



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

COMMENCEMENT IN CINCINNATI

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024



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 325,000 WGU graduates, we hope you will stay in touch through the Alumni Association.

Again, thank you for joining us today. We are thrilled to share this day with you and your loved ones. Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "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



Grandmaster Maurice Ashley

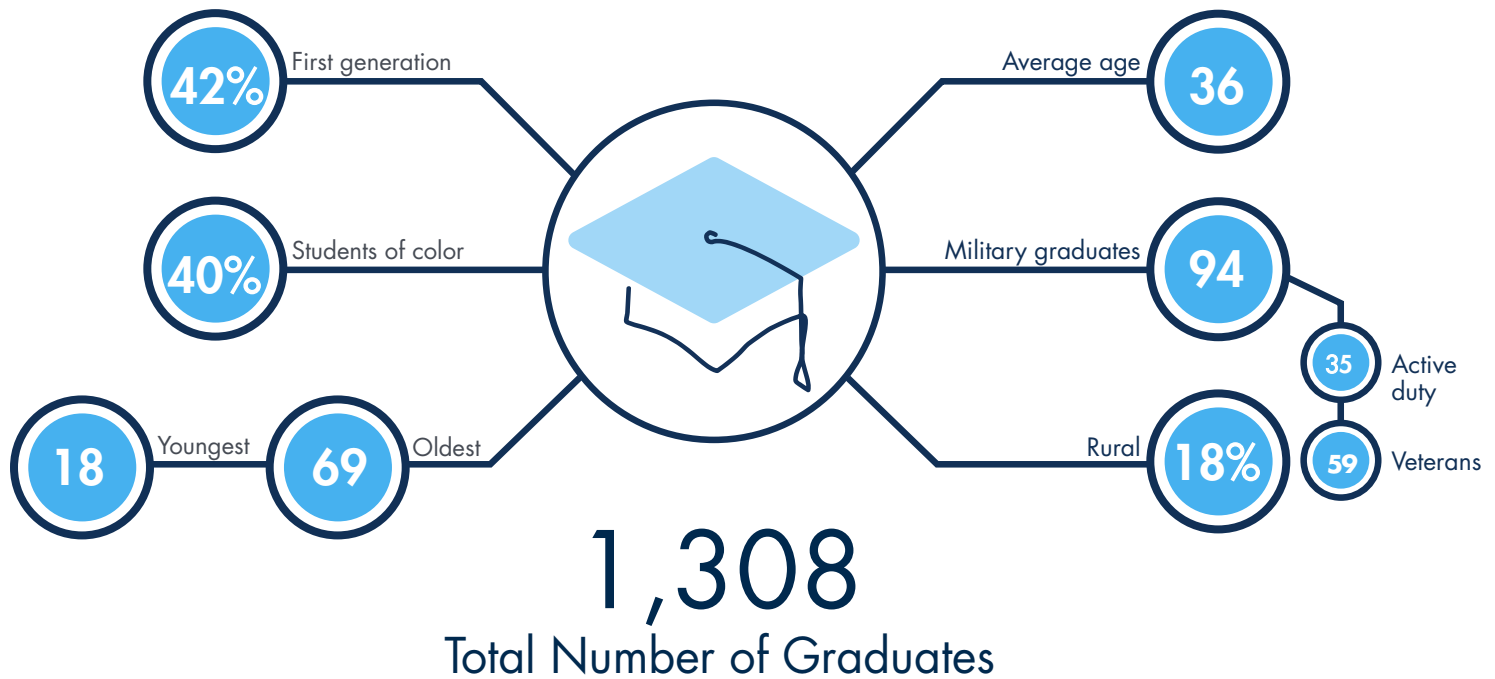
Maurice Ashley made history in 1999 when he became the first African American chess Grandmaster. He is a national championship coach, many time author, chess commentator, puzzle inventor, video course creator, and motivational speaker.

Maurice has spent decades providing dynamic live tournament coverage of world-class chess competitions and matches. His high-energy, unapologetic, and irreverent commentary combines Brooklyn street smarts with professional ESPN-style sports analysis. He has covered every class of elite event, including the World Chess Championships, the US Chess Championships, the Grand Chess Tour, and the legendary “Man vs. Machine” matches between Garry Kasparov and IBM’s Deep Blue.

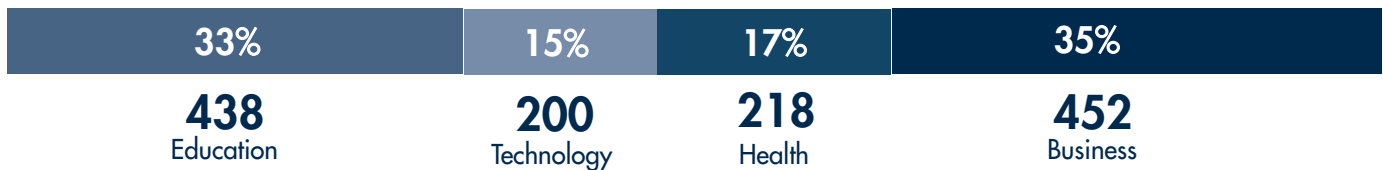
Traveling the world as an ardent spokesperson for the many character-building effects of chess, Maurice shares how chess principles and strategies can be applied to improve business practices and assist with personal growth. Maurice also acts as a master of ceremonies and inspirational speaker at business conferences and high-class chess events.

Maurice has received multiple community service awards from city governments, universities, and community groups for his work. In recognition of his immense contribution to the game, he was inducted into the US Chess Hall of Fame in 2016 and the Brooklyn Technical High School Hall of Fame in 2018. His latest books are *Move by Move: Life Lessons on and off the Chessboard* and *The Life Changing Magic of Chess*, a picture book for early readers.

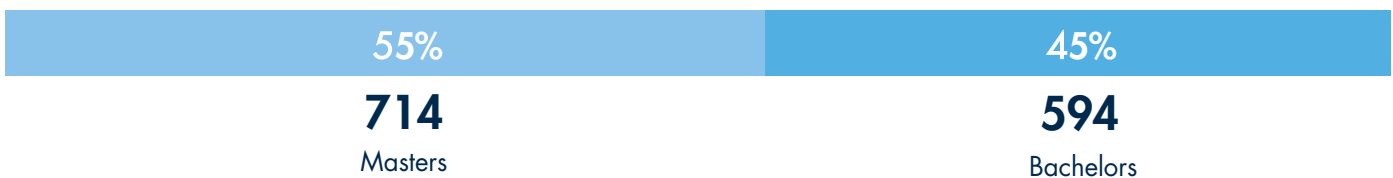
2024 COMMENCEMENT IN CINCINNATI GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE



Degree distribution by school:



Degree type:



19%
Percentage of graduates
from Ohio

2,540
Furthest distance traveled
from Smith River, California

41
Number of states represented
(including U.S. territories)

Leavitt School of Health and School of Education Program

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth
Chief Academic Officer and Provost

ANTHEM

Tadric Robinson, Lawrenceville, GA
MBA, IT Management

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Alison Bell
Regional Vice President, Central Region

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Tiara Jones, Tigard, OR
M.S. Nursing - Leadership and Management

Daniel Baker, Orange, CA
M.Ed. Technology and Instructional Design

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Grandmaster Maurice Ashley

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth
Chief Academic Officer and Provost

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

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott D. Pulsipher
President

School of Business and School of Technology Program

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer and Provost

ANTHEM

Tadric Robinson, Lawrenceville, GA

MBA, IT Management

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Alison Bell

Regional Vice President, Central Region

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Shelby Hepner, Nashville, TN

M.S. Learning Experience Design and Educational Technology

B.S. Business Administration – HR Management

Joshawa Stell, Minooka, IL

M.S. Cybersecurity and Information Assurance

B.S. Cybersecurity and Information Assurance

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Grandmaster Maurice Ashley

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer and Provost

*School of Business
School of Technology*

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott Pulsipher

President

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Katie Hobbs

Montana

The Honorable
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South Dakota

The Honorable
Kristi Noem

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The Honorable
Gavin Newsom

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The Honorable
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Oklahoma

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(1995–2003)

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DreamBox Learning



CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

Welcome to our growing alumni network,
now more than 325,000 strong.

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WGU  | ALUMNI