



# wti CONNECT 360°



Wichita 2020 Graduates



Topeka 2020 Graduates

## OPENING THE DOOR TO THE FUTURE

Students at the Main, East and Topeka campuses let out a sigh of relief and a big smile as they walked down to the front of the auditorium as their names were called. Their journey isn't complete, it's only the beginning. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments. WTI is proud of you and can't wait to see where you go from here and the positive outcome awaiting for you after all of your hard work and dedication.

The May 2021 Graduation Ceremony was held for the students that completed their program in 2020 when COVID-19 restrictions were in place. Despite the challenges that pandemic brought, the students buckled down and overcame them. WTI adapted a blended learning model that is a combination of on-campus and online learning experiences. It provides an ideal balance of hands-on activities and convenience.

The upcoming Wichita graduation will be held on July 24. Tulsa's next graduation ceremony will be held on September 17 and Joplin's next graduation ceremony will be on November 5. Topeka will be celebrating their next graduation on December 1.



## HVAC/R APPRECIATION

Whether it be helping keep our homes warm during the cold months or keeping our homes cool during the hot summer days, HVAC Techs brave the weather and do everything they can to keep our equipment running so that we can be comfortable.

June 22 was National HVAC Tech Day. WTI showed their appreciation for everything the HVAC Techs do by adding a little light to their day. Each of the HVAC/R students received a multipurpose LED work light.

### NOTABLE DATES & EVENTS

**7/4** - Independence Day

**7/5** - CLOSED

**8/11** - Open House

**9/6** - Labor Day (CLOSED)

**9/11** - Patriot Day

**9/20** - New Quarter Start

**9/21** - National IT Professional Day

**9/22** - Electronic Systems Technology Day

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## INSIDER INFO



**Dan Bishop** - Joplin CTNA Instructor

**How long have you worked at WTI and what is your role?**

I have worked at WTI for just under a year now as the A+ instructor and have very much enjoyed every minute of it.

**What motivates you to wake up and go to work?**

I truly enjoy impacting the lives of the techs I work with. Every day is a different puzzle, either personal or technical, and I enjoy helping the techs to overcome these obstacles.

**What advice would you give to WTI students?**

I graduated from training that was similar to the CTNA program and I understand how hard it is to juggle work, school and home life. I was working as a roofer 40 to 60 hours per week, attending classes from 6 pm to 11 pm and I was a very active parent to my infant daughter. My main piece of advice is to make this education a priority, not a sidenote. The hard work and dedication does pay off in the end.

**Who are you outside of WTI and what are some of your hobbies or interests outside of work?**

I think I am kind of funny outside of work, but my wife thinks I'm not as funny as I think I am. I dabble with auctions, flea marketing, electronics, microcontrollers, 3-D printing, and we operate Jen's Diner 66 in Commerce, OK.

**If you could meet anyone in the world, dead or alive, who would it be and why?**

I would like to meet Benjamin Franklin. I know he was flawed like the rest of us, but it would be interesting to find out how he thought and where he got his ideas and inspirations for the various things that he did in a time where information was not readily available like it is today.

## GRADUATE SUCCESS



Hannah is an ambitious and hardworking person that attended the WTI Tulsa campus to become a medical assistant. "If I want it, I go get it. I am dedicated and do not settle for less," she said.

Hannah most admires her father. He taught her a lot throughout life and has always been her biggest fan. Hannah's father has always been a great role model for her and has always been able to give her advice and taught her morals that she still follows and stands by today.

When starting out, she had no idea what she really wanted to do with her future. She found out she was pregnant and enrolled in school to become a medical assistant. Throughout her educational journey in the medical assistant program, she knew that the instructors, the front desk, admissions and financial aid were all rooting for her.

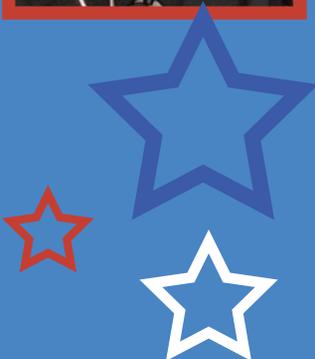
The biggest challenge that she had to face while attending WTI was being pregnant throughout the entire course and having her daughter near the end. There were so many days where she did not want to get up or go to school. She was determined and she had perfect attendance. She

pushed through it knowing that she would have a brighter future for her and her baby.

The instructors at WTI helped her obtain her goals by going above and beyond to provide her with positive feedback on anything she learned. The instructors made sure that she understood the material before moving on. They ensured the class had a strong understanding of the material being taught and were always willing to help any time anyone had a question.

The hard work paid off in the end. She graduated and received her RMA certification. Career services was able to help her put a resume together and practiced interviews with her. She accepted a position working as a medical assistant at a pediatric office. She loves her job and has never enjoyed a job more than the one she has now.

Her definition of success is when you have a vision, idea or goal that you work towards it. Once you're able to say you have accomplished that goal, no matter what you went through to get there, then you have succeeded.



# FEEL GOOD FOCUS



As a new student entered the classroom for the first time, I noticed he seemed to be a little shy than other new students. Shyness is nothing new on the first day of class of course, and I have seen this a thousand times over my years of teaching. But there was something different about this student. Something I could not put my finger on.

he was looking at the results on a paper he was carrying, when he got to my desk, he stopped, looked up, smiled, and said, "I passed." We both let out a huge sigh, and I began to congratulate Sam. Sam then extended his hand for a handshake and said, "Thank you for all your help, I could not have done this without you."

It was then I remembered something I often forget when I get busy, writing curriculum, reviewing, grading assignments, explaining things repeatedly, and doing everything possible trying to encourage students, I remembered: "I DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE." What I do here does matter, and I am helping people change their lives for the better.

About Mike Holland:

Mike has 16 years of teaching experience in Computer Technology and has recently moved into a new role as a Distant Education Specialist. Since August of last year, he has moved out of the classroom into a position of helping the faculty create and maintain the WTI curriculum through Canvas.

Canvas (Learning Management System) has been an invaluable teaching tool for the new "Blended" classroom environment. Canvas delivers dynamic, engaging learning experiences, for every student, 24 hours a day. Canvas is a robust digital foundation for all aspects of higher-ed learning. Canvas LMS has top-rated mobile apps for both teachers and students that give everyone access to just what they need on the go. Although he sometimes misses the classroom and the students, he really enjoys working with the great WTI faculty members.

Mike wanted to reiterate why we are here: To make a difference in the students' lives. He still makes a difference in the lives of our students on a daily basis, just from a new role.

"Every student has unique challenges, however, it amazes me how the instructors at WTI find a way to work through those challenges and positively impact our students," Mike said.

It came time to start my first day of class and as I normally do, I ask everyone to introduce themselves. As the introductions went around the classroom each student gave their name and a little about themselves. When it got around to (let us just call him Sam) Sam, he seemed timid, and when he spoke, I began to understand why he would seem shy and timid. His speech seemed slow and calculated like he was searching for the correct words to say. As the weeks went on I learned that Sam is not from America and seems to be struggling with the English language.

There were countless times I stayed after class helping Sam understand not only the curriculum but the language and what words meant. I could see his confidence beginning to build, and he no longer seemed shy but became more outgoing and interacting with other students in the class.

Sam continued to work hard throughout the term. Learning the curriculum and learning more of the English language. The exam day finally came, and Sam was in early to study before his scheduled hour for the cert exam. I was worried Sam would not do well on the cert exam due to the language barrier. When it was time for Sam to go in, I offered some final words of advice and told Sam, "You got this." But inside I was as nervous as Sam was!

After what seemed like hours, but truly was only about an hour, Sam came back into the classroom. As he entered,

## GOAL ACHIEVED!

April 2021 **Graduates** Employed in their Field

MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

19

PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

5

MEDICAL BILLING & CODING

8

HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION

15

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY & NETWORK ADMINISTRATION

13

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

2



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