

Western Governors University

Concord resident delivers commencement speech

Ceremony held virtually on Saturday

From staff reports

CHARLOTTE — Concord resident Sharon Test delivered the commencement speech at Western Governors University's graduation Saturday.

The commencement was supposed to be the 77th in Charlotte but was held virtually this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Test is the vice president and commercial card training team lead at Citi. She has been there for a little more than three years after spending her first two years as a vice president and senior implementations technical training specialist.

Test earned her degree with an M.S. in management and leadership last year from Western Governors University. She earned a second masters this year, an MBA in business administration and management.

A mother of two, Test attended college at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she earned a degree in psychology.

She went on to spend time as a content manager right out of college at the age of 22 before moving on to work for JPMorgan

Chase, Bank of America and now Citi.

Saturday's graduation ceremony celebrated nearly 230 undergraduates and graduates earning degrees.

Seventy-four percent of the students graduating were from traditionally underserved populations, including 43 percent who were first-generation college students. The ceremony was livestreamed.

WGU courses allow students to progress at their own rate while measuring learning rather than time spent in class. The flexible model allows students who may otherwise not be able to put their lives on hold to earn a degree. Since Jan. 1, more than 18,000 students have completed their degree programs thanks to WGU's competency-based model.



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Concord resident Sharon Test is a vice president at Citi.

