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WKU Commencement: Class of 2021 persisted through challenging year

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The Class of 2021 holds a special place in the heart of Western Kentucky University, President Timothy C. Caboni told graduates.

“Your senior year was different in so many ways – you experienced the unimaginable consequences of a global pandemic unleashing its wrath on our world,” President Caboni said. “But, together you faced the challenges that unfolded, you continued your studies and you overcame in order to achieve. So, before I say anything more, let me say this: Class of 2021 - Well. Done.”

Graduates were seated across Feix Field as WKU celebrated its fall 2020/spring 2021 commencement at Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium.

WKU conferred degrees and certificates to 4,180 graduates from fall 2020, spring 2021 and summer 2020 semesters — 139 associate, 2,836 bachelor’s, 725 master’s, 85 doctoral and six specialist degrees, and 271 undergraduate certificates and 118 graduate certificates.

Spring and summer 2020 graduates were recognized May 8 at Houchens Industries-L.T. Smith Stadium.

The morning ceremony included graduates of Gordon Ford College of Business and College of Health and Human Services, while the evening ceremony included graduates of Potter College of Arts & Letters, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences and Ogden College of Science & Engineering.

Ogden Foundation Scholar. Seth Newby of Magnolia, who received a bachelor’s degree with a major in finance, was the Spring 2021 Ogden Foundation Scholar.

The Ogden Foundation Award, WKU’s top undergraduate graduation honor, is presented to one graduating baccalaureate degree senior who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and outstanding university and civic engagement.

ROTC commissioning. The Hilltopper Army ROTC Program commissioned 23 graduates as second lieutenants including area students Ethan Gordon of Elizabethtown; Matthew Legendre of Elizabethtown; John Provost of Brandenburg; and Olivia Wilson of Ekron.

WKU recognized graduates and those in attendance who are serving in the U.S. military or are military veterans.