



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

Bachelor's Commencement Ceremony



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2019
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



Our Mission

The principal mission of Western Governors University is to improve quality and expand access to post-secondary education 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



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 154,000 WGU graduates, we hope you will stay in touch through the Alumni Network.

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



Sekou Andrews

Poetic Voice

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.

Bachelor's Ceremony Program.

PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Lori French, Richland, WA

Bachelor of Science, Business – Human Resource Management

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Tonya Drake

Chancellor, WGU Washington

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Sekou Andrews

Poetic Voice

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Rachel Davidson, Gonzales, LA

Bachelor of Science, Marketing Management

Natalie Mohn, Orting, WA

Bachelor of Arts, Special Education

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Scott Pulsipher

President

College of Business

College of Health Professions

College of Information Technology

Teachers College

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott Pulsipher

President

RECESSIONAL

Member Governors

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Governor, Wyoming 1995–2003

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
Kate Brown*

Arizona

*The Honorable
Doug Ducey*

Montana

*The Honorable
Steve Bullock*

South Dakota

*The Honorable
Kristi Noem*

California

*The Honorable
Gavin Newsom*

Nebraska

*The Honorable
Pete Ricketts*

Texas

*The Honorable
Greg Abbott*

Colorado

*The Honorable
Jared Polis*

Nevada

*The Honorable
Steve Sisolak*

Utah

*The Honorable
Gary R. Herbert*

Guam

*The Honorable
Lou Leon Guerrero*

New Mexico

*The Honorable
Michelle Lujan Grisham*

Washington

*The Honorable
Jay R. Inslee*

Hawaii

*The Honorable
David Ige*

North Dakota

*The Honorable
Doug Burgum*

Wyoming

*The Honorable
Mark Gordon*

Idaho

*The Honorable
Brad Little*

Oklahoma

*The Honorable
Kevin Stitt*

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Director, Policy & Public Sector, ESRI
Governor, State of Wyoming (1995–2003)

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Van Ton-Quinlivan

Executive in Residence, Institute for the Future; Emeritus, Executive Vice Chancellor of Workforce & Digital Futures, California Community Colleges

Jessie Woolley-Wilson

CEO & President, Dreambox Learning

CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

Welcome to our growing alumni network,
now more than 154,000 strong!

Stay connected, network with colleagues, and learn
about the many resources and benefits available to you:

Visit alumni.wgu.edu

GET SOCIAL

Share the excitement!
Use [#WGUgrad](https://twitter.com/WGUgrad) to tag your commencement posts.



WGU  | ALUMNI