



# WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

---

COMMENCEMENT IN SALT LAKE CITY

---

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 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 345,000 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 black ink that reads "Scott D. Pulsipher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Scott D. Pulsipher, President  
Western Governors University

# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



## **Claudia Romo Edelman**

Founder & CEO of We Are All Human and “A La Latina” Podcast

A former diplomat and journalist, Claudia is an expert on mobilizing corporations to advance the Social Agenda with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Her career includes three decades working for the United Nations, UNICEF, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. She has participated in the creation and launch of global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals and Product (RED).

Since 2017, Claudia has served as the Founder and CEO of the We Are All Human Foundation, a non-profit organization devoted to advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion focused on unifying the U.S. Hispanic community. We Are All Human has launched several initiatives and frameworks to advance the progress of Latinos by mobilizing Corporate America and increasing Latino perception and representation. We Are All Human partners with more than 300 companies and 100 of the most important Hispanic organizations representing more than 10 million Latinos.

She is the Co-host of the podcast “A La Latina: the playbook to succeed being your authentic self,” which unveils success secrets from accomplished Latinas in Corporate America’s C-Suite.

Claudia holds a master's degree in political communication from the London School of Economics. She is a speaker, a frequent columnist and has published 9 books to date on Hispanic-related topics. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including People Magazine’s 25 Most Influential Latinas, ALPFA’s 50 Most Powerful Latinas and, Ellis Island Medal of Honor, Mexicanos Distinguidos. Claudia serves on the boards of Canoo and is in the Advisory Team of Touch Capital.

Claudia has two children, enjoys sports with her husband, and speaks six languages.

# HONORARY DEGREE

---



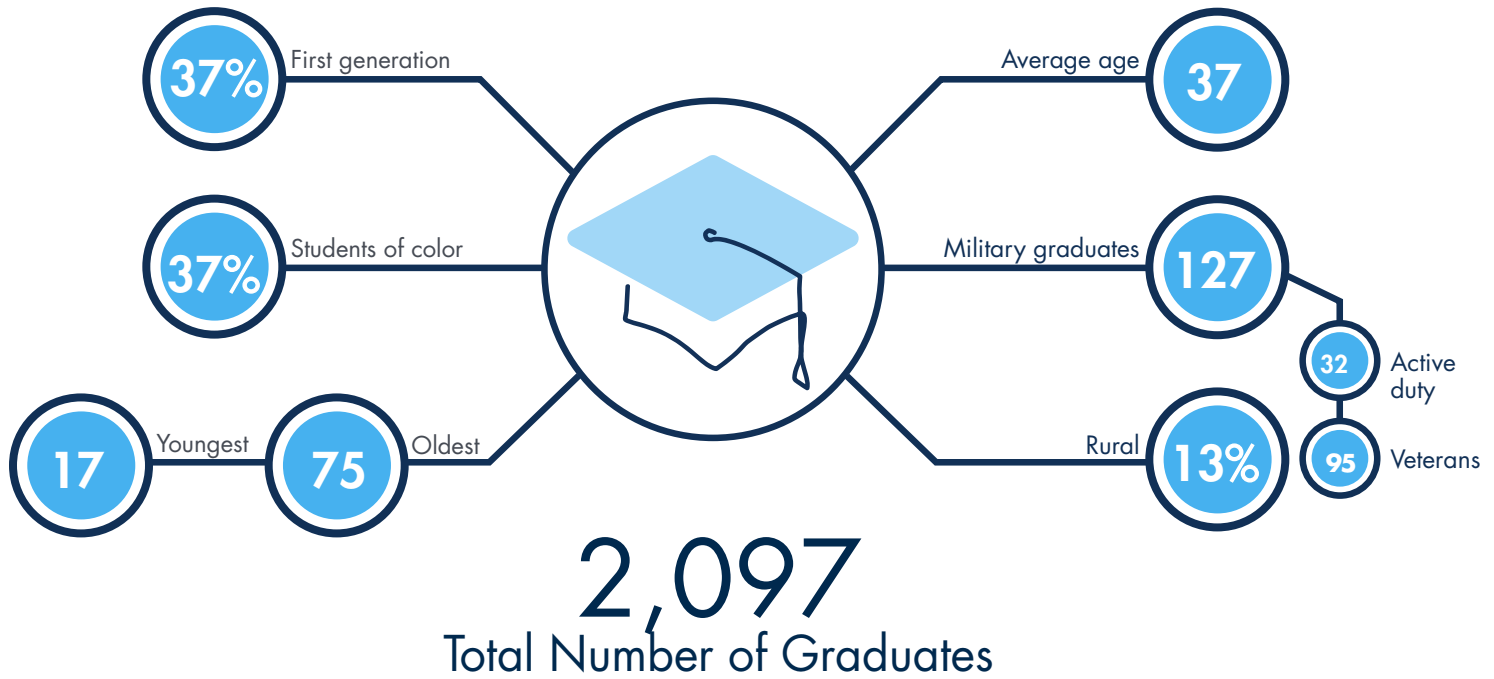
## **Dr. Charles Sorenson**

Founding Director of the Intermountain Healthcare Leadership Institute & President and CEO Emeritus of Intermountain Healthcare

Dr. Sorenson is the Founding Director of the Intermountain Healthcare Leadership Institute where he provides executive coaching to senior healthcare leaders around the United States. He is also President and CEO Emeritus of Intermountain Healthcare having served as CEO from 2009 to 2016. Prior to this, Dr. Sorenson acted as chief operating officer for 11 years and worked for decades as a urologic surgeon at the Utah-based, nonprofit hospital system—continuing to perform urologic cancer surgery even after moving into the C-suite.

In addition to his passion for healthcare, Dr. Sorenson has been committed to high quality, affordable education as a pathway to opportunity. He served on WGU's Board of Trustees from 2015 to 2023, spending his final four years as Chair of the Board. Dr. Sorenson earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Utah and a Doctor of Medicine from Weill Cornell Medical College at Cornell University. He is a board-certified urologic surgeon, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and Adjunct Professor of Surgery at the University of Utah.

# 2024 COMMENCEMENT IN SALT LAKE CITY GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE



## Degree distribution by school:



## Degree type:



**42%**

Percentage of graduates from Utah

**6,157**

Furthest distance traveled from Saipan, Guam

**43**

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

# Commencement Program

Opening Announcement

**Dr. Tonya Drake**

Regional Vice President, Northwest Region

Anthem

**Doug Ingram, Centerville, UT**

B.A. Educational Studies - Elementary Education

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth**

Chief Academic Officer & Provost

HONORARY DEGREE

**Dr. Charles W. Sorenson**

Founding Director of the Intermountain Healthcare Leadership  
Institute & President and CEO Emeritus of Intermountain Healthcare

GRADUATE SPEAKER

**Crystal Pickering, Herriman, UT**

M.S. IT Management

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Claudia Romo Edelman**

Founder & CEO of We Are All Human and "A La Latina" Podcast

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth**

Chief Academic Officer & Provost

CLOSING REMARKS

**Scott D. Pulsipher**

President

# Leavitt School of Health and School of Education Convocation Salt Palace Convention Center

---

## WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth**  
Chief Academic Officer & Provost

## SCHOOL REMARKS - LEAVITT SCHOOL OF HEALTH

**Dr. Anny Mayfield**  
Vice President & Dean

## SCHOOL REMARKS - SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

**Dr. Stacey Ludwig Johnson**  
Senior Vice President & Executive Dean

## GRADUATE SPEAKERS

**Lisa Hallam, Springfield, MO**  
M.S. Healthcare Administration

**Jenifer Oldright, Kent, WA**  
M.A. English Language Learning

## CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth**  
Chief Academic Officer & Provost

*Leavitt School of Health  
School of Education*

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth**  
Chief Academic Officer & Provost



# School of Technology and School of Business Convocation Delta Center

---

## WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**Deborah Fowler, J.D.**

Senior Vice President, Academic Delivery

## SCHOOL REMARKS - SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

**Paul Bingham**

Senior Vice President & Executive Dean

## SCHOOL REMARKS - SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

**Mitsu Frazier**

Senior Vice President & Executive Dean

## GRADUATE SPEAKERS

**Carly Donner, Salt Lake City, UT**

M.S. Cybersecurity and Information Assurance

**Byron Tate, Kurtistown, HI**

M.S. Management and Leadership

## CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

**Deborah Fowler, J.D.**

Senior Vice President, Academic Delivery

*School of Technology*

*School of Business*

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Deborah Fowler, J.D.**

Senior Vice President, Academic Delivery

# 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

---

## **Joseph B. Fuller, Chair**

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

## **John W. Bluford III**

President and Founder,  
Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute

## **April Chou**

Managing Director, Jasper Ridge Partners

## **Cole Clark**

Managing Director, Higher Education,  
Deloitte

## **Dwana Franklin-Davis**

CEO, Reboot Representation

## **Kerry Healey**

Former Lieutenant Governor, State 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 of The Starfish Institute,  
Co-Founder and Executive Director,  
100Kin10

## **Eloy Oakley**

CEO, College Futures Foundation

## **The Honorable**

## **Jared Polis**

Governor, State of Colorado

## **Scott D. Pulsipher**

President, Western Governors University

## **David Simmons**

Chairman, CEO,  
Simmons Media Group

## **Jessie Woolley-Wilson**

Operating Partner, Owl Ventures

# EMERITUS TRUSTEES

---

## **The Honorable**

## **Jim Geringer**

Former Governor of Wyoming  
(1995-2003)

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

President Emeritus,  
Washington State University



---

# 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](https://wgu.edu)