

# Global Campus Spring Hybrid Graduation 2022

[MUSIC PLAYS]

DAVE CILLAY:

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the very first Global Campus graduation ceremony, we've never done this before.

So welcome graduates, welcome family, and friends. We've got a few speakers that want to say some words of wisdom to you, we will recognize our graduates and then we're going to eat lunch. So let me welcome Nolan Thomaswick, who is ASWSU's global president.

NOLAN THOMASWICK:

Hello, good morning, greetings to all of you both here and online! What an exciting day this is in the 30-year history of the Global Campus and the more than 130-year history of Washington State University. It is the second WSU Global commencement ceremony, we had a virtual one in the fall, and the first ever hybrid WSU Global commencement ceremony.

(Applause)

As, by holding events like these, we begin to emerge from the warped state that the world has been entrenched in for the past two years, so to do all of the graduates emerge from the world they've been living in, one of higher education.

Each of you has been on your own hero's journey, faced your share of Minotaurs and Gorgons, perhaps had much appreciated assistance from a wise old mentor, hopefully have made powerful revelations in the face of dark uncertainty and celebrated the little victories that carry you from day to day and week to week.

Now you sit here, ensconced, wreathed in pleasant smelling laurels, basking in the divine glow of your greatest academic triumph, graduation! Savor this moment you worked so hard for, your overarching journey may not end here, but this stage of it does. Today we celebrate that, and we celebrate you. I say to you all, well-earned, well-deserved, and well done. Damn well done! Also, congratulations to the spring class of 22, Go Cougs! But most importantly, go you. And next speaking will be our vice president of ASWUG, Chelsea Rollins.

CHELSEA ROLLINS:

Thank you, thank you! We even practiced beforehand, just FYI. First, can I just say what we are all thinking, finally! Hello, my name is Chelsea Rollins and I had the pleasure of serving as ASWSU's Global Vice President this past year.

This is nerve-racking (Laughs) like many of you, my college career was anything but traditional. I started this journey in 2015, after getting accepted into WSU Pullman. During my time there, I was a typical college freshman, I rushed a sorority, made friends at my dorms, did a lot of... because my parents are watching, "studying" lots of studying (Laughs). Just very devoted to my "studies". In January 2018, I was a college dropout.

I would say my breakup with WSU was mutual, we had different interests, goals thank you for laughing (Laughs). We had different interests and goals for our futures and eventually had to separate. During our break apart, I tried new activities and careers. I grew and learned so much about myself. I found an amazing support system and life, but WSU always held a special place in my heart. I still wore my old sweatshirts and cheered for the football team. I knew one day I would find my way back home.

In spring of 2022, nope spring of 2020 I can read (Laughs). I was officially reenrolled back in WSU Global. WSU Global ended being like the hot older brother to Pullman (Laughs). More experience, more goal oriented, and was the partner longed for. I joined student government, moved back home, and “actually” studied this time... with real books and everything! (Laughs)

I feel so lucky to be a part of a rich, resilient, and dedicated community. We are parents, spouses, employees, cross continental, and even international students. We take our futures into our own hands, and we pave a path for those who come after us. Look how far we have come and how far we we'll go. We are entrepreneurs, teachers, scientists, mathematicians, lawyers, and so much more. There is no stopping us, because these students have overcome and will continue to overcome any obstacle placed in their way. This is a day of celebration and recognition that is well-deserved. Congrats to—one more time. Congratulations to the class of 2022 and Go Cougs!

(Applause)

Now, a word from Washington State University President Kirk Schultz.

KIRK SCHULZ:

Hello, I am Kirk Schultz, president of the Washington State University system. And I am here to congratulate you today on receiving your degree for the WSU Global campus. All of you have taken a different journey to get here, you have had supporters, family, friends, there to make sure that you reach this important milestone, getting that WSU degree. Congratulations to you, congratulations to your family, congratulations to all your supporters, enjoy this day.

We have a saying, "once a Cougar, always a Cougar". Welcome to the Cougar family. Congratulations again!

DAVE CILLAY:

Congratulations, this is my, probably my favorite professional day of the year, there's so much excitement and sense of accomplishment. Hearing your amazing journeys is so inspiring. Also exciting, as we mentioned, this is the very first Global Campus graduation ceremony, and we're the only campus that does it virtually and face-to-face, so that's exciting.

And even more exciting, is this is the 30th anniversary of the Global Campus. We've been around for three decades, offering access to Washington State University degrees. So, congratulations, let's start talking about you, but before, before we celebrate... I think it's important to recognize individuals in your life that helped you on this journey. So, if you are a parent or spouse or significant other of a Global Campus graduate would you please stand or raise your hand.

If you are a family member, a friend, an acquaintance of a Global Campus graduate, would you please stand or raise your hand. If you are a WSU faculty, staff, advisor, please stand or raise your hand.

For those of you participating remotely, if you have supporters, please enter the graduates name in the chat, and your relationship to them. Thank you!

So... it's been a journey. And I don't know if it's sunk in yet, I am sure it's kind of been on the periphery of your brain, you're a college graduate. You're a college graduate! You've started what few people undertake, and even fewer complete. You're a college graduate. But more importantly, in my humble opinion, you are a graduate of Washington State University. You're part of a family. Of passionate, excitable, sometimes a little off-balance alumni.

You're a Cougar, from this day forward no one can ever take that from you. You're a cougar-- you are part of the family. But before, before we officially graduate you, we've got to make sure that you can be part of this family. What I mean by that... I have been all over this globe, and more often than not, if I'm wearing a cougar hat, a cougar sweatshirt, something cougar, I get a "Go Cougs". It's my responsibility to respond in kind with a Go Cougs. So, let's see... Go Cougs!

AUDIENCE:  
Go Cougs!

DAVE CILLAY:

That was fantastic! Alright, congratulations we're going to recognize our graduates, so the ushers, we're going to be taking the graduates out the door, because we can't fit behind the cameras, coming back in the door and you're going to be lining up over here and then one at a time you'll come across the stage and get your diploma. So, ushers are we ready? Alright. This will be the longest portion of the ceremony.

SPEAKER:  
(Names being called)

SPEAKER:  
And that concludes the list of our graduates. Congratulations everyone!

DAVE CILLAY:

We have one more task ahead of us, I need all the graduates virtually and in person to stand please. I'd like you to virtually and for real, take the tassel that's on the right side of your bonnet and move it to the left. I present to you the class of 2022! Congratulations and go Cougs! I'm not a very emotional person, but I'm overwhelmed right now, this has been absolutely fantastic. Thank you so much for making my day!