

# wti CONNECT 360°

## FOR OUR HEROES

For the veteran, thank you for bravely doing what you're called to do so we can safely do what we're free to do.

WTI recognized their veterans and gave each of the staff, faculty and students who have served in the military a challenge coin. A challenge coin is something to show appreciation for a phenomenal job – it is more than just a pat on the back; it is something to remember the moment by.



## VETERAN'S SUCCESS

One of the most heartwarming things is when a veteran is willing to share their story.

Amy Lankford served in the U.S. Navy from 2013 to 2016. She decided that she was ready to tackle a different type of training than what she had in the military. She was wanting to find a technical college that was rather close to home and had small class sizes. WTI had exactly what she was looking for. From the moment she stepped into the building, everyone was really friendly and helpful. "They really believe in you and want you to succeed," she said. Her favorite experience she had while attending WTI was her instructor believing in her and washing away her self-doubts.

Amy attended WTI-Joplin. During her education, she was an honor student, and she is now a Certified Pharmacy Technician and is CPR certified. Amy was offered a position at Walgreens and she is working towards becoming certified in immunizations. Amy's determination followed along with her favorite quote., "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."

Amy advises other students and veterans that want to pursue an education at WTI to, "Just go for it, because the hard work you put in will give you success. If you focus on your goals and commit to the end result, you can achieve them."

We would like to honor Amy for her service to our country. We are proud that we had the opportunity to work with Amy and watch her grow in a new field that she was passionate about.



### NOTABLE DATES & EVENTS

- 11/18** - Joplin Graduation Ceremony
- 11/24** - Thanksgiving (CLOSED)
- 11/25** - Black Friday (CLOSED)
- 12/23** - WTI CLOSED
- 12/24** - Christmas Eve
- 12/25** - Christmas Day
- 12/26** - WTI CLOSED
- 12/31** - New Year's Eve
- 1/1** - New Year's Day
- 1/2** - WTI CLOSED



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# STUDENT APPRECIATION

Wichita, Tulsa and Joplin served up a fun Student Appreciation event for all of the students to show how much we appreciate their commitment to success.



# WTI SHOWS RECOGNITION!

WTI showed their appreciation to all of the Computer Technology and Electronics Technology pros in September. In October, WTI recognized all of our students going into the Medical Assistant, Pharmacy Technician or Billing and Coding Fields.



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# INSIDER INFO



**Michael Burton** - *Wichita Director of Financial Aid*

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

I love helping students improve themselves. Watching students grow as they advance through their programs is one of the coolest things I have seen in my professional life.

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

Being a part of something bigger than myself. It is really great to know that I had a part in helping someone gain new opportunities.

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

Follow your dreams and don't give up. Education is something that no one can ever take away from you. Take every opportunity to learn more and use criticism as an opportunity to get even better.

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

After graduating from Kansas State University with a degree in Business Administration, I began working in the banking industry. After seventeen years, I decided that I needed to do something to better help people. Education is something that I believe in very strongly, and I have been able to satisfy that need by helping people get into school at WTI.

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

I am a husband and father of three. My family and I love our animals, K-State Football, traveling (especially to Las Vegas), and searching flea markets for Van Halen records.

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

I love Greyhound Racing. For many years I volunteered with Race The Wind Greyhound Adoption. We worked to find homes for retired racing greyhounds. I have adopted eight myself and taken care of and sent countless dogs all over the United States to find their forever homes.

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

Eddie Van Halen – Eddie came to the United States from the Netherlands with his family when he was very young. He was literally a self made man. His family had little and all they knew how to do was play music. He learned to play the guitar with no formal training or even knowing how to read music. He was always looking for ways to innovate and be different. He never settled for being the same as everyone else.

**Are there any student stories that have inspired you?**

I have students inspire me every day and it makes my job worthwhile. I had one student come into my office and she really didn't think there was any way she would be able to afford paying for college. We went through the process and she found out she qualified for more assistance than she first thought. She began to cry, hugged me and said, "I never thought I would be able to go to college." This is why I came to WTI, to help people get to a place where they can make a better life for themselves and their families.

## WTI TEAM MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

### OCTOBER

Shawn Batt	15 Years	Shane Cavin	5 Years
Brandi McIntyre	14 Years	Alex Heisler	2 Years
Paula Jerden	11 Years	John Arebalo	2 Years

### NOVEMBER

Rhonda Peacock	11 Years
James Eaton	2 Years
Pamela Pinkney	2 Years

### DECEMBER

James Ballard	9 Years
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## WELCOME TO THE WTI TEAM

Please help us welcome our new staff members; Michael Siedhoff, Troy Oviatt, Shawn Mitchell, Thalia Sanchez, Aidan Lyday, Sophia Carlson, Brayden Coffey and Sherry Clark at the Wichita campus; Also welcome Beth Stacy at the Tulsa campus; and Jonathan McDaniel and Stephen Rose at the Joplin campus!

# FEEL GOOD FOCUS



Over the 28 years that I have taught at WTI, I have had the privilege of teaching many students that were quite exceptional and have become very successful in Electronic Systems Technology. One of the students that stood out was William, who graduated in the fall of 2013. He accepted a position with The Bradbury Group, an international company located in Moundridge, Kansas. He started out as a cabinet builder; he wired the cabinets for the Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) that ran the machines that Bradbury built and designed. He was so knowledgeable and proficient at it, that they promoted him and he started writing the code to run the PLCs.

Along with the added responsibilities, they promoted him to Design Engineer. This also led to handling setting up the machines for new customers and troubleshooting existing customer problems. William would also travel internationally to install and service Bradbury

machines. William has told me about his travels to Europe, Saudi Arabia, China and Argentina and Brazil. Just think it all started right here at WTI. With a good education and dedication, these students have changed their life for the better. At WTI, we are thankful that we got to be a part of their journey and success.

### About David Hull:

*David earned a diploma in Electronics from Wichita Technical Institute. He has a journeyman license in consumer electronics and industrial electronics from the International Society of Certified Electronics Technicians (ISCET). ISCET is the technical division of the National Electronics Service Dealers Association (NESDA) and the Certified Electronics Technician Program measures the degree of theoretical knowledge and technical proficiency of practicing technicians. David is also certified in Fiber Optic Cabling and Motion Control Programming. He spent several years as a production supervisor with H.J. Heinz/Tasty Frozen prior to joining WTI. He began with WTI as a service shop supervisor before becoming an instructor.*

# A BRIGHTER FUTURE AWAITS

Students in Wichita and Tulsa proudly walked across the stage and claimed their diploma or degree. This is only the beginning to a greater future. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments and future success.

Wichita's graduation ceremony was held on September 17, Tulsa's graduation was held on November 4. Keep an eye out for the Joplin graduates that will walk across the stage on November 18.



## GOAL ACHIEVED!

May 2022 **Graduates Employed**  
in their Field as of Date of Publication



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