



# WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

*Master'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.

# *Master's Ceremony Program.*

PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM

**Oksana Rudenko, Graham, WA**

*Master of Arts, Mathematics Education*

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Tonya Drake**

*Chancellor, WGU Washington*

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Sekou Andrews**

*Poetic Voice*

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

**Jayven Tipado, Augusta, GA**

*Master of Science, Nursing – Leadership and Management*

**Dawn Helzer, Lacey, WA**

*Master of Science, Management and Leadership*

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

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Governor, Wyoming 1995–2003

**The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt, Chairman, Emeritus**

Governor, Utah 1993–2003

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**Indiana**

*The Honorable  
Eric Holcomb*

**Oregon**

*The Honorable  
Kate Brown*

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*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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*CEO & President, Dreambox Learning*

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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](https://alumni.wgu.edu)

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**WGU**  | ALUMNI