



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

*Commencement Ceremony*



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



## *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 122,000 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 from the end of the name.

Scott D. Pulsipher, President  
Western Governors University

# *Commencement Speaker*

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## **Pete Yonkman**

*President, Cook Group and Cook Medical*

Pete Yonkman is president of Cook Group and Cook Medical in Bloomington, Indiana. He has been with the company for 17 years, starting in 2001 as in-house counsel. Pete has served in a variety of roles for Cook, including leading one of the local manufacturing sites and as

executive vice president for 10 business units. Pete was named president of Cook Medical in 2014 and in 2015 added the role of president of Cook Group.

Pete is a born and bred Hoosier originally from Crown Point, Indiana. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Indiana University and earned degrees in psychology and philosophy. He graduated with his law degree from the Maurer School of Law at Indiana University in 1998. Pete is actively involved in community issues, including adult education, workforce development, fostering start-ups, and creating a business culture that supports entrepreneurs.

He lives in Bloomington with his wife, Janell, and their two boys, Leo and Vic.

# *Commencement Ceremony Program*

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## PROCESSIONAL

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

**Catherine Spann, Murfreesboro, TN**

*M.A. English Language Learning*

## WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Dr. Allison Barber**

*Chancellor, WGU Indiana*

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Pete Yonkman**

*President, Cook Group and Cook Medical*

## GRADUATE SPEAKERS

**Michelle Shaffer, Carmel, IN**

*M.S. Nursing - Education*

**Dion Brown, Las Vegas, NV**

*B.S. Business - Information Technology Management*

## CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Scott D. Pulsipher**

*President, Western Governors University*

*College of Business*

*College of Health Professions*

*College of Information Technology*

*Teachers College*

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Scott D. Pulsipher**

*President, Western Governors University*

## RECESSIONAL

# *Member Governors*

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*The Honorable  
Jerry Brown*

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*The Honorable  
John Hickenlooper*

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Eddie Baza Calvo*

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*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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*Professor of Management Practice  
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Harvard Business School*

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