



# WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT IN ORLANDO

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024



## OUR MISSION

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

## OUR PROMISE

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We provide strong returns on students' educational investments through a deep connection to workforce needs, respected and relevant credentials, eliminating unnecessary costs, and generous financial assistance and transfer policies.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear graduates,

On behalf of all of us at WGU, I congratulate you and welcome you to our commencement. 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 350,000 graduates and counting, we hope you will stay in touch through the Alumni Association.

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

A handwritten signature in blue 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

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## **Brandon P. Fleming**

*Educator, author, and Founder & CEO of The Veritas School*

Over the past decade, Brandon P. Fleming has become one of the most highly awarded and sought-after educators, entrepreneurs, authors, and speakers in the world. Fleming's miraculous story of transformation, captured in his book [Miseducated](#), has become such a national hit that it is currently being optioned for television and film, and it is in the process of becoming a major theater production.

An at-risk youth and college dropout turned award-winning educator, Fleming is a former debate coach at Harvard University and Founder & CEO of the Veritas School of Social Sciences, a prestigious private school in Atlanta, GA.

In 2017, Fleming was recruited to become Harvard University's assistant debate coach at the age of 26. Fleming soon made history at Harvard as the founder of the first pipeline program called the Harvard Debate Council Diversity Project, which was designed to increase Black and brown enrollment at Harvard's residential debate program where hundreds of gifted young scholars from over 25 different countries study and compete in an international academic debate competition.

Over seven years, Fleming has raised millions of dollars to enroll more than 250 students of color into Harvard's summer debate residency on full scholarship. But there was one challenge that Fleming faced: How would he take Black and brown youth from mostly under-resourced schools in Atlanta, who had never been exposed to the rigors of academic debate, and prepare them in just one year to compete against some of the most elite debaters from across the globe?

# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER CONT'D

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## **Brandon P. Fleming**

*Educator, author, and Founder & CEO of The Veritas School*

Fleming created a transformative curriculum that is designed to level the playing field for underserved students. And it did. For seven consecutive years, since the program's inception in 2017, every cohort trained by Fleming has won the international competition as seven-time consecutive champions. News of the achievement has gone viral and broke national headlines, being featured on CNN, Good Morning America, the Steve Harvey Show and many more. Fleming's school has gained the financial backing of Fortune 100 companies such as The Coca-Cola Company, UPS, Chick-fil-A, and many more.

As a renowned speaker, Fleming has keynoted for international governmental organizations such as the United Nations. Fleming has spoken at the nation's most prestigious colleges, universities, and K-12 conferences. Fleming has also keynoted conventions for corporate executives at the nation's largest brands such as Walmart, Bank of America, FedEx, and many more. At the age of 29, Forbes Magazine named Fleming to the Forbes 30 under 30 list. In 2020, The Root Magazine named Fleming one of the top 100 most influential African Americans in the United States. And in May 2021, North Carolina Wesleyan College bestowed upon Fleming the honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

# GRADUATING CLASS PROFILE



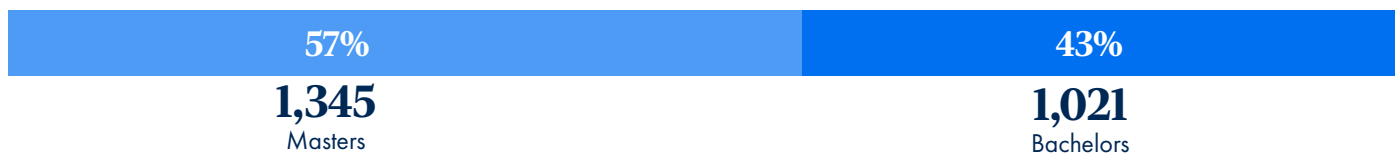
**2,366**

Total Number of Graduates

## Degree distribution by college:



## Degree type:



**39%**

Percentage of graduates from Florida

**4,741 Mi**

Furthest distance traveled from Wahiawa, HI

**39**

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

# LEAVITT SCHOOL OF HEALTH & SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

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## OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Dr. Ben Coulter**

Director, Southeast Region

**Anthem Singer**

**Kimberlee Cabrera, Deland, FL**

M.S. Nursing - Education

## Welcome and Opening Remarks

**Dr. Kim Estep**

Regional Vice President, Southeast Region

**Graduate Speakers**

**Kyle Brewer, Bushnell, IL**

M.S. Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner

**Madelyn Hurst, Celebration, FL**

B.A. Educational Studies - Special & Elementary Education

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Brandon P. Fleming**

Educator, Author, and Founder & CEO of The Veritas School

**Conferral of Degrees**

**Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth**

Chief Academic Officer and Provost

*Leavitt School of Health*

*School of Education*

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Scott D. Pulsipher**

# SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

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## OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Dr. Ben Coulter**

Director, Southeast Region

**Anthem Singer**

**Paige Olson-Cramer, Stanley, ND**

M.S. HR Management

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

**Dr. Kim Estep**

Regional Vice President, Southeast Region

**Graduate Speakers**

**Laura Anderson, Mount Pleasant, WI**

M.S. Management & Leadership

**Ralene Berry, Conroe, TX**

M.Ed Education Technology and Instructional Design &  
M.S. IT Management

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Brandon P. Fleming**

Educator, Author, and Founder & CEO of The Veritas School

**Conferral of Degrees**

**Dr. Courtney Hills McBeth**

Chief Academic Officer and Provost

*School of Business*

*School of Technology*

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Kim Estep**

Regional Vice President, Southeast Region



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Governor, Utah 1993–2003

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Michelle Lujan Grisham

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The Honorable  
Doug Burgum

## **Oklahoma**

The Honorable  
Kevin Stitt

## **Oregon**

The Honorable  
Tina Kotek

## **South Dakota**

The Honorable  
Kristi Noem

## **Texas**

The Honorable  
Greg Abbott

## **Utah**

The Honorable  
Spencer Cox

## **Washington**

The Honorable  
Jay R. Inslee

## **Wyoming**

The Honorable  
Mark Gordon

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

Professor of Management Practice and  
Co-Head of the Managing the Future of Work Project at Harvard Business School

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President, Bluford Healthcare  
Leadership Institute

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Managing Director, Higher Education  
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CEO, Reboot Representation

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State of Massachusetts

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CEO, College Futures Foundation

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President, Western Governors University

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President, Simmons Media Group

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Operating Partner  
Owl Ventures

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## **Jim Geringer**

Director, Policy & Public Sector, ESRI  
Former Governor, State 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 350,000 strong!

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

**[Visit the Alumni Resources Website](#)**

## GET SOCIAL

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Share the excitement!

Use #WGUgrad to tag your commencement posts.

