



wti CONNECT 360°

FAMILY TRADITIONS



Autumn wound up enrolling in 2021 through our partnership with Spirit AeroSystems' Electric Apprenticeship program. Initially, Autumn went to a traditional college to pursue a teaching degree but came to realize that this wasn't for her. Autumn liked the fact that WTI offered a flexible schedule and hands-on experience. Unlike traditional colleges, the training was shorter, more concise, and didn't require a lot of time doing homework on subjects not related to her career goals. Autumn had an amazing experience and worked hard to graduate and earn her certifications. After graduating with honors in 2023, she continues to be part of the Electrical Apprenticeship program at Spirit AeroSystems.

Spirit AeroSystems has been very impressed with the training, character and work-ethic of all three Lerbacks. In fact, here is what Michael Hiebert (GDLC Electrical Maintenance, IBEW Vice-Chairman and Apprentice Committee, and Team Lead/Shop Steward at Spirit AeroSystems) had to say about the Lerbacks:

The Electronic Systems Technology program has been a flagship program at our Wichita campus since 1954. This program teaches students how to install, troubleshoot, repair and upgrade electronic and electrical systems. Courses are offered through a blended learning environment in a combination of on-campus and online experiences which provides an optimal balance of hands-on activity and convenience. Students also have the opportunity to earn in-demand industry certifications, such as their IPC J-STD-001 CIS Solder certification, IS CET Associate Certified Electronics Technician certification, IS CET Industrial Journeyman certification and Federal Communications Commission General License during their time in the program. We partnered with Spirit AeroSystems in 2021 to provide additional training to employees in the Electrical Apprenticeship program.

An outstanding example of how students have benefitted from their time at WTI are the three members of the Lerback family. The Lerbacks have a long, successful history with WTI as dad Bret, son Michael, and daughter Autumn, all graduated from the Electronic Systems Technology program and went on to work at Spirit AeroSystems in the electrical department.

Bret was the first to attend WTI in 2001. He was working at Boeing Wichita, now Spirit AeroSystems, as a machinist and was looking to advance his career and found that the Electronic Systems Technology program fit his skills and passions. Bret noted experiencing nothing but kindness and support from the staff and graduated with honors in 2003. He went on to work at Spirit AeroSystems and is now an Electrical Maintenance Team Lead.

Michael followed his dad to WTI and enrolled in 2014. He just graduated high school and was considering additional educational options. Michael knew he did not want a traditional college experience as he preferred a more hands-on, real-world training format and wasn't interested in classes that weren't related to his employment goals. Michael also knew that he wanted a career, not just a job, and WTI could offer that. He worked hard to achieve academic success and was able to graduate in 2015. Now, he works at Spirit AeroSystems as a CNC Electrical Maintenance Technician.

“Bret, Michael, and Autumn Lerback are valued members of the Spirit AeroSystems maintenance electricians team. Bret has been a mentor to our apprentices since the program at Spirit started and has helped grow the knowledge of those around him. Following in their father's footsteps, Michael and Autumn are quickly showing their value as team members. Michael has completed our apprenticeship at Spirit and has proven he is a capable technician, with an excellent work ethic and a friendly demeanor, he is succeeding at a high level in our field. Autumn is in her second year of the Maintenance Electrician Apprenticeship Program at Spirit AeroSystems. She is extremely bright and an outspoken advocate for the program and her peers. Even as an apprentice her leadership skills are readily apparent and she is exceeding expectations on a daily basis. It was a pleasure to have Bret as a mentor and is an honor to have him as a colleague and friend. I have enjoyed the opportunity to pass along my knowledge and experience to Michael and Autumn and to mentor them in their father's footsteps. I cannot speak highly enough of them and applaud the success of the Lerback Family in an ever changing and extremely challenging field.”

The Lerbacks were very appreciative of these kind words and noted they will continue to strive to live up to this high praise. They also wanted to share some words of encouragement with all current or future WTI students. They want to remind you to stay on task, always keep your goal in mind, and never be afraid to ask questions because, “There are no stupid questions if it helps you to better understand the issue at hand.”

We at WTI are honored and humbled to have had the opportunity to support all three of the Lerbacks during their educational journeys. We are also thankful for our relationship with Spirit AeroSystems and look forward to a long, successful collaboration.

NOTABLE DATES & EVENTS

- 5/1** - Classes Start
- 5/5** - Cinco de Mayo
- 5/29** - Memorial Day (CLOSED)

- 6/22** - HVAC Appreciation Day
- 7/4** - Independence Day (CLOSED)



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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Annually in March, we celebrate Women's History Month. Here at WTI, we appreciate and value the impact made by our female staff, instructors, and students. Considering this, we decided to celebrate them through the showcasing of some of our successful graduates and employees. To learn more about these featured women, continue reading through the Newsletter.

FEEL GOOD FOCUS



After graduating high school, I immediately enrolled in college, and soon realized that in most colleges, everything is up to you. Nobody is motivating you to succeed, nobody is encouraging you to care, or even to pass your classes, not even your professors. I have had conversations with classmates, and we can all agree on something, most educational institutions are simply run like businesses, and they just throw new information and materials at you for you to figure out. However, I learned something new, not every institution is like that. The time that I have been with WTI has shown me that education is not just a business, and they believe in molding the bright minds of individuals. We do care. I have seen our staff and faculty doing the impossible to help our students succeed.

I can see the faces of our students and ask how they are doing, and how they are feeling. I love having the opportunity to witness the germination of the seed

that was planted in them. I get to be a part of their day by just giving them a word of encouragement and by showing my support. We all need people in our lives to help brighten each and every day.

Many of our students are facing real challenges out there, and they have all become heroes in their own stories by taking the first step to improve their situation and allowing us to be part of that. I admire them for deciding to change their lives for the best. I have seen them walk through our doors after graduating and share their joy of fulfilling one of the many things we all know they are capable of, achieving their career goals.

Emma Mercy Vital is one of the Administrative Assistants at the Wichita campus. She is always cheery and optimistic and is a ray of sunshine for everyone who walks through our front doors, staff and students alike.

INSIDER INFORMATION



Sunny Brooks-Administrative Assistant/Registrar

How long have you been employed at WTI's Tulsa Campus and what is your specific role there?

I started working at WTI's Tulsa campus in the role of Registrar and Administrative Assistant March of 2021.

What's your favorite thing about working at WTI?

I love to join forces with my coworkers to help the school and to help the students be more successful.

What motivates you to wake up and go to work?

I have always thoroughly enjoyed helping others, and

my friends tell me I am very good at it. It makes me feel especially good when students succeed after I encourage and help them with whatever they may need.

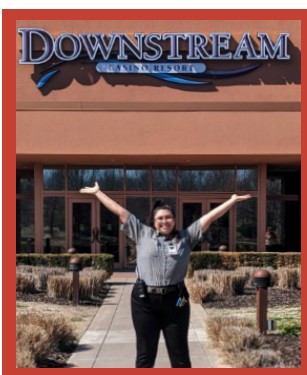
What advice would you give to current WTI students?

Keep your goal in mind and work hard. You are more than likely going to have some ups and downs, but continue to press forward, and you will be rewarded in the end.

Are there any student stories that have inspired you?

I am heavily inspired by any of the hardworking students who may have gone through any hardships and still find a way to thrive at WTI. I am very proud of them.

GRADUATE SUCCESS



Luisana Marie Perez-Colchado defines herself as a handful. But also spunky, determined, compassionate and inquisitive. She wanted a career change to provide more flexibility in life and she needed the ability to reach her goals quickly. This is how she ended up applying to and attending WTI's Joplin campus.

When asked who she admires most, Luisana said she admired her younger self, due to the fact that she had crazy ideas and brought them to life. As we spoke with her, it was very clear that, much like her younger self, her persistence and dedication were going to take her wherever she wanted to go in this world. She defines success as the ability to keep a roof over

your head and food on the table. Along with this, she believes that with success, comes the ability to have time to spend with your family. When asked to explain this in more detail, Marie simply stated, "Success isn't always defined by wealth. I would rather be rich with happiness and time."

While actively participating in WTI's HVAC program, she was able to earn several assorted certifications, as well as her diploma. These certifications as well as the practical skills she learned during her time at WTI helped build the foundation she needed to get her career started. Today, she is happily working in the industry as an Installer's Partner.



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GRADUATE SUCCESS CONTINUED

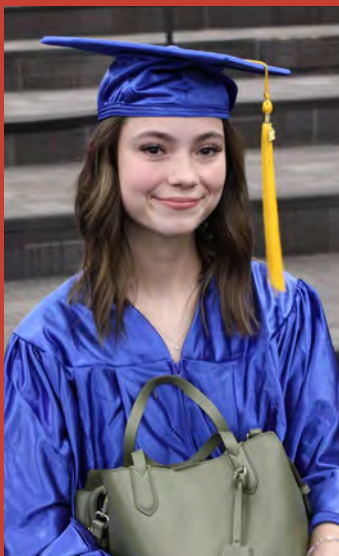


Melantha Morgan is a wife and mother, but also proudly considers herself to be an educated woman. The reason she decided to enroll and pursue an education at WTI's Wichita Campus is so that she would be able to pursue a career that would allow her to help those around her.

Her definition of success is simple. She believes that success is the ability to provide for your family while also doing something you love. For Melantha, WTI's Medical Billing and Coding program was able to train her and give her the ability to do just that. Nowadays, Melantha has a job in the field as an Insurance Coordinator. While her current title is Apprentice, we are sure she will be working independently in no time.

Career services was able to directly help Melantha find the right fit for her post-graduation. They helped her build a clear and concise resume. Additionally, they also sent her job listings to apply for until she found the position that was the right fit for her qualifications and interests. In her experience, all the departments were very helpful during her time at WTI. She had no idea how to enroll or even apply for financial aid, she asked for help and was walked through and assisted throughout the entire process.

Her final words, and words of advice for future WTI students is to not wait to start school. She says that starting school can and will be the most worthwhile thing you can ever do for yourself or for your family.



Elizabeth Cavanaugh is a lot of things. She is a determined, curious, bright, relatable, hardworking, intelligent, passionate, caring, organized, friendly and ambitious person. Elizabeth decided to pursue an education at WTI's Tulsa campus after learning more about the Medical Assistant program. She was interested in how fast-paced the program was and the ability to start her career immediately after graduation. Additionally, Elizabeth told us that she really appreciated how the program offered a lot of information on all aspects of the medical field.

Elizabeth's biggest influence was her mother, she admires her immensely. Her mother made sure to always make her feel loved and happy. Elizabeth's mother is a strong woman, with a kind heart, who always made sure she felt understood.

In her opinion, success is the ability to be free and satisfied with your life. As far as her definition of success, Elizabeth relates her definition to a quote from Albert Schweitzer: "Success is not the key to

happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."

During her time in WTI's Tulsa campus Medical Assistant program, Elizabeth was able to earn her Registered Medical Assistant certification. From there, she graduated and went on to find a rewarding position at the Ascension Medical Group. Elizabeth told us she loves her current position. She is able to continue learning more about the field, and constantly feels appreciated as an employee. She plans to continue working for a couple more years before going back to school to become an Ultrasound Technician.

Elizabeth's favorite quote is an excerpt from a poem titled A Thousand Versions of You, written by Nikita Gill: "You have shed a thousand skins to become the person you are today. And if you feel overwhelmed by the many people you once were, remember, your bones have grown, but what makes them has never changed."



GENEROUS DONATIONS

Wichita Technical Institute and all of our staff and students would like to thank Johnson Controls International PLC for their recent contribution to our HVAC/R lab. They donated eight new furnaces for the HVAC/R students' learning lab. We are very appreciative of the newly donated furnaces and for the opportunity for all of our HVAC/R students to learn and practice on these shiny, new appliances. Here soon, our HVAC/R students will be swapping out the older equipment and replacing it with the new units from Johnson Controls.

AISHA BOWE'S LEAP INTO SPACE



Image sourced from aishabowe.com

February was, as it always is, Black History Month and we here at WTI decided to take the opportunity to recognize one of the best and brightest minds in technology. Although there have been many African Americans individuals who made a difference in the field of technology, we decided to focus on Aisha Bowe.

Aisha Bowe is a modern tale of technological success. She is the co-founder and CEO of STEMBoard, a small business creating software solutions for government and private-sector clients who seek to make a difference in the lives of women everyw who are disadvantaged.

One of the things that inspired Aisha was when her own guidance counselor refused to support her dreams. The guidance counselor suggested a career in cosmetology over Aisha's own interests and passions, which were significantly loftier. Aisha pushed herself and pursued

degrees in aerospace engineering, ending up at NASA as a mission engineer. Additionally, Aisha mentored students in her role as liaison to the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program.

These days, Aisha is an Entrepreneur, Motivational Speaker, former NASA Rocket Scientist and even a soon-to-be Astronaut. Aisha is making miraculous revolutionary steps for all African Americans and women alike, with her upcoming journey to space. She will be a part of a future Blue Origin flight crossing the Karman line. This will be the first crew made up of solely African American women. Aisha's company, STEMBoard, has even been recognized by Inc. 5000 as one of the fastest-growing companies in America. This has made Aisha Bowe an incredibly successful entrepreneur and an inspiration to all of us, especially disadvantaged women all over, and people of color.

WICHITA SPRING 2023 GRADUATION CEREMONY

Students in Wichita not only added a big smile to their face as they walked across the stage on March 4th, but they also added an esteemed accomplishment that will allow them to advance into a new career. Congratulations to all our graduates. We are so proud of all your accomplishments and cannot wait to see what you accomplish going forward!



WTI TEAM MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL

Nicholas Smith 1 Year
Darrin McIntyre 17 Years
Missy Elliot 4 Years

MAY

Rod Moore 38 Years
Chissoe Brown 2 Years
Sara Landwehr 7 Years
Kelly Prater 4 Years

JUNE

Stephen Gillmore 15 Years
Richard Synder 14 Years
Tyrone Brown 6 Years

WELCOME TO THE WTI TEAM

Please help us welcome our new staff members; Cody Garner, Cole Hansen, Jacob Kirkover, Kiara Ladehoff, Miles Chamberlain, Seth Dillman, Ty East, James Shepherd, Scott McCarthy, Shaun Stewart, James Wasinger and Thomas Martin at the Wichita campus; Gary Robertson, Patrick Whelphey, Vanessa Pelton and Patria Ndozi at the Tulsa campus; and Andrew Thompson, Jordan Lisle and Amy Jones at the Joplin campus!



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