



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

*Bachelor's  
Commencement Ceremony*

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018

LAKE BUENA VISTA,  
FLORIDA



## *Our Mission*

*The principal mission of Western Governors University is to improve quality and expand access to post-secondary educational opportunities by providing a means for individuals to learn independent of time or place and to earn competency-based degrees and other credentials that are credible to both academic institutions and employers.*

## *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.*

*wgu.edu*

# *Message from the President*

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Dear Graduates,

On behalf of all of us at WGU, I want to congratulate you and welcome you to our commencement celebration. 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 100,000 WGU graduates, we hope you will stay in touch through our Alumni Relations.

Again, thank you for coming today. We are so grateful for the opportunity to share this day with you and your family. Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott D. Pulsipher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott D. Pulsipher  
President, Western Governors University

# Commencement Speaker

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## **Sekou Andrews**

*Poetic Voice*  
*CEO/Founder,*  
*SekouWorld Inc.*

A week in the life of poetic voice, Sekou Andrews, could find him keynoting at a leadership conference, helping a Fortune 500 company with brand messaging, or performing for Barack Obama in Oprah Winfrey's backyard. This schoolteacher turned two-time national poetry

slam champion has now become the world's leading "Poetic Voice" - a new type of speaker and artist who seamlessly blends inspirational speaking with spoken word poetry, combining the value of a business keynote with the inspiration of a powerful performance. His presentations are in high demand from Fortune 500 companies, leading conferences, and global nonprofits, such as Google, Toyota, Nike, Paypal, Johnson & Johnson, Global Green, and ASAE. He has been featured on national media outlets, including ABC, MSNBC, HBO, Showtime, MTV and BET, and Forbes has called him "the de facto poet laureate of corporate America." Sekou has presented privately for such luminaries as Larry King, Quincy Jones, Hillary Clinton, Bono, Maya Angelou, and Norman Lear, and has shared the stage with music heavyweights Stevie Wonder, Jay-Z, Maroon 5, Kendrick Lamar, and the Pasadena Pops Orchestra to name but a few. His last spoken word album, "Poetic License," made him the most awarded artist in the nation's largest independent music organization. As a fearless disruptor of the speaking industry, Sekou also gives rockstar secrets to public speakers through his unique Stage Might™ speaker training system, teaching influencers how to perform a speech to engage any audience. As a poetic voice, Sekou does more than inspire us with his story; he inspires us with *our* story.

# *Commencement Program*

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PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM

**Mary Johnson, Marion, AR**

*B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies*

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Dr. Angie Besendorfer**

*Chancellor, WGU Missouri*

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Sekou Andrews**

*Poetic Voice*

*CEO/Founder, SekouWorld Inc.*

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

**Natasha Pittman, Jennings, FL**

*B.S. Information Technology*

**Julie Young, Badger, IA**

*B.A. Special Education*

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Scott D. Pulsipher**

*President, Western Governors University*

*Teachers College*

*College of Business*

*College of Health Professions*

*College of Information Technology*

CLOSING REMARKS

**Scott D. Pulsipher**

*President, Western Governors University*

RECESSIONAL

# Member Governors

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## **Alaska**

*The Honorable  
Bill Walker*

## **Arizona**

*The Honorable  
Doug Ducey*

## **California**

*The Honorable  
Jerry Brown*

## **Colorado**

*The Honorable  
John Hickenlooper*

## **Guam**

*The Honorable  
Eddie Baza Calvo*

## **Hawaii**

*The Honorable  
David Ige*

## **Idaho**

*The Honorable  
C. L. "Butch" Otter*

## **Indiana**

*The Honorable  
Eric Holcomb*

## **Montana**

*The Honorable  
Steve Bullock*

## **Nebraska**

*The Honorable  
Pete Ricketts*

## **Nevada**

*The Honorable  
Brian Sandoval*

## **New Mexico**

*The Honorable  
Susana Martinez*

## **North Dakota**

*The Honorable  
Doug Burgum*

## **Oklahoma**

*The Honorable  
Mary Fallin*

## **Oregon**

*The Honorable  
Kate Brown*

## **South Dakota**

*The Honorable  
Dennis Daugaard*

## **Texas**

*The Honorable  
Greg Abbott*

## **Utah**

*The Honorable  
Gary R. Herbert*

## **Washington**

*The Honorable  
Jay R. Inslee*

## **Wyoming**

*The Honorable  
Matt Mead*

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