



# WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

*Master's Commencement Ceremony*



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019  
AUSTIN, TEXAS



## *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 155,000 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*



## **Daron K. Roberts**

*Founding Director, Center for  
Sports Leadership & Innovation*

Daron K. Roberts is a former NFL coach and author of “Call an Audible” (Greenleaf 2017). “Call an Audible” was named a #1 New Release and Best Seller by Amazon, and *Sports Illustrated* selected the book as one of its “Best Sports Business Books of 2017.”

Currently, Roberts serves as founding director of the Center for Sports Leadership & Innovation (CSLi) at the University of Texas. He created CSLi in the fall of 2014. The Center is the first university-based institute dedicated to developing

leadership and character curricula for high school, collegiate and professional athletes. Through the Center, Roberts teaches a course—A Gameplan for Winning at Life—to incoming freshmen student athletes. In January of 2018, the Center received the commitment and financial support of NBA All-Star Kevin Durant.

Roberts holds a faculty appointment in the Liberal Arts Honors Program. He has received the Silver Spurs Centennial Teaching Award and the Creative Engagement Award, and he was named a distinguished faculty member by the School of Undergraduate Studies in 2015. His research revolves around issues of rejection, failure management and leadership.

After graduating from Harvard Law School (2007), Roberts served coaching stints with the Kansas City Chiefs, Detroit Lions, West Virginia Mountaineers and Cleveland Browns. He holds a B.A. in Plan II Honors and Government from the University of Texas (2001) and an M.P.P. from Harvard’s Kennedy School (2004).

In 2010, Roberts launched a nonprofit football camp—4th and 1, Inc. 4th and 1 provides free SAT prep, life skills development and football training to at-risk youth in Michigan, Texas and Florida. The camp has served nearly 500 student athletes since 2010.

The Presidential Leadership Foundation—a joint venture between Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush—tabbed Roberts as a Presidential Leadership Scholar for 2015. He was one of 60 members in the inaugural class.

Roberts has been featured in *ESPN the Magazine*, *Bloomberg Businessweek* and *Sports Illustrated*. His articles have appeared in *The Dallas Morning News*, *Fortune*, *Houston Chronicle*, and *Time*. Roberts is the host of an industry-leading podcast—A Tribe Called Yes (available on iTunes and Stitcher).

# *Master's Ceremony Program.*

PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM

**Christina Irick, Springfield, TN**

*Master of Science, Cybersecurity and Information Assurance*

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Steve Johnson**

*Chancellor, WGU Texas*

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Daron K. Roberts**

*Founding Director, Center for Sports Leadership & Innovation*

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

**Cherie Watkins, Baltimore, MD**

*Master of Science, Nursing – Nursing Informatics*

**Pedro Ortega, Plano, TX**

*Master of Science, Cybersecurity and Information Assurance*

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Marni Baker Stein**

*Provost and Chief Academic Officer*

*College of Business*

*College of Health Professions*

*College of Information Technology*

*Teachers College*

CLOSING REMARKS

**Marni Baker Stein**

*Provost and Chief Academic Officer*

RECESSIONAL

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Governor, Wyoming 1995–2003

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Governor, Utah 1993–2003

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*The Honorable*

*Michael J. Dunleavy*

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*The Honorable*

*Doug Ducey*

### **California**

*The Honorable*

*Gavin Newsom*

### **Colorado**

*The Honorable*

*Jared Polis*

### **Guam**

*The Honorable*

*Lou Leon Guerrero*

### **Hawaii**

*The Honorable*

*David Ige*

### **Idaho**

*The Honorable*

*Brad Little*

### **Indiana**

*The Honorable*

*Eric Holcomb*

### **Montana**

*The Honorable*

*Steve Bullock*

### **Nebraska**

*The Honorable*

*Pete Ricketts*

### **Nevada**

*The Honorable*

*Steve Sisolak*

### **New Mexico**

*The Honorable*

*Michelle Lujan Grisham*

### **North Dakota**

*The Honorable*

*Doug Burgum*

### **Oklahoma**

*The Honorable*

*Kevin Stitt*

### **Oregon**

*The Honorable*

*Kate Brown*

### **South Dakota**

*The Honorable*

*Kristi Noem*

### **Texas**

*The Honorable*

*Greg Abbott*

### **Utah**

*The Honorable*

*Gary R. Herbert*

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*The Honorable*

*Jay R. Inslee*

### **Wyoming**

*The Honorable*

*Mark Gordon*

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

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*CEO & President, Dreambox Learning*

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now more than 155,000 strong!

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about the many resources and benefits available to you:

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**WGU**  | ALUMNI