



# wti CONNECT 360°



## REACHING FOR THE SKY

The Electronics department at the Main campus came together in order to acquire all the necessary parts to create something that had not yet been done before at WTI. They decided to explore the edge of space. The easiest and most cost-effective way to achieve that was by sending up a weather balloon. While they were at it, they decided to go ahead and collect some data as well.

The first hurdle that the group had to overcome was the temperature that they would be facing as their balloon ascended away from earth. They concluded that a simple Styrofoam container would provide the necessary insulation from the cold as well as be warm enough for the electronics stored inside of it.

In order to photograph and record the experience, the group used four different cameras that they installed in the Styrofoam container. They also had a temperature sensor located on the outside of the payload that allowed them to monitor the exterior temperature of the atmosphere.

The first launch didn't go as planned, but the group was able to learn a lot from their first try and attempt a second launch that took place on August 14. Below is some of the data they collected.

Max Climb rate	1066.37 ft/min
Launch Altitude	1460 feet above sea level
Max Altitude	109,055 feet above sea level
Temperature	-66 degrees
Total Distance Traveled	102.31 miles
Distance from Launch to Landing	24.8 miles



**Watch Our Adventure**

The Electronic Department's goal is to launch a balloon once a year and continue the fun student-involved project. You can watch a short video from the balloon's point-of-view on our youtube channel. A special thanks to Alex, the Electronic Systems Technology Instructor, who was the head of the project. Alex is also one of our featured faculty for the Insider Info (page 3).

## NOTABLE DATES & EVENTS

**10/16** - Wichita Graduation

**10/19** - Pharm Tech Day

**10/20** - Medical Assistant Day

**10/21** - Billing & Coding Day

**10/27** - In-service (NO SCHOOL)

**10/28** - In-service (NO SCHOOL)

**11/05** - Joplin Graduation

**11/11** - Veteran's Day (CLOSED)

**11/25** - Thanksgiving (CLOSED)

**11/26** - Black Friday (CLOSED)

**12/1** - Topeka Graduation

**12/13** - New Quarter Start

**12/24** - Christmas Eve (CLOSED)

**12/31** - New Year's Eve (CLOSED)



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# IT AND ELECTRONICS PROFESSIONALS APPRECIATION

On September 21 and 22, WTI showed appreciation to the students going into the Information Technology and Electronics fields. The school provided each of the students with a 4-amp power bank as a way to show their appreciation. Power banks are used to charge personal electronic devices.

As technology rapidly grows throughout the future, these are the students that we will be able to rely on. Did you know: It is projected that the worldwide IT spending for 2021 is projected to total \$3.8 trillion according to Gartner, Inc.



## COMPOUNDING COMPETITION

The Pharmacy Students paired the skills they learned throughout their program with their creative side. They created ointments, balms, moisturizers, supplement sweets, and more. The students were separated into small groups. They collaborated and competed for 1st Place. The students all did such an amazing job, the judges had a difficult time selecting the winners.

The competition at the Main campus took place on September 8 and the Joplin campus competed on September 9.

## GRADUATE SUCCESS



Taylor is a determined graduate that attended the WTI Topeka campus for HVAC. She chose WTI because after the tour she realized they met all the requirements that she wanted in a school. She also discovered that the staff and instructors were always there to help her in any way.

Taylor was working full-time at a hospital and going to school at night. She was working on stepping into a completely different role, especially considering that not many women pursue a career in HVAC. Luckily, she had the support of her family, friends and WTI. Taylor and her friends encourage one another to be successful. They helped keep her going until she graduated.

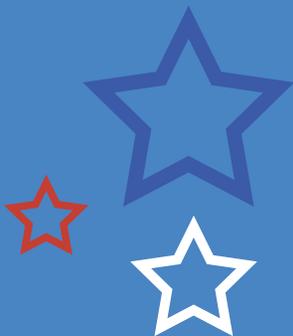
Taylor says, "WTI instructors helped me stay on track with graduating when COVID hit. They never stopped teaching me. They would answer every question I had, and I had a lot."

Taylor's definition of success is to get a little better

at something every day, the hard work adds up. Her definition of success falls right in line with her favorite quote from Harry Potter, "Working hard is important. But there is something that matters even more, believing in yourself." She said that WTI helped make her goals possible.

Taylor now has her HVAC diploma and EPA certification. She is currently working towards becoming an HVAC journeyman. Career services assisted Taylor with writing a good resume and taught her how to ask quality questions in interviews. She got a job offer as a Service Tech at Pat Plumbing, Heating & Air. She fixes A/C, furnaces, heat pumps, assists with maintenance and installing the equipment.

Her advice to future WTI students is to put in the work to reach your goals, the only person that it affects is you when you don't try your hardest.



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# WALKING ACROSS THE STAGE



Wichita 2021 Graduates



Tulsa 2020 and 2021 Graduates

WTI staff and faculty were happy to see the students walk across the stage. WTI is proud of all of the students and can't wait to see what accomplishments their future holds.

Wichita's graduation was held on July 24 at the Eugene M. Hughes Metroplex. Tulsa's graduation was held on September 17 at the Union High School's Performing Art's Center.

Tulsa had not had a graduation ceremony since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, they celebrated both 2020 and 2021 graduates. The students had the honor of having Scott, the Tulsa Director, as their speaker. He started off the speech with, "I can't believe we are all finally here."

Upcoming graduation ceremonies will be held for Wichita on October 16, Joplin (2020 and 2021 graduates) on November 5, and Topeka on December 1.

## INSIDER INFO

[wti.edu](http://wti.edu)



**Alex Heisler** - *Wichita Electronics Systems Technology Instructor*

### **What's your favorite thing about working at WTI?**

One of my favorite things about working at WTI would be my fellow faculty members. They have surpassed my expectations as far as the caliber of individuals I would be working alongside.

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

One of the hardest things I encountered after I went through school would be finding that first job. We live in a world where it seems that all employers are looking to hire someone that has experience, which makes finding that first job out of school seem intimidating. Keep putting yourself out there, and don't get discouraged. You graduated, you earned the chance to improve your life, and it will come to fruition if you keep at it.

### **What made you choose your field of study/career?**

From an early age I was always fascinated with how things work. I would spend my allowance going to garage sales to buy old radios or other electronic equipment to disassemble it and look at how it worked. Looking back I had no idea what I was looking at, but it was still so very fascinating. I built my first computer when I was 12, and I am 33 years old at the date of this publication. I have always, and will continue to, be drawn to electronics.

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

I actually do a lot of what I am teaching here at WTI. I work a lot with electronics. I am usually asking myself how I can go about my household chores with minimal effort. Mowing the grass? Time to make a radio controlled lawn mower that I can operate from my couch.

### **What is a fun fact about you that many don't know?**

I actually collect and solve Rubik's cubes as well as other puzzles. I started collecting them about 13 years ago and now have over 29 different ones.

# FEEL GOOD FOCUS

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Greg Martinez  
Director of Education

When you start teaching, you are trained to understand the responsibilities of the position and become exposed to the materials needed for your new job. But one intangible still looms, and that is how will I convey the information and make it relatable to my students. Some of the best advice I got from a fellow instructor was to be myself, and if that does not work, then

act like someone else. I had the privilege to teach a single class for 12 years. I taught the administrative portion of medical training, like data entry, Microsoft Office, and insurance requirements, which could sound quite boring, so I knew I needed to find a way to make it interesting to my students.

The students need a reason to come into class, and I took my advice earlier to heart and started to use a sense of fun and bad dad jokes into a dry subject matter. I would discuss the topic of Health Maintenance Organizations and say something like (HMOs) not to be confused with HBO (the streaming TV service). It might seem like health insurance tactics from managed care plans might seem like the Sopranos, but it is legal to use and less painful than the alternative. The constant search for real-world scenarios and bringing them into the class is also something that helps. I would have to explain the circle of communication, wherein in life, we have a message, source, receiver, and sometimes noise. Noise is anything that interferes with communication, like sounds, emotions, or non-verbal distractions. To reinforce my point, I would say, let us imagine Dwayne Johnson, Chris Hemsworth, and Jason Momoa are standing outside in the hallway, are you ladies going to listen to me talk about communication? Nearly everyone said no, and I would tell them those men are noise in the communication circle due to their distractingly good looks.

To care about what you are doing makes a profound impact

on a student. We often are the safe place in their lives, and I dare say hope for some. Those moments when we make a student feel comfortable with a hello, smile, or a joke allow us the opportunity to help when the slings and arrows of life come upon them. We can turn those bad days into a glimmer of hope. I recall a young lady who worked the third shift, came to morning class and sat in the back of the room. She was not trying to sleep or play around; she had enough stress in her work and personal life that school was her safe place. I asked her nearly every day if there was anything I could do to aid in keeping her going, and her daily response was no. This student was not timid, just reserved. One day, the student decided, that she could trust me. Her comment to me was, this is who you are it is not an act you care about us. I responded I do not know another way to be happy but to care about what I do. From that point on, the student began opening up and was more vocal in class. Those moments in time I mentioned earlier are what drives me to smile again, tell a bad joke, or care enough to ask how you are doing today.

The interactions you have with an individual in a single moment can affect their day. The interactions you have with someone over weeks or months can change their entire year. The interactions you have with someone over the course of a year, can impact their future. Positive energy is contagious. Sometimes a job can be challenging, but in the long run, I promise you that the rewards outweigh the challenges. No matter what the ups or downs are, strive to make a good impression, and one that matters.

### About Greg Martinez:

*Greg is the Director of Education at WTI and a former instructor. He has worked at WTI since 2007 and brings a wealth of knowledge and positivity to the table. Greg obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Services Organization and Policy from Wichita State University. Greg also earned a Master of Science degree in Health Care Administration from Oklahoma State University.*

## GOAL ACHIEVED!

June 2021 **Graduates** Employed in their Field as of Date of Publication

MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

 **38**

PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

 **4**

MEDICAL BILLING & CODING

 **5**

HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION

 **58**

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY & NETWORK ADMINISTRATION

 **9**

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

 **1**



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