

Alumni Spotlight

Anna Joyner



Anna Joyner, 34, of Greensburg, PA, is our featured alumna of Westmoreland County Community College.

From the years of 2012-14, Joyner studied human services and social work at the college.

But how did she come to this decision?

“I attended another local institution from 2007-10 and came to Westmoreland in 2012. I was a young, single parent at the time but knew that education was important for success. Westmoreland offered flexible scheduling, at a reasonable cost allowing me to be a mom and a student,” said Joyner.

It is very common for students to enroll at the college at different ages or stages of their lives. Some enroll right out of high school, but in fact, a large number of students are nontraditional, which is defined as students aged 25 or older. In Spring 2022, Westmoreland County Community College was recorded to have 32.2% of its student population as non-traditional students (according to their Spring 2022 Fact Book: Institutional Data Overview).

As a student, most of us have that one teacher or professor that has made an impact on us. To Joyner, it was Stephanie Turin. Associate Professor/Human Services, Turin was selected as the winner of the 2023 Keystone Award - Social Work Educator of the Year and is the first from a community college to receive this prestigious award.

“She has been an angel on Earth, an advocate and ally, not just for me but for many of the students here.”

When asked about what the college means to her, Joyner has two fond memories that stick out.

“Creating a partnership between Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank to provide diapers to student learners enrolled at Westmoreland County Community College and hosting the first Pardon Hub and Expungement Clinic in conjunction with the opening of the Advocacy Center at the Youngwood Campus are my two fondest memories. While neither of them happened while I was a student, it was an opportunity to give back and ease burdens on students pursuing education and training,” she said.

While there wasn’t a specific club or committee that Joyner was involved in at her time at the college, she has had the honor of being on the Social Work Advisory Board since her graduation in 2014.

So, what is Joyner up to now?

“Since graduating in 2014, I have worked at several nonprofits in the region, including Westmoreland Community Action and Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank. I am currently finishing up my bachelor’s in Public Health from Southern New Hampshire University and am a Career Specialist for Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc.,” she said. “ In my free time, I like to read and spend time outside during the summer when it is warm.”

The college prepared Joyner for her current career, not only academically, but as a person and individual. Beyond academics there was an emphasis on networking and communication, which is a pivotal part of her career now.

Advice to current Westmoreland County Community College students?

“Enjoy the process,” says Joyner.

Years attended (for example, 2005-2007)
2012-2014

What made you decide to attend the college?

I had attended 2007-2010 at another local institution and came to WCCC in 2012. I was a young, single parent at the time but knew that education was important for success. WCCC offered flexible scheduling, at a reasonable cost allowing me to be a mom and a student

What subject(s) did you study?

Human Service/Social Work

Did you move on to further your education/training? If so, where

I am finishing up my bachelor's in Public Health from Southern New Hampshire University

Fondest memory?

I have two- creating a partnership between Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank to provide diapers to student learners enrolled at Westmoreland County Community College and hosting the first Pardon Hub and Expungement Clinic in conjunction with the opening of the Advocacy Center at the Youngwood Campus. While neither of them happened while I was a student- it was an opportunity to give back and ease burdens on students pursuing education and training.

Favorite instructor and why?

Stephanie Turin- she has been an angel on Earth, an advocate and ally, not just for me but for some many of the students at WCCC.

Were you involved in any clubs/sports/committees, etc?

I wasn't involved in anything while a student but, I have had the honor of being on the Social Work Advisory Board since my graduation in 2014.

Current work/employer and how you got to this point. What was your journey after WCCC?

I am a Career Specialist for Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc. I graduated from WCCC in 2014 and since then I have worked at several non-profits in the region, including Westmoreland Community Action and Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank.

How did the college prepare you for your current career?

WCCC not only prepared me academically but as a person and individual. Beyond academics there was an emphasis on networking and communication, which is a pivotal part of my career now.

Current hobbies, interests, likes, etc?

I like to spend time outside, in the summer, when it is warm and reading.

Advice to current students at the college?

Enjoy the process