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## Supreme court justice to speak at CWU commencement

By DAILY RECORD STAFF Jun 3, 2016



(Brian Myrick / Daily Record)

Washington State Supreme Court Justice Mary Yu takes a question from a student during a visit to a classroom at Central Washington University, Wednesday, May 4, 2016. The justices are in Ellensburg to hear arguments in three cases that are currently b

This year's commencement speaker at Central Washington University is Washington State Supreme Court Justice Mary Yu, according to information from the school.

Commencement ceremonies are at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. June 11 at Tomlinson Stadium on CWU's campus.

The first ceremony is for graduates in the College of Business and the College of Education. The second ceremony is for the College of Arts and Humanities, the College of Sciences and interdisciplinary and individual studies majors.

A total of 1,742 undergraduate students will be graduating this year, up from 1,719 students in 2015, according to CWU.

The weekend will be a busy one in the county for graduates. Commencement ceremonies at Ellensburg High School and Thorp are scheduled the evening of June 10, with Cle Elum-Roslyn and Kittitas graduations on June 11.

### **CWU speaker**

Yu will speak at both CWU ceremonies in Ellensburg, and a CWU ceremony in Kent on June 12.

Yu joined the Supreme Court in 2014 after more than 14 years as a trial court judge in King County Superior Court.

She presided over a wide variety of criminal, civil, and juvenile cases, and hundreds of adoptions and other family law matters.

Prior to becoming a judge, Yu served as deputy chief of staff to King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng and as a deputy in the Criminal and Civil Divisions. Before attending law school, Yu worked in the Peace and Justice Office for the Archdiocese of Chicago first as staff, and later was appointed by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin as director of the office.

She was raised in Bridgeport, a south side neighborhood in Chicago, by immigrant parents. Her mother came from Mexico and her father from China. She is the first in her family to graduate from college. She received her B.A. from Dominican University, M.A. in religious studies from Mundelein College of Loyola University in Chicago, and J.D. from the University of Notre Dame Law School.

### **Student speakers**

Three CWU students also have been selected to speak. Autumn Gust will speak at the morning ceremony in Ellensburg, with Kayla Schaffroth speaking at the afternoon ceremony. Gust will receive a bachelor of science degree in clinical physiology and a minor in athletic training. Schaffroth will receive a bachelor of fine arts in theatre arts, graduating from the William O. Douglas Honors College.

Nathan McWalters, who will receive a bachelor of science in information technology and administrative management, will speak in Kent.

The ceremonies will be streamed live on CWU's website. CWU also will have a "tweet wall" at the ceremony where people can send messages via Twitter with the hashtag #cwugrad.

A hooding ceremony for master's degree recipients will be at 5 p.m. Friday in the SURC Ballroom, followed by an honors convocation at 7 p.m. at McConnell Auditorium.

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