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First graduation ceremony of a dual degree master program in “Educational Policy and Administration” between Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University (ASPU) and George Washington University (GWU) of the USA was held on June 13.

In his opening remark at the ceremony, ASPU rector Jafar Jafarov noted that the first of the dual degree programs signed with foreign universities under the state program is the program implemented between ASPU and GWU. There are currently 50 people enrolled in two courses in the program. Students study on the program completely free of charge. Starting this year, the enrolment plan for the program has been increased from 25 to 40 places. Classes in the program are conducted in English by experienced teaching staff of ASPU and GWU. The rector noted that out of the 24 people admitted to the program for 25 places allocated in the first year, 22 master's students are graduating from the program today and for the first time in Azerbaijan, they receive a master's degree in “Educational policy and Administration” from GWU in addition to ASPU's master's degree.

At the end of his speech, the rector congratulated the first graduates of the program and their families.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony Minister of Education Emin Amrullayev said that today's diploma awarding ceremony is distinguished with its historical significance, as this program is an indicator of work done by the state and government of Azerbaijan to develop education. The Minister of Education added that the impact of this and similar programs aimed at training specialists for the Azerbaijani society and economy will affect the further development of our national education sector and the lives of thousands of people.

For his part, Colin Green, professor at the School of Education and Human Development, expressed his satisfaction with the successful collaboration and congratulated the graduates.

The Dean of the School of Education and Human Development at the George Washington University, Dr. Michael Feuer conveyed his greetings in a video message.

At the end of the ceremony, the graduates were presented with honorary diplomas.

It should be noted that this program is being implemented in accordance with the cooperation

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agreement signed between ASPU and GWU as part of the "State Program on Enhancing International Competitiveness of the Higher Education System in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023", which was approved by the relevant decree of the President of Azerbaijan.

The dual degree program, funded by the State Oil Fund, is being implemented at ASPU to train world-class master administrators in education.