



# WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

---

COMMENCEMENT IN LAS VEGAS

---

OCTOBER 27-28, 2023



## OUR MISSION

---

To change lives for the better by creating pathways to opportunity.

## OUR PROMISE

---

We endeavor to make opportunity work for everyone by improving quality, access, and outcomes of education through diverse, innovative programs, systems, and technologies.

*The flower arrangements displayed on stage for today's commencement are placed in memory of those students and graduates who have passed away. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.*

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

---



*Dear Graduates,*

*On behalf of all of us at WGU, I want to congratulate you and recognize all of the hard work that has led to today. Only you know the many sacrifices you made to complete your degree. This is your moment to pause and reflect on this significant accomplishment—and celebrate this life-changing milestone!*

*It has been our privilege to be on this journey alongside you, and we share in your excitement and pride. Your degree has the potential to change your life and make a real difference to your family and community. As you join the ranks of more than 345,000 WGU graduates, we hope you will stay in touch through the Alumni Association.*

*Thank you for joining us today. We are thrilled 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 fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Scott D. Pulsipher, President  
Western Governors University

# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

---



## Erik Wahl

*Artist and Author*

Erik Wahl is an internationally recognized artist, TED speaker, and No. 1 bestselling author. His breakthrough experience as an artist and entrepreneur has translated into making him into one of the most sought-after speakers on the circuit today.

On stage, Erik's keynote experience creates a dynamic multidimensional metaphor for how to systematically embrace innovation and risk. His message: disruption is the new normal and businesses must embrace creativity in a wholesale fashion, or risk being left behind. Erik's presentation inspires organizations to be increasingly agile and outlines how to use disruption as a competitive advantage. Some companies will be disrupted others will choose to be the disruptor. Choose wisely.

His new book, *The Spark and the Grind*, activates the essential components of translating ideas into action. His breakthrough thinking has earned praise from the likes of top influencers in both art and business. Erik's previous book, a bestseller called *Unthink* was hailed by *Forbes Magazine* as *The blueprint to actionable creativity*, and by *Fast Company Magazine* as "provocative with a purpose."

*The Warhol of Wall Street, the Renoir of ROI, The Picasso of Productivity, the Jobs of ... Well, Jobs.*

# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER CONT'D

---

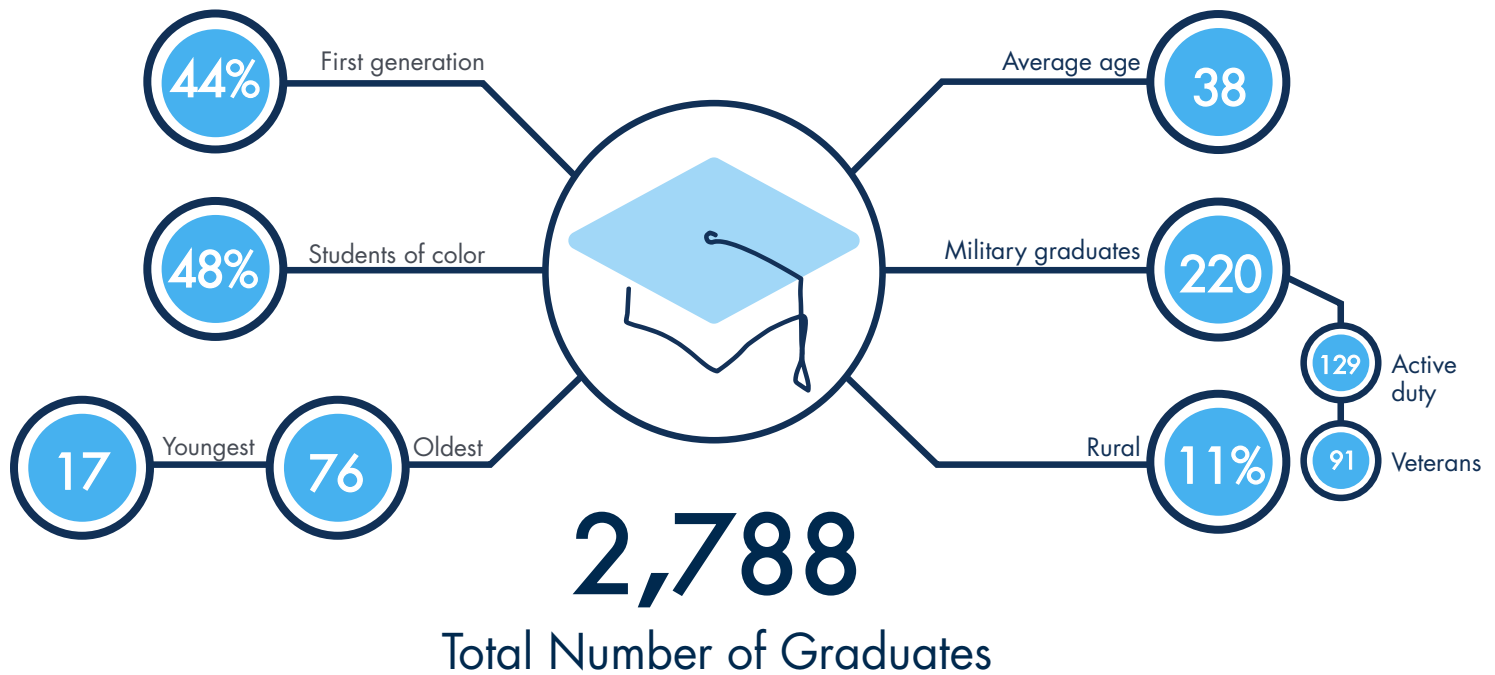
Erik discovered an alarming truth early in his career as a partner in a corporate firm: organizations that encouraged the mental discipline of creativity did better than those that did not put innovation as a priority mission. So he set out to challenge companies to change their way of thinking.

In the meantime, inspired by street art, he became an acclaimed graffiti artist—though he has since stopped selling his works for personal gain, and instead uses his art to raise money for charities. His keynote is where his passion for business growth and art converge into a fascinating performance.

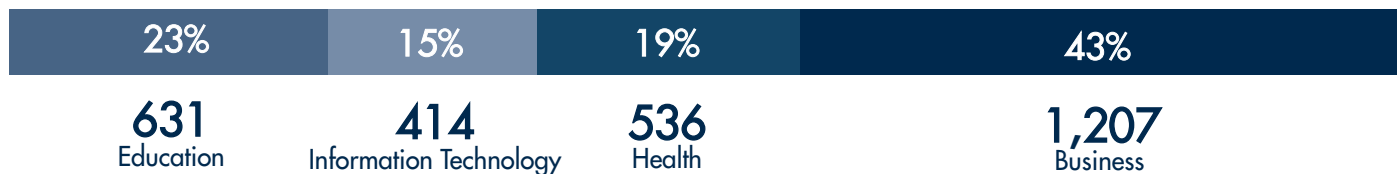
Erik has worked with top organizations including AT&T, Disney, London School of Business, Microsoft, FedEx, Exxon Mobil, Ernst & Young, and XPrize.

To learn more about Erik, visit [theartofvision.com](http://theartofvision.com)

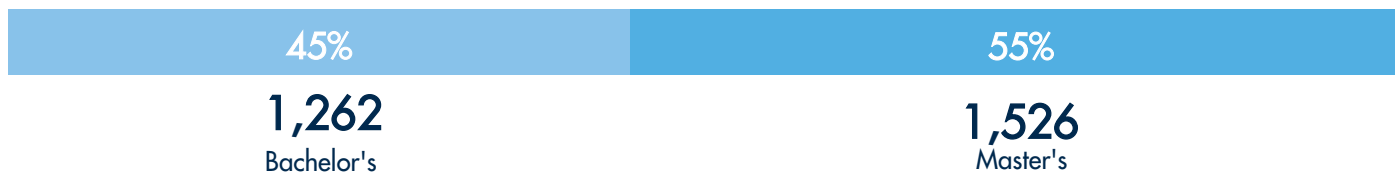
# 2023 COMMENCEMENT IN LAS VEGAS GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE



## Degree distribution by college:



## Degree type:



**24%**  
Percentage of graduates from California

**6,091 Miles**  
Furthest distance traveled from Saipan

**48**  
Number of states represented (including U.S. territories)

# COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

**Friday Afternoon**

---

## OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Bob Benson**

Regional Director, West Region

## ANTHEM SINGER

**Daniel Glen Saculles, Los Angeles, CA**

MBA Healthcare Management

## WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Rick Benbow**

Regional Vice President, West Region

## GRADUATE SPEAKER

**Leah Chansa, Roseville, CA**

M.S. Nursing - Leadership & Management

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Erik Wahl**

Artist and Author

## CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Dr. Sarah DeMark**

Interim Provost

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Scott D. Pulsipher**

President

# CONVOCATION PROGRAM

## COLLEGE OF IT & COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

### **Saturday Morning**

---

#### WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Dr. Sarah DeMark**

Interim Provost

**Paul Bingham**

Sr. Vice President & Executive Dean  
College of IT

**Mitsu Frazier**

Sr. Vice President & Executive Dean  
College of Business

#### GRADUATE SPEAKERS

**Brady McNulty, Roseburg, OR**

M.S. Cybersecurity & Information Assurance  
B.S. Cybersecurity & Information Assurance

**Heather Anderson, Herriman, UT**

B.S. Business - HR Management

#### CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Dr. Sarah DeMark**

Interim Provost

*College of Information Technology*  
*College of Business*

#### CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Sarah DeMark**

Interim Provost



# CONVOCATION PROGRAM

## LEAVITT SCHOOL OF HEALTH & SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

### Saturday Afternoon

---

#### WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Dr. Sarah DeMark**

Interim Provost

**Dr. Keith Smith**

Sr. Vice President & Executive Dean  
Leavitt School of Health

**Dr. Stacey Ludwig Johnson**

Sr. Vice President & Executive Dean  
School of Education

#### GRADUATE SPEAKERS

**Sabrina Robison, Albuquerque, NM**

M.S. Nursing Education

**Lisa Petersen, Bountiful, UT**

M.S. Educational Leadership

#### CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Dr. Sarah DeMark**

Interim Provost

*Michael O. Leavitt School of Health  
School of Education*

#### CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Sarah DeMark**

Interim Provost

# MEMBER GOVERNORS

---

**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  
Tina Kotek

## **Arizona**

The Honorable  
Katie Hobbs

## **Montana**

The Honorable  
Greg Gianforte

## **South Dakota**

The Honorable  
Kristi Noem

## **California**

The Honorable  
Gavin Newsom

## **Nebraska**

The Honorable  
Jim Pillen

## **Texas**

The Honorable  
Greg Abbott

## **Colorado**

The Honorable  
Jared Polis

## **Nevada**

The Honorable  
Joe Lombardo

## **Utah**

The Honorable  
Spencer Cox

## **Guam**

The Honorable  
Lou Leon Guerrero

## **New Mexico**

The Honorable  
Michelle Lujan Grisham

## **Washington**

The Honorable  
Jay R. Inslee

## **Hawaii**

The Honorable  
Josh Green, M.D.

## **North Dakota**

The Honorable  
Doug Burgum

## **Wyoming**

The Honorable  
Mark Gordon

## **Idaho**

The Honorable  
Brad Little

## **Oklahoma**

The Honorable  
Kevin Stitt

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

---

## **Chairman**

### **Dr. Charles Sorenson**

President and CEO Emeritus, Intermountain Healthcare

### **John W. Bluford III**

President and Founder, Bluford  
Healthcare Leadership Institute

### **April Chou**

Chief Strategic Growth Officer,  
OneTen

### **Cole Clark**

Managing Director,  
Higher Education, Deloitte

### **Joseph B. Fuller**

Professor of Management Practice  
and Co-Director of the Managing  
the Future of Work Project,  
Harvard Business School

### **The Honorable**

#### **Jim Geringer**

Former Governor of Wyoming  
(1995-2003)

### **Kerry Healey**

Former Lieutenant  
Governor of Massachusetts

### **The Honorable**

#### **Eric Holcomb**

Governor, State of Indiana

### **Lenny Mendonca**

Former Chief Economic and Business  
Advisor, State of California

### **Talia Milgrom-Elcott**

Founder and Executive Director at  
Beyond100K & Starfish Institute

### **The Honorable**

#### **Jared Polis**

Governor, State of Colorado

### **Scott D. Pulsipher**

President, Western Governors University

### **David Simmons**

Chairman, CEO,  
Simmons Media Group

### **Dr. Samuel H. Smith**

President Emeritus,  
Washington State University

### **Jessie Woolley-Wilson**

CEO and President,  
DreamBox Learning



---

# CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

---

Welcome to our growing alumni network,  
now more than 345,000 strong.

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

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

## GET SOCIAL

Share the excitement.

Use #WGUgrad to tag your commencement posts.



**WGU**  | ALUMNI

wgu.edu