



# wti CONNECT 360°

## WOMEN IN NONTRADITIONAL CAREERS

March was Women’s History month, so we wanted to take this opportunity to point out some of the career programs at WTI that need more female presence. We consistently see successful female graduates in these programs. Our female students and graduates at WTI continue to inspire us every day. Read some of the stories below to learn more about some of our graduates’ success. In the HVAC field, only 1.5% are women, whereas Computer Technology consists of 27.2% women in the field and Electronics consists of 10.9% women in the field according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Women are capable of anything. As the Rosie Riveter’s posters say, “We Can Do It!”



**Shannon**  
Joplin

Tell us about yourself and where you are at today.

**My name is Shannon. I graduated from WTI Joplin’s HVAC course last year and am now working as a HVAC Refrigeration Technician for S&L Refrigeration in Sarcoxie, MO.**

Did WTI play a role in helping you achieve your goals?

**WTI has been a major contributor to where I am now. From the Financial Aid office helping me make sense of what was available to helping me go to school. Career Services helped me with a resume and sent me leads to open positions around the area. My instructors not only taught me, but continued to help and support me whenever I had questions.**

What would you recommend to other women who are wanting to get into a technical field?

**The best advice I can offer is to first have a goal. Once you find one, take one step at a time. Trust yourself, keep your focus, and whatever you’re after will be within reach.**

Tell us about yourself and where you are at today.

**I work for Greencheck Fan Group. I’m currently wiring control boards and all of its components. My goal is to become their first female tester. Thanks to WTI, I meet the qualifications.**

Did WTI play a role in helping you achieve your goals?

**Absolutely. I wouldn’t be achieving my goals without their guidance and support.**

What would you recommend to other women who are wanting to get into a technical field?

**I encourage women to jump in with both feet and don’t look back. It’s an awesome feeling knowing that you can expand your knowledge and expertise to another level.**



**Megan**  
Tulsa

Story continued on the next page...

### NOTABLE DATES & EVENTS

**4/15** - Good Friday (CLOSED)  
**4/17** - Easter  
**5/3** - Teacher Appreciation Day  
**5/26** - Classes End

**5/30** - Memorial Day (CLOSED)  
**5/31** - Classes Start  
**6/22** - HVAC Technician Day  
**7/4** - July 4th (CLOSED)

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Tell us about yourself and where you are at today.

**My name is Katie. I am a WTI graduate of the Electronics program. I currently work for The Bradbury Company as an Electrical Designer. My main responsibility is designing cabinets that house an array of electronic components that power and control metal forming equipment.**

Did WTI play a role in helping you achieve your goals?

**WTI played a large role in getting me from where I was in my career as an Administrative Assistant, to where I am now. The classes and hands-on experience I was provided during my time in the program gave me the skills necessary to market myself in the design world, and ultimately obtain a lifelong career path.**

What would you recommend to other women who are wanting to get into a technical field?

**My advice to other women who are interested in getting into the technical field is to do some research, find a technical skill that feels like a good fit for you, and to go get enrolled in some classes. Technical programs are quick and to the point, you will pick up the skills fast and get into a fulfilling career. There are so many available jobs in the technical field right now, especially electrical, and employers are wanting diversity. They are wanting people who can give different perspective and ideas than they are used to, and that will be your advantage. All you have to do is put yourself out there.**

## MAKING ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY



February was Black History Month and we wanted to take the opportunity to recognize one of the best and brightest minds in technology. There have been many African Americans that made enormous leaps in technology. We might not be where we are today with computers if it wasn't for some of these individuals, one of them being Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson.

When Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson (born August 5, 1946) was young, she took accelerated math and science classes at Roosevelt High School in Washington D.C. where she graduated as valedictorian.

She was one of the first African American students to attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She graduated, being the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in physics in MIT's history. After working for Fermilab and serving as visiting science associate at the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Switzerland, she began working on the technical staff for Bell Telephone

laboratories (now AT&T) and also served as a professor at Rutgers University. While at Bell Labs, she studied materials that were to be used in the semiconductor industry, optical and electronic properties of two-dimensional and quasi-two-dimensional systems. She conducted breakthrough research that enabled others to invent the portable fax, touch-tone telephone, solar cells, fiber optic cables, and the technology behind caller ID and call waiting.

In 1995, she was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as Chairman of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Dr. Shirley Jackson was the first woman and African American to hold this position.

In 1999, she became the eighteenth president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). While she was at RPI, her goal was "to achieve prominence in the 21st century as a top-tier world-class technological research university, with global reach and global impact."

She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her brilliance.

## WTI VISITS MODIG

Wichita's Electornic Systems Technology students got the chance to step out of the classroom and tour Modig's new North American headquarters to check out the CNC machines.

Modig Machine Tool is an innovative company that provides high-speed machining technology. They provide production solutions in many industries, including: aerospace, automotive, transportation, heavy industries, and large component manufacturers.



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**Nathan** - Joplin Graduate

## GRADUATE SUCCESS



Nathan considers himself a troubleshooting fiend and a hardworking individual who strives to do his best at any problem that may arise.

He was the go-to guy in his family when it involved anything technical. After a couple of failed attempts at other career paths, he decided that the Computer Technology and Network Administration program at WTI in Joplin was the way to go.

Nathan most admires his supervisor. Nathan

said that his supervisor has been through a rough life and found that IT was a good path for him. His supervisor's knowledge and experience helped Nathan out in a couple of his own rough spots as well. Nathan appreciated the ability of his boss to do his own job and to help him out as well.

Waking up in the mornings to be in class then going to work was challenging, but he managed to stick to it. He also said that coffee helped. While attending WTI, anytime that Nathan had a question or needed help, staff and instructors always had him covered. "All of my interactions among the crew were delightful," he said. He knew that his instructors cared and wanted everyone to succeed, get their certifications, and pass the course with flying colors.

Career services assisted him all the way up until he was sitting in his own office working on a customer's computer. He explained, "If I hadn't found a job, they made sure that I had my options open for whatever popped up, and until I was in a position, they were searching for an opening anywhere they could find in the IT field and I appreciate them for that."

The certifications that he received while attending WTI was his A+ Certification and his Microsoft Technology Associate Networking Fundamentals Certification. He is working towards his Network+ or Security+ Certification and is also focused on gaining more experience in the field.

Nathan is now in between titles of Systems Administrator Intern 1 and Systems Administrator 1 at Pitsco Education LLC. It is an educational STEM product development and manufacturing company that helps schools worldwide get technology-related products in the classrooms and into the hands of students.

Nathan's definition of success is being able to set out after a goal and achieving that goal by whatever means possible. His advice to future students is, "Never be afraid to ask questions. You will learn that almost immediately in the field so you might as well start in an environment that embraces it. Be personable and open to new ideas but be willing to stand on your own when you have to."

## INSIDER INFO

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**Chisoe Brown** - Tulsa HVAC Instructor

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

I participate in my Native American culture. I am a straight dancer and dance at the Osage Ceremonial Dances. As for hobbies, I like to cook, fish, play disc golf, and exercise.

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

My grandmother's furnace went out in the 1980s and an HVAC company came out late in the snow and ice and repaired her furnace. I just wanted to return the favor and help others. But the U.S. Navy trained me in Marine Engineering (closed loop systems) or as a Stationary Engineer in the civilian world. So, I was destined to be a HVAC/R Mechanical Instructor.

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

I am a Desert Storm Veteran. Also, I was in a couple of background scenes of the movie "Killers of the Flower Moon." The movie is scheduled to be out sometime this year on Apple+.

### Are there any students that inspire you?

There are many. I like the second chance felon making positive life choices. Also, the increasing number of females getting into the HVAC field, particularly the single parent raising children, working, and going to school.

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

Continue your education after graduation. The HVAC/R industry is evolving and there are many residential heating and air technicians in the field. Separate yourself from the normal, become specialized and enroll in training courses.



# COMPETITIVE COMPOUNDING AND CREATIVITY

The Pharmacy Technician students in Wichita and Joplin got to combine the skills they learned throughout the program with creativity.

The students worked in groups to create various products through compounding. Some of the products consisted of ointments, moisturizers, pet ear treatment and much more. They competed to try and win first place. The students were each judged on what they created and their overall presentation. This is an amazing hands-on experience for the students to show off what they learned. They all did a fantastic job.

## FEEL GOOD FOCUS

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I have always enjoyed helping people ever since I was a kid. I think a lot of it started when I was a youth climbing the ranks in my Boy Scout troop. Through hard work and dedication, I was able to become an Eagle Scout. During that time, I was able to work with lots of different people and learn how to interact with adults. Later when I was a senior in high school, I took an electronics class and thought it was very interesting. I seemed to have a knack for understanding what the teacher was talking about and I really enjoyed the hands-on learning. After I completed high school, back in the mid 80s, I had a big decision to make. Should I go to a traditional college like all my friends, or should I go to a trade school and focus on what I thought I had a knack for? The choice I made 37 years ago to attend Wichita Technical Institute's Electronics Technology program was perfect for me.

I was told that I was able to catch on to technology quickly and the teachers at the time thought I worked well with students. After attending WTI for a year, I was asked if I would like to be a lab assistant to the teacher of the fundamentals class, Larry Dukes. Everyone has a favorite teacher they will always remember, and he was mine. I thought to myself, "Wow, what a neat opportunity." So, for the next year, I worked with first-time students and had a blast! That year zipped by. Then all of a sudden, my education was complete, and I graduated. Well, I must have done something right because the school asked me if I wanted to be an electronics teacher. I never would have thought that my life would go in this direction at the time. I thought about it, I thought it might be scary, I weighed the pros and the cons, then I made the decision

to take the chance and start teaching. Before I knew it, 10 years had passed. During that time frame I had the opportunity to teach every single class offered throughout the electronics program. I thought to myself, "Where else can you find a job to help so many people at once?" It was then that I realized I had found my niche. My career started to grow. I worked in Admissions and Financial Aid helping to enroll new students for a while. Later, I started working in Career Services and got to know a lot of the employers around the Wichita area. My hard work, knowledge, and dedication in adult education paid off for me when I was asked to be a Campus Director.

Years have passed since I took on this role. The history of WTI and the experience that I have gained over the last 37 years has helped to shape and mold my first and only career. Whenever you have the opportunity to grow in your job or career, your first reaction may be fear of the unknown, or this is too risky, or maybe you are just lacking confidence. Those feelings are all normal. Take a step back and ask yourself, "Do I have the capability to learn how to do this new task? How will it benefit me and my family? Is the outcome worth it?" If you can answer yes to all these questions, the answer should be obvious. Surrounding yourself with people that share the same values as you is also a key part to anyone's success. To me, every step up I made throughout my career, always involved the opportunity to help people realize their future through learning something new. I have enjoyed helping thousands of people over the last 37 years and hope to continue this until I retire. In my opinion, you will never have a more self-satisfying job than one where you can help people accomplish their short and long-term goals every day. This is my amazing career!

*Written by Rod Moore - Wichita Campus Director*

## GOAL ACHIEVED!

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



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