*Inaugural Commencement*

AUGUST 9, 2014

SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

# WGU Member Governors

---

## ***Alaska***

The Honorable  
Sean Parnell

## ***Arizona***

The Honorable  
Jan Brewer

## ***California***

The Honorable  
Jerry Brown

## ***Colorado***

The Honorable  
John Hickenlooper

## ***Guam***

The Honorable  
Eddie Baza Calvo

## ***Hawaii***

The Honorable  
Neil Abercrombie

## ***Idaho***

The Honorable  
C. L. “Butch” Otter

## ***Indiana***

The Honorable  
Michael R. “Mike” Pence

## ***Montana***

The Honorable  
Steve Bullock

## ***Nebraska***

The Honorable  
David E. “Dave” Heineman

## ***Nevada***

The Honorable  
Brian Sandoval

## ***New Mexico***

The Honorable  
Susana Martinez

## ***North Dakota***

The Honorable  
John “Jack” Dalrymple

## ***Oklahoma***

The Honorable  
Mary Fallin

## ***Oregon***

The Honorable  
John Kitzhaber

## ***South Dakota***

The Honorable  
Dennis Daugaard

## ***Texas***

The Honorable  
J. Richard “Rick” Perry

## ***Utah***

The Honorable  
Gary R. Herbert

## ***Washington***

The Honorable  
Jay R. Inslee

## ***Wyoming***

The Honorable  
Matt Mead

# WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

## *Board of Trustees*

---

### CHAIRMAN

#### **The Honorable Jim Geringer**

*Director, Policy & Public Sector, ESRI  
Former Governor of Wyoming (1995-2003)*

#### **Frank D. Alvarez**

*Former President & CEO  
The Hispanic Scholarship Fund*

#### **Tammy Johns**

*CEO  
Strategy & Talent*

#### **Dr. Therese “Terry” Crane**

*President  
Crane Associates*

#### **Dr. Robert W. Mendenhall**

*President  
Western Governors University*

#### **Dr. Emily S. DeRocco**

*Principal  
E3 Engage Educate Employ*

#### **Lenny Mendonca**

*Director of Firm Knowledge  
McKinsey & Company*

#### **Robert E. Evanson**

*Former President  
McGraw-Hill Education*

#### **David Simmons**

*President  
Simmons Media Group*

#### **Dr. Joe Hairston**

*Former Superintendent  
Baltimore County Public Schools*

#### **Dr. Samuel H. Smith**

*President Emeritus  
Washington State University*

#### **The Honorable John Hickenlooper**

*Governor  
State of Colorado*

#### **Dr. Blenda Wilson**

*Former President  
California State University,  
Northridge*

# *WGU Missouri Advisory Board*

---

**Dr. James (Jim) Buford**

*Past President*

*Saint Louis Urban League*

**Marcos DeLeon**

*Vice President—Employee*

*Enrichment*

*Truman Medical Centers*

**Dr. CJ Huff**

*Superintendent*

*Joplin Schools*

**Steven S. Johnson**

*Executive Vice President—*

*Economic Development &*

*Marketing Strategies*

*Saint Louis Regional Chamber*

**Cynthia Mercer**

*Senior Vice President & Chief*

*Administrative Officer*

*Mercy*

**Tony Myers**

*Vice President—Organizational*

*Development & Training*

*Centene Corp.*

**Michael T. Nietzel, PhD**

*Former President, Missouri State*

*University*

*Sr. Policy Advisor to Governor*

*Jay Nixon*

*Office of Governor Jay Nixon*

**Liz Thiel**

*Sr. Director, Associate*

*Development & Leadership and*

*Health Clinic*

*Cerner Corp.*

# *National Advisory Board*

---

As part of Western Governors University, WGU Missouri benefits from the support of WGU's National Advisory Board comprised of representatives from prestigious corporations and foundations that provide ongoing support and advice to the university. Current members include:

**AT&T**

**Bill & Melinda Gates  
Foundation**

**CenturyLink**

**Dell Computer  
Corporation**

**Google, Inc.**

**Hewlett-Packard  
Company Foundation**

**Hospital Corporation of  
America**

**Lumina Foundation**

**J. Willard and Alice S.  
Marriott Foundation**

**Microsoft Corporation**

**Oracle Corporation**

**Robert Wood Johnson  
Foundation**

**Simmons Media Group**

**Alfred P. Sloan Foundation**

**Tenet Healthcare  
Corporation**

**Wasatch Property  
Management**

**Zions Bank**

# Commencement Speaker

---



## THE HONORABLE JAY NIXON

Governor of Missouri

Jay Nixon is currently serving his second term as Missouri's 55th Governor after first being elected in 2008 and then re-elected in 2012.

As Governor, his priorities have included making government more efficient, effective and responsive; attracting the jobs of the future to the Show-Me State; making record investments in education; and placing

a college education within reach for all Missouri students. Toward that goal, Governor Nixon at the beginning of 2013 announced a partnership between the State of Missouri and Western Governors University to create WGU Missouri as a new, state-based online university offering high-quality degree programs.

A native of De Soto, Missouri, Governor Nixon was raised in a family of public servants. His mother was a teacher and served as president of the local school board. His father was elected Mayor of De Soto and was a judge in the community. Growing up in a home with these strong examples, Governor Nixon learned at a young age that faith and family come first – and giving back to the community comes next. That's the simple philosophy that has guided Governor Nixon throughout his career in public service.

First elected to the Missouri State Senate in 1986 and re-elected in 1990, Jay Nixon was then elected as Missouri Attorney General in 1992. He went on to serve as the state's chief law enforcement officer for a record four terms. As Attorney General, he made a name for himself by standing up for Missourians to powerful tobacco and insurance companies, and by protecting consumers and the environment.

Governor Nixon and the First Lady, Georganne Wheeler Nixon, have two adult sons, Jeremiah and Will.

# *Commencement Program*

## **PROCESSIONAL**

## **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

*Mary Alberici*

*Student Mentor, WGU Missouri*

## **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

*Dr. Angie Besendorfer*

*Chancellor, WGU Missouri*

## **COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

*The Honorable Jay Nixon*

*Governor of Missouri*

## **GRADUATE SPEAKERS**

*James Winchester, Bonne Terre, MO*

*MBA Strategic Leadership*

*Lisa Schilling, Trenton, MO*

*M.S. Nursing*

*April Fadness, Moberly, MO*

*B.A. Special Education*

*Roy Shandy, Saint Louis, MO*

*M.S. Information Security and Assurance*

## **CONFERRAL OF DEGREES**

*Dr. Angie Besendorfer*

*Chancellor, WGU Missouri*

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

*Dr. Robert W. Mendenhall*

*President, Western Governors University*

## **RECESSIONAL**

## TEACHERS COLLEGE

*Master of Arts*

## EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

**Christa Rossetti**  
*Webb City, MO*

## MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

**Sheryl Brown**  
*Osage Beach, MO*

**Amanda Burdick**  
*Sedalia, MO*

**James Dye**  
*Kansas City, MO*

**Michael McFadden**  
*Saint Peters, MO*

## SCIENCE EDUCATION

**Christine  
Chadwick**  
*Battlefield, MO*

**Lisa Reid**  
*Cassville, MO*

**Emily Schulte**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

**Theodore  
Waterson**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

**Jennifer Mcgoon**  
*Nixa, MO*

**Gerrie Robards**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

**Melanie Shedd**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

*Master of Arts in Teaching*

## ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

**Suzanne Barber**  
*Jefferson City, MO*

**Vivian Hays**  
*Anderson, MO*

**Kerry Uhl**  
*Wright City, MO*

**Valerie Ward**  
*Monett, MO*

**Kelsey Dockery**  
*Centralia, MO*

**Melissa McCubbin**  
*Saint Joseph, MO*

## SCIENCE EDUCATION

**Adrienne Ray**  
*Lees Summit, MO*

*Master of Education*

## INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN

**Anne Menear**  
*Moberly, MO*

**Sarah Powell**  
*Festus, MO*



## LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY

**Bobbie Ahrens**  
*Lamar, MO*

**Lorraina Hollingshead**  
*Archie, MO*

**Nikki Hubbard**  
*Osage Beach, MO*

**Michael Sowers**  
*Springfield, MO*

**Sarah Conway**  
*Kirkwood, MO*

### *Master of Science*

---

## CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

**Tishia Brown**  
*Saint Joseph, MO*

**Jessica Kliethermes**  
*Memphis, MO*

**Nichole Obermark**  
*Washington, MO*

**Brandy Retasket**  
*Hollister, MO*

**Kacie Heiken-Ploen**  
*House Springs, MO*

**Tiffany Meeks**  
*Republic, MO*

## EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

**Colleena Frazier**  
*Stockton, MO*

**Randi Odell**  
*Camdenton, MO*

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

### *Master of Business Administration*

---

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

**Sheila Pitts**  
*Grain Valley, MO*

## MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY

**Dawn Adams**  
*Columbia, MO*

**Richard Frierson**  
*Peculiar, MO*

**Chris McMillin**  
*Lees Summit, MO*

**Patrick Wheeler**  
*Grover, MO*

**Gayle Bailey**  
*Columbia, MO*

**Dorothy Jackson**  
*O Fallon, MO*

**Pam Milke-Haefner**  
*Maryland Heights, MO*

**James Winchester**  
*Bonne Terre, MO*

**Leon Cretel**  
*Pleasant Hill, MO*

**Karla McCollum**  
*Trenton, MO*

**Jesse Richardson**  
*Foristell, MO*

**Lesli Wyatt**  
*Trenton, MO*

**Paul Farnsworth**  
*Wildwood, MO*

**Kenneth McKenzie**  
*Thayer, MO*

**Kathryn Strickland**  
*Hollister, MO*

**Paul Young**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

# COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

## *Master of Business Administration*

---

### HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT

**Alison Cohen**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

**Michael Griffin**  
*Jackson, MO*

**Scott McFarland**  
*Salem, MO*

**Margaret-Mary  
Wilson**  
*Webster Groves, MO*

**Casey Cover**  
*Ballwin, MO*

**Ida Heidemann**  
*Humansville, MO*

**Lindsay Taylor**  
*Higginsville, MO*

## *Master of Science*

---

### NURSING—EDUCATION

**Kimberly Bouyea**  
*Hannibal, MO*

**Donna Gum**  
*Independence, MO*

**Gwenda Pollard**  
*Hannibal, MO*

**Kristie Smith**  
*Gallatin, MO*

**Sheri Brown**  
*Kansas City, MO*

**Pamela Heffern**  
*Springfield, MO*

**Lisa Schilling**  
*Trenton, MO*

**Amanda St. Juliana**  
*Hannibal, MO*

**Shannon Cox**  
*Buckner, MO*

**Natalie Hill**  
*Mount Vernon, MO*

**Susan Shive**  
*Saint Charles, MO*

**Martha Youngblood**  
*Aurora, MO*

**Anna Gomez**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

### NURSING—LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

**Paige Baker**  
*Lone Jack, MO*

**Kim Geiger**  
*Highlandville, MO*

**Karla Kellogg**  
*Strafford, MO*

**Laura Wheeler**  
*Versailles, MO*

**Carly Bradley**  
*Odessa, MO*

**Angela Holtswarth**  
*Lees Summit, MO*

**Kimberly Laudig**  
*Willard, MO*

**Stacey Whitney**  
*Carl Junction, MO*

**Nichole Choate**  
*Climax Springs, MO*

**Denise Jones**  
*Rolla, MO*

**Savanna Westhusing**  
*Montrose, MO*

**Amelia Wilkins**  
*Greenwood, MO*

# COLLEGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## *Master of Science*

---

### INFORMATION SECURITY AND ASSURANCE

**Stephen Mercy**  
*Kansas City, MO*

**Lance Paradis**  
*Belton, MO*

**Bryan Schaefer**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

**Roy Shandy**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

**Justin Pacubas**  
*Blue Springs, MO*

TEACHERS COLLEGE  
*Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Preparation  
Program*

---

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

**Kelsey Dockery**  
*Centralia, MO*

**Kirsten Payne**  
*Kansas City, MO*

**Jodi Rogers**  
*Joplin, MO*

**Jennifer Tonks**  
*Battlefield, MO*

# TEACHERS COLLEGE

## *Bachelor of Arts*

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**Jennifer Boulting**  
*Ravenwood, MO*

**Julie Palmer**  
*Platte City, MO*

**Michelle Schramm**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

**Amy Young**  
*Pilot Grove, MO*

**Rebecca Ichord**  
*Duke, MO*

### EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

**Stanley Crum**  
*Waynesville, MO*

### INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

**Jennifer Burke**  
*Lee's Summit, MO*

**Alyson Garner**  
*Hermann, MO*

**Erin Laflamme**  
*Jefferson City, MO*

**Matthew Price**  
*Aurora, MO*

**Rondilynn Chunn**  
*Florissant, MO*

**Anna Grove-Stone**  
*Galena, MO*

**Heather Moennig**  
*Pierce City, MO*

**Sandra Ward**  
*Wardsville, MO*

**Kassie Crittenden**  
*Kansas City, MO*

**Angelia Kochs**  
*Niangua, MO*

**Emily Petry**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

**Jennifer Waschenbecker**  
*Houston, MO*

### MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

**Christine Chadwick**  
*Battlefield, MO*

### SCIENCE EDUCATION

**Keith Jones**  
*Anderson, MO*

**Matt Oberle**  
*Ironton, MO*

### SPECIAL EDUCATION

**Cheryl Dubuque**  
*Galena, MO*

**April Fadness**  
*Moberly, MO*

**Rebekah Fyle**  
*Fenton, MO*

**Colinna Trout**  
*Long Lane, MO*

# COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

## *Bachelor of Science*

---

### ACCOUNTING

**Laura Case**  
*Pleasant Hill, MO*

**Rachel Rabe**  
*Durham, MO*

### BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

**Rebecca Alumbaugh**  
*Kansas City, MO*

**Martha Jaynes**  
*Parkville, MO*

**Bradley Palmer**  
*Platte City, MO*

**Robert Terriault**  
*Wildwood, MO*

**Kelley Brooks**  
*Chesterfield, MO*

**Margaret Klass**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

**Laura Patterson**  
*Oldfield, MO*

**Travis Trueblood**  
*Memphis, MO*

**Renee Hesselrode**  
*Jackson, MO*

**William Maxwell**  
*Grandin, MO*

**Andrew Reece**  
*Pevely, MO*

**Christopher Wilkins**  
*Kansas City, MO*

**Jessica Lynn Paige**  
*Farmington, MO*

### HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**Henry James**  
*Florissant, MO*

**Listone Mwamburi**  
*Kansas City, MO*

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

**Toby Jennings**  
*Kansas City, MO*

**Gregory Rice**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

**Timothy Steckel**  
*Columbia, MO*

**Virginia Ward**  
*Hartville, MO*

**Colter Marshall**  
*Marshall, MO*

**Amy Schmeding**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

### MARKETING MANAGEMENT

**Tahmeka Thompson**  
*Grandview, MO*

### SALES AND SALES MANAGEMENT

**Kelly Mraz**  
*Saint Charles, MO*

**M. Ruth Wright**  
*Independence, MO*

# COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

## *Bachelor of Science*

---

### HEALTH INFORMATICS

**Charles Case**

*Saint Louis, MO*

### NURSING

**Lisa Anderson**

*Florissant, MO*

**Rachele Anderson**

*Fenton, MO*

**Jessica Axmear**

*Lees Summit, MO*

**Kimberly Baker**

*Independence, MO*

**Byron Bauer Jr.**

*Springfield, MO*

**Kimmie**

**Blankenship**

*Clinton, MO*

**Amber Bos**

*Battlefield, MO*

**Lisa Boyer**

*Aurora, MO*

**Melissa Burks**

*Nixa, MO*

**Malina Darnall**

*Kansas City, MO*

**Valerie Davis**

*Springfield, MO*

**Holly Denney**

*Springfield, MO*

**Jessica Flunder**

*Parkville, MO*

**Amanda Gibbons**

*New Franklin, MO*

**Angeline Hein**

*Branson, MO*

**Judith Hunter**

*Saint Louis, MO*

**Olayinka**

**Jegede-Johnson**

*Carbondale, IL*

**Angela Lappin**

*Maplewood, MO*

**Rebecca Madonia**

*Kansas City, MO*

**Virginia Mathes**

*Ballwin, MO*

**Peri Mayes**

*Saint Louis, MO*

**Shari Morgan**

*Fenton, MO*

**Robin Nicholas**

*Pleasant Hope, MO*

**Sheila Noell**

*Harrisonville, MO*

**Sheena Painter**

*Elk Creek, MO*

**Jaime Pittman**

*Chillicothe, MO*

**Nicholas Plisowski**

*Kansas City, MO*

**Patricia Roth**

*Collins, MO*

**Carolyn Strauss**

*Grain Valley, MO*

**Janet Taylor**

*Collins, MO*

**Ailee Tice**

*Kearney, MO*

**Sassuni Vantrease**

*Springfield, MO*

**Angela Wilson**

*Republic, MO*

# COLLEGE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## *Bachelor of Science*

---

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Karen Avey**

*Fortuna, MO*

**Dennis Beasley II**

*Saint Louis, MO*

**Shawn Bennett**

*Saint Joseph, MO*

**Joshua Bradley**

*Sugar Creek, MO*

**Reginald Dillon**

*Saint Louis, MO*

**Desmond Heyliger**

**IV**

*Ozark, MO*

**Geraldine**

**Hollandsworth**

*Linn, MO*

**Thomas Legens**

*Seymour, MO*

**Patrick Luehrs**  
*Cape Girardeau, MO*

**Ethan Powell**  
*Bethel, MO*

**Paul Shackelford**  
*High Ridge, MO*

**Jason Wells**  
*Springfield, MO*

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY—DATABASES

**Kenneth Krauss**  
*Kansas City, MO*

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY—NETWORK ADMINISTRATION

**Erika Adams**  
*Raytown, MO*

**Michael Brown**  
*Saint Peters, MO*

**Derek Harlan**  
*Brookline, MO*

**Brian Herzog**  
*Sainte Genevieve, MO*

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY—NETWORK DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

**Roderick Oetter**  
*Arnold, MO*

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY—SOFTWARE

**Barakat Barakat**  
*Saint Louis, MO*

**Jonathan Lucas**  
*Granby, MO*

**Arindam Mitra**  
*Jefferson City, MO*

**Kenneth Weigand**  
*Clever, MO*

Disclaimer: The lists of degree candidates in these programs are tentative and based upon the anticipated successful completion of work undertaken. These documents should not be taken as official record that degrees have, in fact, been awarded.

## OUR MISSION

*The mission of WGU Missouri is to expand access to affordable higher education for Missouri residents through online, competency-based degree programs that address key workforce needs.*

## OUR PROMISE

*We help our students achieve their dreams for a degree and career success by providing a personal, flexible, and affordable education based on real-world competencies. We provide employees a meaningful, enjoyable, and rewarding work experience.*

[missouri.wgu.edu](http://missouri.wgu.edu)