



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

COMMENCEMENT IN ANAHEIM

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 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 320,000 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 written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott D. Pulsipher, President
Western Governors University

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



Dr. Jose Hernandez

Astronaut

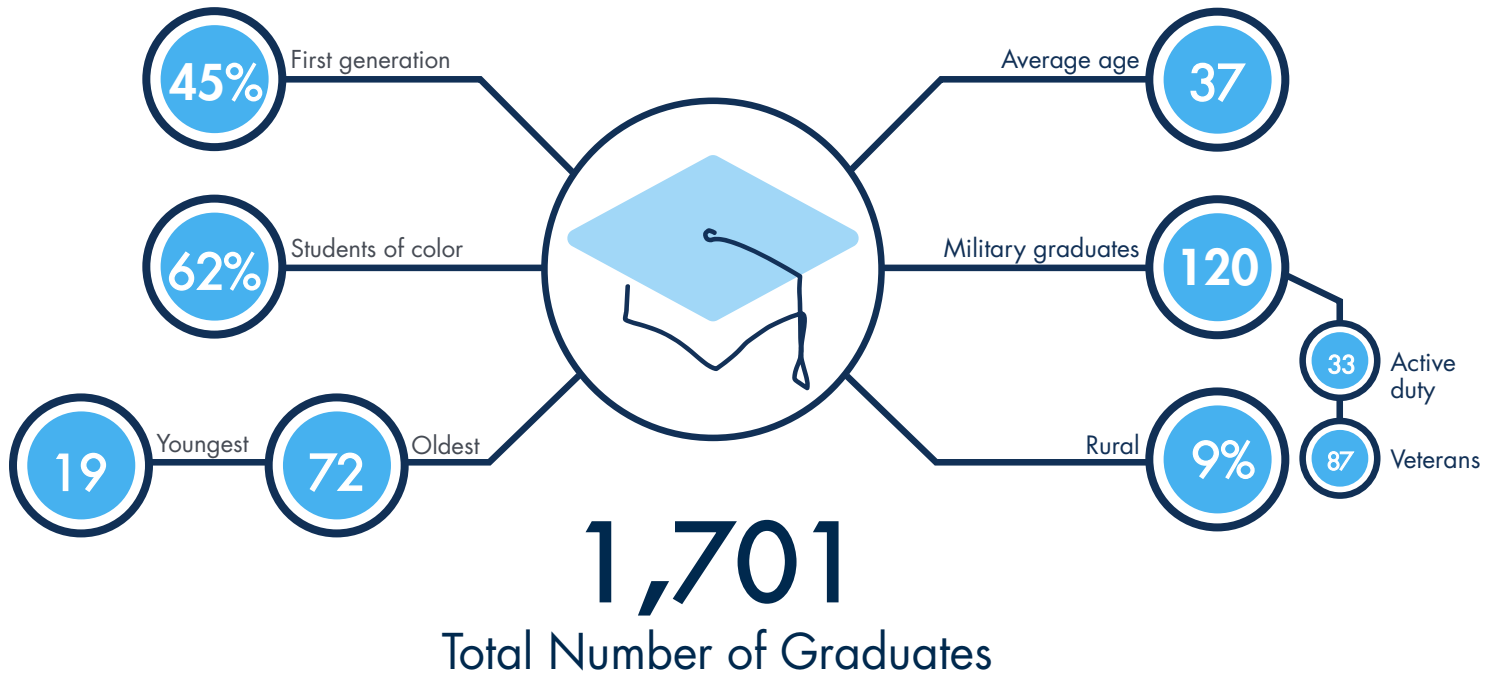
Jose Hernandez is a University of California Regent and President and Chief Executive Officer at Tierra Luna Engineering, LLC, an aerospace engineering consulting company.

Dr. Hernandez worked at NASA Johnson Space Center from 2001 to 2011, where he was an astronaut, legislative analyst, branch chief and materials research engineer.

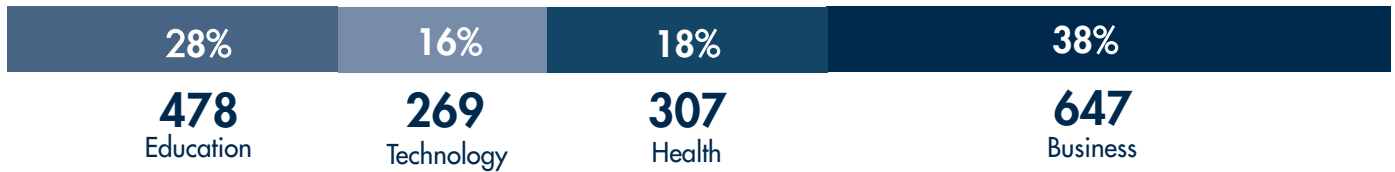
Prior to that, Dr. Hernandez worked 17 years for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and worked on the X-ray laser project, co-developed the first full-field digital mammography system for the earlier detection of breast cancer and worked in the nuclear non-proliferation arena where he served as the Lab's Deputy Program Manager in the Russian Highly Enriched Uranium Implementation Program and as Program Manager at DOE Headquarters for Office of International Material Protection and Cooperation.

Dr. Hernandez holds a Master's of Science in Signals and Systems Engineering from University of California, Santa Barbara, a Bachelor's of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of the Pacific and has been honored with eight Doctorate Degrees, honoris causa.

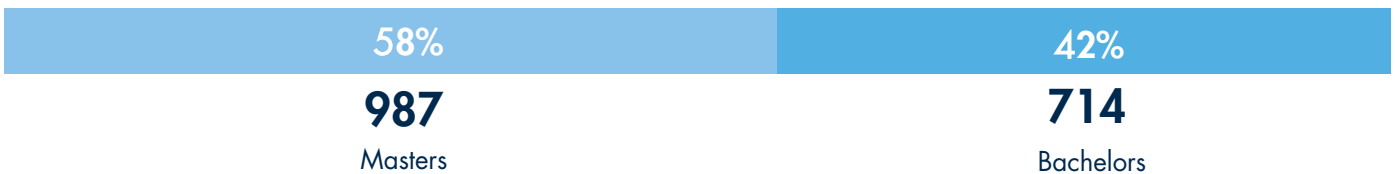
2024 COMMENCEMENT IN ANAHEIM GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE



Degree distribution by school:



Degree type:



46%
Percentage of graduates
from California

4,802
Furthest distance traveled
from Pago Pago, Samoa

38
Number of states represented
(including U.S. territories)

Leavitt School of Health and School of Education Program

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Bob Benson

Regional Director, West Region

ANTHEM SINGER

Alexandra Nicopoulos, Chino, CA

M.S. Learning Experience Design and
Educational Technology

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Rick Benbow

Regional Vice President, West Region

Honorary Degree Recipient

Dr. Ted Mitchell

President, American Council on Education

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Eddie Cruz, Rosemead, CA

Master of Healthcare Administration

Marianna Sanchez, San Antonio, TX

M.S. Curriculum and Instruction

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. Jose Hernandez

Astronaut

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer & Provost

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

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott Pulsipher

President

School of Business and School of Technology Program

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

Bob Benson

Regional Director, West Region

ANTHEM SINGER

Jessica Bewley, Martinsburg, WV

M.S. Information Technology Management

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Rick Benbow

Regional Vice President, West Region

GRADUATE SPEAKERS

Terrance Cooley, Lincoln, CA

MBA, IT Management

Arteja Stamps, Benton, AR

Master of Business Administration

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. Jose Hernandez

Astronaut

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth

Chief Academic Officer & Provost

*School of Business
School of Technology*

CLOSING REMARKS

Scott Pulsipher

President

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Governor, Utah 1993–2003

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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

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CEO, Reboot Representation

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President, Western Governors University

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Former Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts

David Simmons

Chairman, CEO, Simmons Media Group

The Honorable Eric Holcomb

Governor, State of Indiana

Dr. Samuel H. Smith

President Emeritus, Washington State University

Jessie Woolley-Wilson

Former CEO and President, DreamBox Learning



CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWLS! YOU DID IT!

Welcome to our growing alumni network,
now more than 320,000 strong.

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

Visit wgu.edu/alumni

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WGU  | ALUMNI

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