



WESTMORELAND
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



2024
ANNUAL REPORT

A WORD FROM



BRIDGET JOHNSTON, CHAIR WESTMORELAND'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As Chair of the Board of Trustees, it is with great pride and gratitude that I reflect on the past year at Westmoreland County Community College. The year has been marked by resilience, change and as always, an unwavering commitment to student success.

Westmoreland continues to fulfill its mission of improving the quality of life in the communities we serve through education, training and cultural enrichment. Under the leadership of our administration and faculty, we have expanded academic programs, strengthened community partnerships and worked hard to continue to provide exemplary student services—all while navigating the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing educational landscape.

Our focus remains strong on aligning our programs with regional economic needs. We are not only preparing our students for meaningful careers but also supporting the growth and vitality of our local industries and filling the needs of our workforce.



I would like to thank our dedicated faculty and staff, whose passion and professionalism drive the college forward each and every day. I also want to recognize the students who continue to inspire us with their perseverance and ambition. And to my fellow trustees—thank you for your leadership, time, insight and steadfast support of our shared vision. 2024 proved that collectively, we can lead the college forward and remain a vital part of a successful future.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to being viewed as an institution of higher education that helps students succeed and provides a place where the community can engage in lifelong learning. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected community through education.

With sincere appreciation,

Bridget Johnston
Chair, Board of Trustees
Westmoreland County Community College

BUILDING FUTURES, HONORING LEGACIES

THE IMPACT OF GIVING

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Westmoreland Awarded JFF Grant

In September 2024, Westmoreland was awarded a nearly \$200,000 grant from Jobs for the Future for work at the Advanced Technology Center.

Jobs for the Future (JFF) is a national nonprofit whose mission is to transform U.S. education and workforce systems to achieve equitable economic advancement for all. The Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI) is partnering with JFF, Pennsylvania State University (PSU), and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT) to support a groundbreaking national workforce initiative. The Metallurgical Engineering Trades Apprenticeship & Learning (METAL) initiative aims to address critical workforce shortages across the casting and forging industries. Data show a pressing need for at least 122,000 additional personnel in vital casting and forging roles by 2028. METAL focuses on engagement across the full education pipeline, from school-aged children to adults and incumbent workers.

As a selected grantee organization, Westmoreland is responsible for regional intermediary activities in Pennsylvania, focusing on engaging with employers in the metal industries and developing/expanding apprenticeship/work-based learning programs and pre-apprenticeships to train participants in occupations in the metals industries. Westmoreland will also work on increasing awareness to the metal industries, including employers, operations and career pathways, through outreach, connecting employers with the public workforce system, education partners and other stakeholders, and providing technical assistance to develop, implement and expand pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships and non-registered apprenticeships, and other work-based learning programs in Pennsylvania.





Remembering TOM WANDRISCO: A Champion for Hands-On Careers

In December 2024, Westmoreland lost a dear friend and generous supporter, Tom Wandrisco. A local business owner and entrepreneur, Tom's passion for supporting traditionally less glamorous yet essential occupations has left an indelible mark on our institution and community.

Tom's crowning achievement was the establishment of a \$50,000 endowed scholarship fund dedicated to students pursuing careers where they "get their hands dirty." This visionary initiative, the Nancy King & Thomas A. Wandrisco Endowed Scholarship supports aspiring professionals in fields such as plumbing, HVAC, welding, robotics and culinary arts - occupations that are in high demand but often overlooked.

A Legacy of Generosity

Tom's commitment to Westmoreland extended far beyond this single act of generosity. Over his lifetime, his total contributions to the college approached an impressive \$80,000. His remarkable dedication to education and workforce development will continue to benefit Westmoreland students for generations to come.

Perpetual Impact

The endowed scholarships established by Tom Wandrisco will serve as a legacy, supporting Westmoreland students in perpetuity. His foresight in recognizing the importance of skilled trades and hands-on professions will help address critical workforce needs in our region. Tom's generosity and vision exemplify the transformative power of philanthropy in higher education. His contributions will not only change the lives of individual students but also strengthen the local economy by supporting essential industries. Westmoreland is profoundly grateful for his support and is committed to honoring his memory by continuing to nurture the talents of students in these vital fields.

DRIVEN TO SUCCEED

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND HONORS

2023-24 All-USA/All-PA Academic Team Winners

This recognition honors an exceptional group of community college students who have achieved academic excellence and demonstrated a commitment to their colleges and communities. As part of the award, winners receive a scholarship to attend the PA State System of Higher Education university of their choice.



RAEGAN MCKELVEY

Upon graduating from Westmoreland, Raegan transferred to PennWest California to major in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. After completing her bachelor's degree in Science, she wishes to pursue a career with Wildlife Services, the Fish and Boat Commission or National Park Services.



ALAYNA ICE

Upon graduating from Westmoreland, Alayna went on to pursue a bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a long-term goal of becoming a Speech or Language Therapist.



Front Row, L-R: Syd Bodenheimer, Alan Laick, professor, and Alex Rodriguez. Back Row, L-R: Alyssa Altfather and Oliver Rominski

Students in Assistant Professor Alan Laick's Design Studio class developed an integrated marketing plan for the America250PA Direct Effect™ Innovation Challenge. The theme for 2024, "Powering the Future," focused on solar energy and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's goal of becoming fully electrified and solar-powered by 2040. The project held special significance for Westmoreland County, as the first solar-powered road in Pennsylvania runs from Greensburg to Delmont.

Our students embraced the challenge with a compelling superhero-themed campaign, "A New Dawn," which highlighted the potential of solar energy in transforming transportation. Their innovative approach earned them a spot in the final round of the three-stage competition. As part of their journey, they presented their campaign at the GO Laurel Highlands America's 250th Summit, showcasing their creative vision to industry leaders and community stakeholders.

Their hard work and dedication paid off—on November 15 they presented "A New Dawn" at the PA State Capitol Complex in Harrisburg and secured an impressive third place finish in the statewide competition.

On April 17, Westmoreland hosted its **second annual Career Closet Fashion Show**, an engaging and educational event designed to help students prepare for professional success.

The event featured student models showcasing appropriate attire for job interviews, demonstrating the importance of making a strong first impression in the workplace. Additionally, faculty and staff participated by humorously illustrating what not to wear, providing a lighthearted yet informative contrast.

The Career Closet, a valuable resource for students, offers access to professional clothing to ensure they feel confident and prepared for job opportunities. This event reinforced the importance of professional presentation while fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment.



*Back row: Liv Cooper (communications officer), Laylo Tukhtamurodova (president), Jonathon Kiggins (secretary), Angelina Maman (treasurer)
Front row: Bodie Dubreucq (vice president for organizations), Erica Dix (executive vice president), Nicole Sarocky (events coordinator)*

The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as the voice of the student body and the primary governing body for all student organizations. Its role includes oversight and support for recognized student groups and honor societies, ensuring student engagement and advocacy.

In 2024, SGA worked with 18 student organizations, including the newly established Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society. They also continued their signature student feedback forum, "Spill the Tea with SGA," providing an open space for students to share concerns and ideas. Additionally, SGA representatives actively participated in Board of Trustees meetings, ensuring that student perspectives were heard at the highest levels of college leadership.

HONOR SOCIETIES



PHI THETA KAPPA

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is the only nationally recognized honor society dedicated to students at two-year colleges and associate degree-granting institutions. Membership is offered each semester to eligible students who demonstrate academic excellence.



In 2024, Westmoreland's Alpha Upsilon Upsilon chapter welcomed 43 new members in the spring induction ceremony and 39 in the fall. Throughout the year, PTK members led several impactful events, including "HIRED!"—a career-focused game show, a mental health program and a midterm preparation event, all designed to support student success and well-being.



PSI BETA

Westmoreland proudly hosts a chapter of Psi Beta, the national honor society for psychology, recognizing students for their academic excellence in the field. Membership is offered to students based on GPA and achievements in psychology. On September 20, Psi Beta welcomed 11 new members during a special induction ceremony.

Throughout 2024, the chapter organized engaging events focused on well-being and mental health, including a self-care fair, a fall chill walk and a music therapy demonstration, providing students with hands-on experiences in psychological wellness and community engagement.



NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) recognizes outstanding academic achievement in career and technical education fields. Eligible students are invited to join each semester in recognition of their dedication and excellence.

On October 29, NTHS welcomed 15 new members during a special induction ceremony. Throughout the year, members actively contributed to student success by assisting with the Career Kickstart event and the Resource Rush at the Advanced Technology Center, providing valuable support and resources to their peers.



ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA

Westmoreland's Omicron Eta chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda, a national honor society, recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of nontraditional students while fostering a culture of excellence, leadership and service.

On December 4, the chapter celebrated a historic milestone by inducting its inaugural class of 20 students in a special ceremony. Westmoreland is now one of only two community colleges in Pennsylvania to establish this prestigious honor society, reinforcing its commitment to supporting and honoring the achievements of nontraditional students.

GRADUATIONS



On Friday, May 10, Westmoreland proudly honored the hard work and dedication of 57 nursing graduates at the **annual Pinning Ceremony**. This time-honored tradition symbolizes their transition from students to professional nurses, marking a significant milestone in their journey. Family, friends, faculty and staff gathered to celebrate their achievements and recognize their perseverance through a rigorous academic and clinical program. Each graduate received their nursing pin, a symbol of their commitment to compassionate care and excellence in the field.

On November 20, Westmoreland proudly celebrated the graduation of Class #61 and Class #62 from the **Municipal Police Officers' Training Academy**. A total of 12 dedicated cadets received their diplomas, marking the successful completion of their rigorous training and preparation for law enforcement careers.

The ceremony also recognized outstanding achievements within the class, with several cadets receiving awards for their exceptional performance in various areas. These awards included: Academic Excellence, Firearms Proficiency, Driving Proficiency, President's Leadership Award and the Ron Waugaman Scholarship.



Westmoreland proudly hosted its **53rd annual Commencement Ceremony** on Friday, May 10 in the Student Achievement Center gymnasium at the Youngwood campus. During this memorable event, the college conferred associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates to approximately 350 graduates. The ceremony celebrated the academic achievements and hard work of the graduating class, marking a significant milestone as they moved forward into their careers or continued their educational pursuits. Family, friends, faculty and staff gathered to honor the accomplishments of the graduates and to wish them success in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

CHEF SCOTT SCHMUCKER was the recipient of the 2023-2024 Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Teaching Award. In his role as Associate Professor of Culinary Arts & Hospitality Programs, Chef Schmucker has made an impact on his students both in and out of the classroom. He displays leadership within the college, consistently contributes to his discipline, and demonstrates expertise in his profession.



Chef Schmucker brings acclaimed industry experiences to the classroom. These include time spent working with the Ritz Carlton Hotels, preparing meals for celebrities, professional athletes and teams, working to feed those attending the Olympics, and owning and operating several successful businesses.



MICHAEL HRICIK, Professor of English, received the James Davenport Award from the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) Association for his union advocacy on local and state levels.

The award is based on criteria such as providing leadership in higher education; promoting, designing and coordinating programs that enhance the relationship between higher education and the community; improving relations and understanding among higher education groups; developing and promoting legislation impacting higher education; and contributing to the NCHE mission, goals and advocacy.

A faculty member at Westmoreland since 1992, Hricik has been involved on many levels in the college's Professional Association, serving in various capacities including teacher welfare chair, vice president and president.



The Westmoreland Culinary Arts & Hospitality Department hosted its first **"WESTMORELAND'S CHOPPED"** competition which was a huge success. Four teams of faculty and staff members battled it out to see whose culinary masterpiece would impress the judges and earn them the coveted trophy. The winning team was comprised of (L to R) Brittany Shinsky, Community Engagement; Lorrie Douglass, Business Development; and Brittany Martin, Educational Foundation.



The 2024 Student Choice Award recipient was **JESSE SOMERS**. This award recognizes a non-teaching employee who goes above and beyond to help Westmoreland students succeed. Jesse joined Westmoreland as a part-time counselor at the Latrobe Education Center in 2019 and then took on his current role as TRIO Student Support Services Counselor in 2022.



Jesse said, "This award comes from the students I serve here at Westmoreland County Community College and it proves that I am having a positive impact on the ones I work with. As a first-generation college student myself, I know what it is like to have even just one person understand your situation and to be that go-to when situations arise. I enjoy every aspect of my career here at Westmoreland and this award solidifies that I am where I need to be."

AARON ALLEN was the recipient of the 2023-2024 Outstanding Part-Time Teaching Award. Corporal Allen is an instructor within the Criminal Justice program who was recognized for his dedication, commitment to excellence and impact on student success. His expertise and passion for teaching have made a lasting impression on both his students and colleagues.



Using real-world examples and experience, Allen brings a unique perspective to the classroom. Aaron attended the Police Academy in 2015 and then worked in the patrol unit for approximately five years. He has since served as a community service officer, firearms instructor, field driving instructor, patrol supervisor, field training officer, child car seat technician, school bus inspector, PACIC intelligence officer, de-escalation instructor and recruitment coordinator.

Each fall, Westmoreland honors exceptional non-teaching employees through the Behind-The-Scenes Award. In 2024, the recipient was **KRISTEN MARTIN**, division clerk for the School of Art, Humanities, Social Sciences & Public Service. Kristen joined the Westmoreland team in 2022 and said, "It's a privilege to support our students, faculty and staff every day. Westmoreland is such a wonderful community and I'm grateful to be a part of it."





For the first time in college history, Westmoreland brought home the coveted Presidents' Cup from the **WESTERN PA COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**, an intensive nine-month program focused on developing leadership competencies essential for college leaders. The program culminated in capstone projects that tackled opportunities or challenges aligned with each institution's mission and strategic plan.

Team Westmoreland's **PACK PROJECT** focused on non-traditional students and included the implementation of Alpha Sigma Lambda, an honor society for nontraditional students. Westmoreland is only the second community college in PA to secure a chapter of this honor society.

Representing Westmoreland from left to right were Rob Velella, coordinator/Student Life; Judy DeWitt, director/Business Development; Brittany Shinsky, director/Community Engagement; Tricia Thomas, coordinator/Web Content and Digital Marketing; Joanna Markle, director/Grant Activities; and Jill Cable, staff accountant.



Two Westmoreland chefs were honored by the **CHAÎNE DES ROTISSEURS**, showcasing the excellence of our Culinary program. **CHEF WILLIAM RACINE**, Pastry Arts instructor, was promoted from Chef Rotisseur to Midwest Counselor Culinaire, a prestigious role in which he will oversee the Midwest Regional Young Chefs Competition to prepare young culinarians for national competition. Additionally, **CHEF GREG NEMCHICK** was inducted into the Chaîne des Rotisseurs.

The Chaîne des Rotisseurs is an international, invitation-only organization for individuals and institutions with world-class culinary skills. Membership includes chefs, restaurant owners, gourmards, hoteliers, sommeliers and more.



HOSTING EXCELLENCE

PREMIER EVENT SERVICES AT WESTMORELAND

Event Highlights Showcasing Community Impact and Partnerships



On April 15, **EBARA ELLIOTT** hosted its Leadership Development Program at Westmoreland, bringing together leaders from around the world to advance their leadership skills. The program was translated into three languages, with interpreters providing simultaneous translation to ensure full participation. Attendees praised the college's exceptional facilities, highlighting Westmoreland as a premier location for offsite corporate programs.

On September 21, the **COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE** recognized Westmoreland's Events department with the "A Hand Above the Rest" award at its Annual Appreciation Luncheon. This honor celebrates those who go above and beyond to support CSAY's mission of reducing underage drinking and substance use in Westmoreland County. Westmoreland's dedication to the Youth Summit, Prevention Conference, regular meetings and various initiatives has been instrumental in their success.



27%
increase
in rentals

373
events hosted

In 2024 the college welcomed many new rental clients, including:

- Amazon
- American Nephrology Nurses Association
- Girl Scouts of Western PA
- Goodwill of Southwestern PA
- Ebara Elliott Corporation
- Hitachi Energy
- International Conveyor and Rubber
- Jobs for the Future
- Judge Michele Bononi
- Omega Dance Challenge
- And More

BUILD BACK BETTER INITIATIVE

ADVANCING ROBOTICS AND INNOVATION



SPRING 2024 SEMESTER

17 Students enrolled
13 Scholarships
\$35,410 Scholarships

FALL 2024 SEMESTER

21 Students enrolled
14 Scholarships
\$39,296 Scholarships

BUILD BACK BETTER PROJECT: ROBOTICS

Westmoreland's Advanced Technology Center (ATC) has taken a collaborative, multi-faceted approach to strengthening the robotics workforce in our region. Through strategic partnerships with students, educators and industry stakeholders, the ATC continues to drive innovation and workforce development.

Community outreach efforts included participation in the Westmoreland-Fayette Manufacturing Industry Partnership events in April and June, bringing together education, workforce development and industry leaders to expand opportunities for the region's workforce. Additionally, the ATC was represented at the ARM Annual Member Meeting in Pittsburgh and conducted industry site visits, including training sessions at Advanced Construction Robotics and reciprocal visits with Zoll Medical, Siemens and Intervala.

As part of its robotics initiatives, the ATC collaborated with the Pittsburgh Robotics Network and the college's Career Connections Department to develop a Resume Writing & Job Search Planning for the Robotics Field workshop. This workshop helped students prepare for Discovery Day 2025, equipping them with networking and job search skills for internships and employment opportunities.

Faculty and staff actively engaged in workforce development through speaking engagements, industry visits and collaborative events. A key highlight was the Industry 4.0 for Educators event, presented in partnership with Catalyst Connection and the Consortium for Public Education. This full-day seminar introduced Industry 4.0 concepts, featured hands-on activities in laser engraving and 3D printing at the ATC's Makerspace, and concluded with a strategic planning session on introducing trades careers to K-12 students.

Support for students enrolled in the AAS Robotics program remains strong, with 21 students enrolled in the fall semester and 20 in the spring. A total of 28 BBB Robotics scholarships were awarded across both semesters, further reinforcing the ATC's commitment to developing a skilled robotics workforce for the future.

MAKERSPACE

The Makerspace has made significant strides in development and implementation, fostering innovation, hands-on learning and industry collaboration. Membership agreements have been established, and comprehensive operational and safety documentation has been generated to ensure smooth and secure operations.

State-of-the-art technical equipment, including a laser cutter, 3D printer, CNC router and vinyl printer/cutter, has been successfully integrated into the space. Various workshops have been conducted, covering essential skills such as basic electrical concepts, laser etching, soldering fundamentals, blueprint mastery, digital design and electrical measurements. Additionally, a 3D additive printing hub has been introduced, featuring Stratus and Ultimaker printers.

Collaboration remains a key driver of success in the Makerspace. The MAE Technical Advisory, along with Siemens, continues to shape ongoing projects and advancements. MAE, a growing start-up company, has expanded its workforce to support contract work and is actively exploring research, development and training opportunities in partnership with the college and the Makerspace. Siemens is leveraging the machine

shop and robotics for research and development while playing a crucial role in establishing a certification and safety protocol for machine use. A structured process is being developed for

potential machine users based on experience and required training, with Westmoreland's machine instructor assisting in the certification procedure.

The Makerspace serves as a hub for hands-on learning, technological innovation and industry collaboration, driving workforce development and creative exploration.

WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP
ATTENDEES

20
40



WESTMORELAND ATHLETICS

A YEAR OF TRIUMPHS & TEAMWORK

BASEBALL

- Head Baseball Coach **MIKE DRAGHI** won his 750th career game as the head coach of the Wolfpack.

BASKETBALL

- TYLER TRAVILLION**, Men's Basketball, was named to the NJCAA All-Region Honorable Mention Team.
- Westmoreland welcomed a new Women's Head Basketball coach, **TOM BRUSH**.



Mike Draghi photo courtesy of Robert Koch

BOWLING

- The Men's and Women's Bowling team qualified for the NJCAA National Championships.

CROSS COUNTRY

- The Women's Cross Country team finished as runner up in the Region 20 Championships.
- Three members of the Women's Cross Country team took part in the NJCAA Cross Country National Championships.
- Four members of the Cross Country team were named to the Region 20 All-Academic Team.





SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

- Westmoreland's Athletic Department won the NJCAA Region 20 Jack Cistrano Sportsmanship Award.



GOLF

- The Men's Golf team won the Region 20 Tournament, **CONNOR IARUSSI** won the individual Championship and **CARSON McCULLY** was also named to the All-Region Team.
- **KYLIE KADAS** finished as the runner up in the Region 20 Championships.
- The Men's Golf team qualified for the NJCAA National Championships.
- Sophomore **KYLIE KADAS** earned All-American honors, placing 15th at the NJCAA National Championships.



ELEVATING ACHIEVEMENT

STUDENT SUCCESS SERVICES MAKE A DIFFERENCE



MILITARY FRIENDLY

Westmoreland was proud to receive the 2024-2025 Military Friendly® Schools Gold Award, recognizing our dedication to creating sustainable and meaningful educational pathways for military service members and veterans. We are committed to fostering a supportive environment where those who have served our country can seamlessly transition into higher education, gain valuable skills and share their experiences with the campus community. Through tailored resources, academic support and a welcoming atmosphere, we honor the sacrifices of our military community and ensure they have the opportunities needed to achieve their educational and career goals.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

In 2024, Westmoreland introduced the RISE (Reimagining Inclusive Supported Education) program, a transformative initiative designed to create new opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This innovative program provides a structured pathway to higher education and sustainable employment, empowering students to achieve their academic and career goals.

The program's pilot group of students is set to begin in fall 2025, marking an exciting step forward in Westmoreland's commitment to fostering an accessible educational environment for all learners.

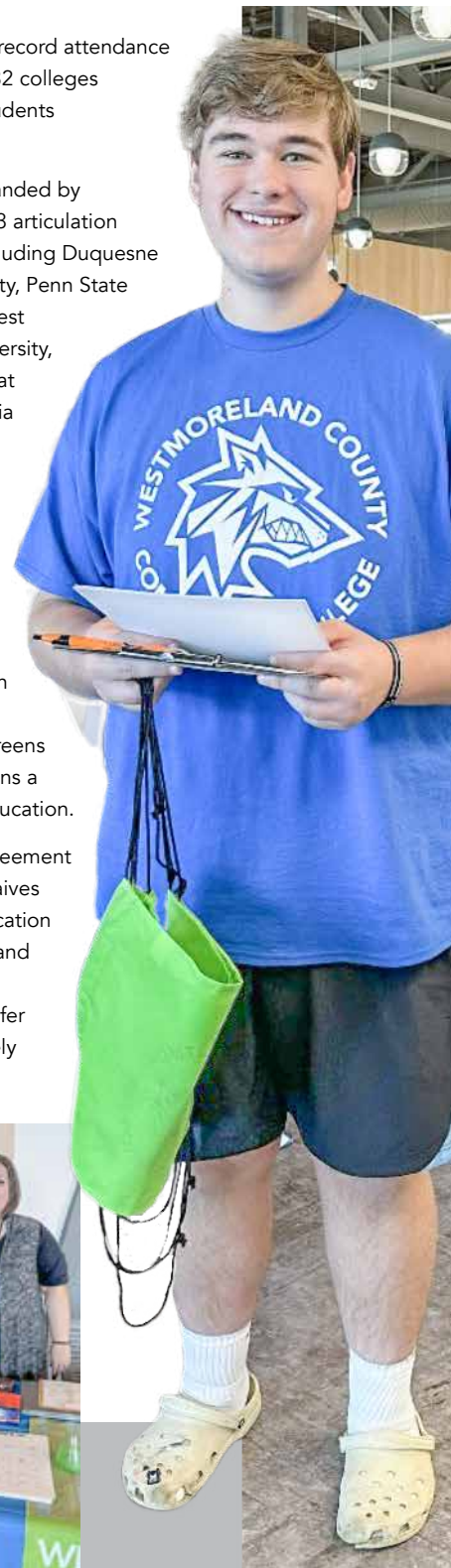
TRANSFER ADVISING

In 2024, Westmoreland saw record attendance at its Fall Transfer Fair, with 32 colleges participating and over 86 students attending.

Transfer pathways were expanded by updating and adding over 83 articulation agreements with schools including Duquesne University, La Roche University, Penn State Regional Campuses, PennWest California, Saint Francis University, The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg and West Virginia University.

A key highlight for the year was a new agreement with the Duquesne School of Pharmacy, allowing students to complete an AS in Biology at Westmoreland before earning a doctorate in Pharmacy at Duquesne. This partnership also offers Walgreens and CVS pharmacy technicians a pathway to advance their education.

Additionally, an updated agreement with Pitt-Greensburg now waives non-prescribed general education requirements for Westmoreland graduates with an AA or AS degree, simplifying the transfer process and supporting timely degree completion.



KEYS

The KEYS program has developed and actively maintains a dedicated YouTube channel designed to support students in their academic journey and overall well-being. This channel features a variety of helpful content, including effective study skills strategies and relaxation techniques. These relaxation methods were introduced during the Semper Fi Camp experience, providing students with valuable tools to manage stress and improve focus. By sharing these resources, KEYS aims to empower students with practical skills that promote academic success and personal growth.

TRIO & ACT 101

Each year, TRIO and ACT 101 partner to offer enriching cultural trips that provide students with immersive experiences to expand their understanding of different cultures, traditions and perspectives. These experiences promote global awareness, critical thinking, and personal growth while boosting students' confidence in navigating diverse environments — key skills for success in today's interconnected world.

During the spring of 2024, students enjoyed a memorable Gateway Clipper Cruise, where they experienced Pittsburgh's iconic riverside views while connecting with peers and exploring local history. In the fall, students visited Phipps Conservatory, immersing themselves in the beauty of diverse plant species and learning about global ecosystems.

Both trips were offered at no cost to students with only a minimal fee for guests, ensuring accessibility for all participants and creating meaningful opportunities for exploration and learning.

POSNER GRANT

In July 2024, the college received the Under-served Student and Parent Pathways Grant from the Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh. This grant supports wrap-around services for students, including a social worker, emergency assistance, mental health counseling and career services, with a focus on those caring for children.

In November 2024, the college launched "Balancing Act," offering monthly gatherings—one in-person and one via Zoom—for students balancing school, work and caregiving. Each session addresses career competencies and strategies for managing responsibilities. Participants receive a \$50 stipend per session after opening a free PHEPLE Credit Union account to promote financial literacy.

In the program's first two months, Balancing Act welcomed 53 student participants and 27 children, demonstrating its immediate impact.

CAREER SERVICES

The Career Connections Center achieved numerous successes in 2024 through impactful events and initiatives.

Nursing Practice Interviews were held in collaboration with Nursing faculty, offering approximately 130 practice interview sessions supported by 15 interviewers from organizations such as BAYADA and WVU Medicine. These sessions provided Nursing students with valuable real-world experience.

The **Careers in Human Services Panel** on March 19 featured professionals from Social Work, Psychology and Art Therapy who shared insights into career paths and education requirements. Approximately 35 participants attended either in person or via Zoom, with positive feedback highlighting its inspiring and informative nature.

On April 2, the **Career Kickstart: Excelling in Work and Life** event welcomed 20 students to the Advanced Technology Center, where they gained confidence in their interviewing skills and learned strategies for workplace success.

The **Grad Bash** event, held April 9-10 in partnership with multiple departments, engaged approximately 250 soon-to-be graduates in a celebration of their accomplishments while offering skill-building opportunities. Participants praised the event as impactful and memorable.

The **Career Closet Fashion Show**, hosted on April 17 in collaboration with Student Life, Social Work and Legal Studies faculty, provided students with guidance on professional dress etiquette through an engaging and informative presentation.

The **Radiology Technology Professional Development Day**, conducted in partnership with the Radiology Technology Program, supported second-year students in preparing for job searches, networking and navigating their first year in the field.

During **Career Discovery Day** on November 20, 25 organizations connected with approximately 90 Westmoreland students and 45 Central Westmoreland Career & Technology Center students. Positive outcomes included immediate interviews, job offers and new career interests inspired by the event.

Finally, the **Nursing Student Professional Development Day** engaged 12 employers and 150 students in a career-focused event praised by both employers and participants. One employer described it as "the best career fair they've ever been to," recognizing the impressive student engagement and event organization.

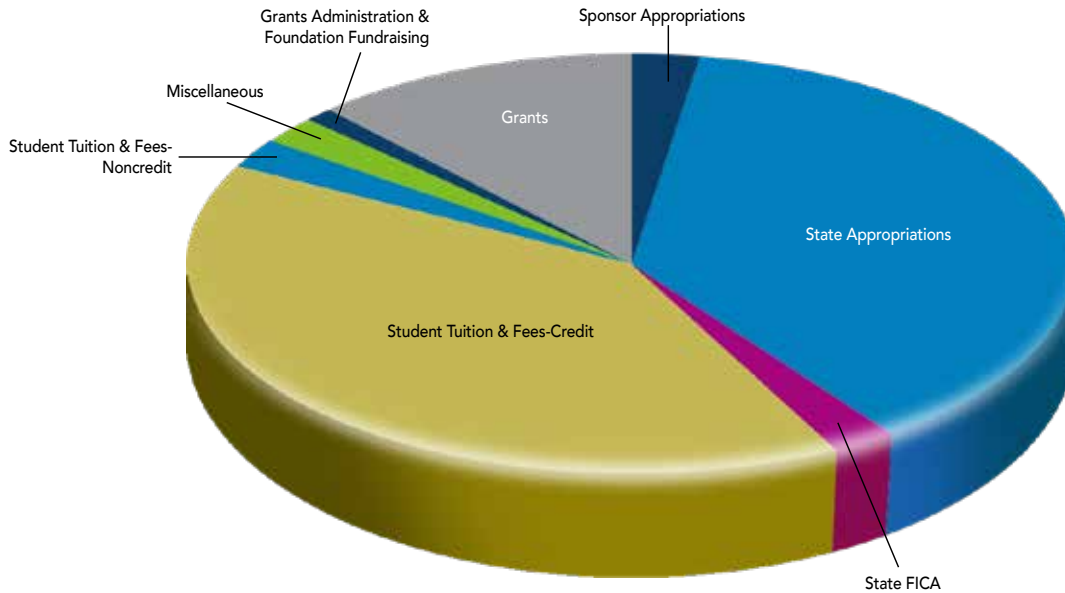
Through these initiatives, the Career Connections Center provided meaningful experiences that supported students' career readiness and professional growth throughout 2024.

WESTMORELAND BY THE NUMBERS

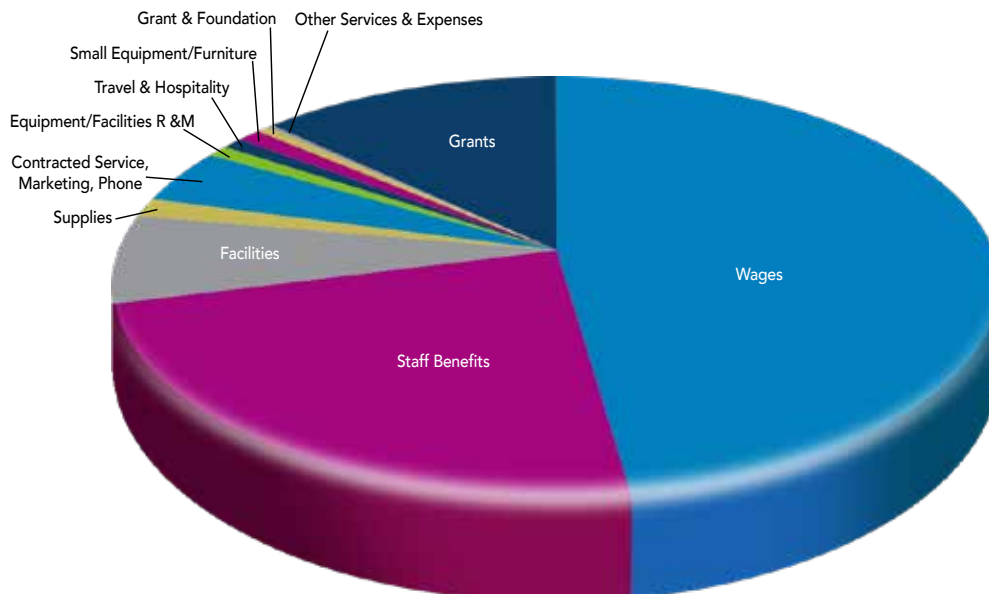


OPERATING BUDGET FY2024/2025

REVENUES

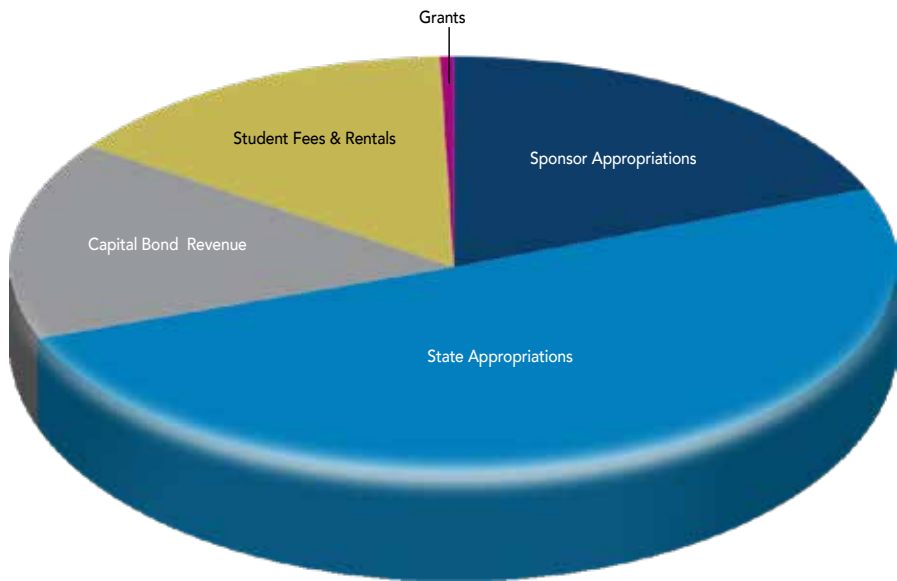


EXPENDITURES

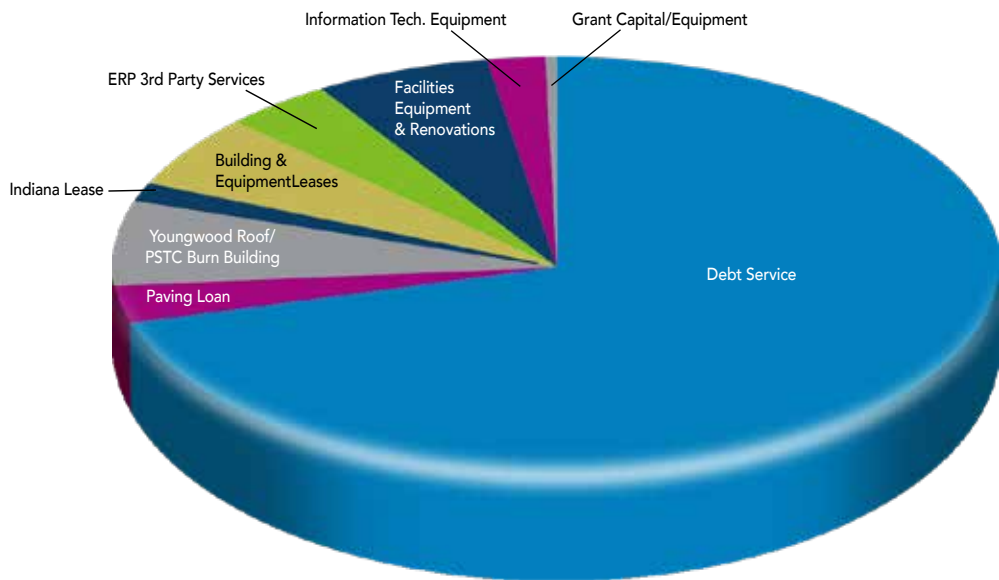


CAPITAL BUDGET FY2024/2025

REVENUES



EXPENDITURES

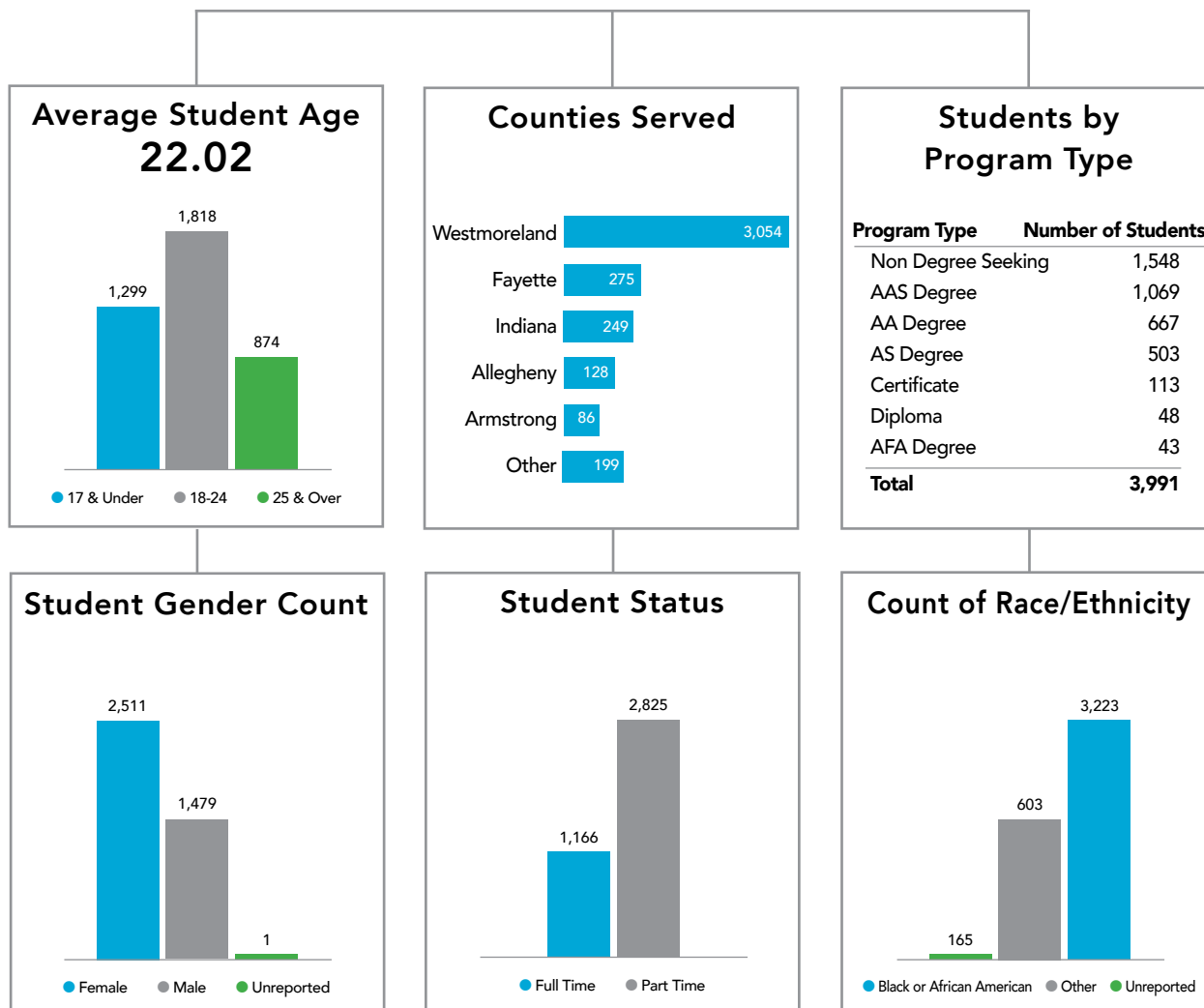


FALL 2024 STUDENT ENROLLMENT DASHBOARD



Source: Official Data Based on Fall 2024 Numbers

3,991 Credit Students



4,027 Noncredit Students

WESTMORELAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sean Kertes, chair

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