

Alumni Spotlight Featuring Georgette (Rue) McGavitt



For Georgette (Rue) McGavitt, choosing Westmoreland County Community College was a decision rooted in practicality and purpose. A Belle Vernon native, McGavitt enrolled at Westmoreland from 1995 to 1998, drawn by the college's affordability and its convenient location close to home.

"I chose to attend Westmoreland because it was an affordable option and conveniently located," McGavitt says. "The accessibility allowed me to focus on my studies while staying connected to my community. I was also fortunate to complete my internship at my current place of employment, which provided me with valuable real-world experience and helped launch my professional career."

McGavitt pursued a degree in Office Administration, inspired by her natural leadership qualities and her mother's own path as an office manager. She recalls her time at Westmoreland fondly, particularly a public speaking course that ignited her passion for communication.

"My fondest memory would be my public speaking class and the passion I felt giving speeches in front of my classmates and professor, Dr. DeBacco," she reflects. "He even had me assist other students who were struggling in the class."

She also credits her advisor and instructor, Patty Freeman, as a favorite mentor.

"I could go to her for questions about class, but also receive honest feedback in both a personal and professional way," McGavitt says.

Since graduating in May 1998, McGavitt has built a career centered around community service, reliability, and leadership. She has worked at Belle Vernon Area School District for more than 25 years and currently serves as an accounting specialist. Her experience at Westmoreland laid a critical foundation for this role.

“Attending Westmoreland gave me both the practical knowledge and local opportunity I needed to build a lasting career,” she explains. “The accounting and business courses gave me a strong understanding of public finance, budgeting and administrative processes—all essential in my current role.”

Her commitment to service doesn’t stop at the school district. In January 2022, McGavitt was elected Tax Collector for Washington Township, a position she’s proud to continue as she runs unopposed for re-election. She also works at the Public Safety Training Center in Smithton as a certification evaluator and test proctor. Additionally, she has taught continuing education classes in fire and life safety at both Westmoreland and Bucks County Community College.

McGavitt holds several fire service certifications and is working toward further credentials in Firefighter I and II, Fire Instructor I and II, and Fire Officer III. A dedicated volunteer firefighter for over 30 years, she’s been involved with departments in Washington Township, Perry Township, and currently, Rostraver Township, where she specializes in community outreach and fire prevention education.

Beyond her professional and volunteer commitments, McGavitt finds joy in the simple things.

“When I have free time, I enjoy being out in nature, exploring different waterfalls. It’s calming and keeps me grounded,” she shared. She also cherishes time spent with her son, especially attending Philadelphia Phillies games together.

McGavitt is especially proud of her 15-year-old son, Zander, and grateful for his support and the support of her parents, Patricia and George Rue. “They have always loved me for my strong and independent spirit,” she says.

To today’s students, McGavitt offers this heartfelt advice:

“Your career path doesn’t have to be flashy to be fulfilling—serving your community, being reliable, and making a difference in the background can be just as rewarding. I’m living proof that staying local and staying committed can lead to a long, successful, and purpose-driven career.”

