

Alumni Spotlight featuring Londe Dandar



Londe (Brewer) Dandar, 58, of Greensburg, attended Westmoreland County Community College in 1997 and is our featured alumnus.

So what made Dandar want to attend Westmoreland after high school?

“Westmoreland was affordable, had an excellent reputation, my program of interest was offered, and a critical component was the on-site daycare with amazing staff and faculty. I had three children, I was a single mom who also worked to provide for my family. (Note* Daycare services are currently not available at the college). I always felt my children were safe and cared for and this allowed me to concentrate on my studies and be successful,” says Dandar.

While at the college, she studied dental hygiene and liberal arts. She received her associate of arts from Westmoreland. It provided an excellent foundation, especially being a non-traditional student who had been out of school for nearly eleven years. After graduating, she enrolled at St. Vincent College and obtained two degrees: Bachelors of Arts Psychology/Education and Masters of Science in Special Education.

When looking back at her college days, the memories that stick out the most would be all of them.

Dandar exclaims, “All of my memories at the Youngwood campus are wonderful!! I strongly suggest that anyone who wants to earn a college degree start here. I continue to take noncredit courses here as well.”

Did Dandar have a favorite instructor?

“My professors were amazing! They provided me with the skills, knowledge, and tools to be very successful at a four-year college, but this is a tough one because I appreciated all of my professors. If I had to choose, Dr. Uschak for Microbiology and Anatomy and Physiology, and Mr. Denitti for Algebra was first to come to mind,” says Dandar.

Dandar was not formally involved in any clubs but would have liked to have been.

“With three children, studies, and work, there really was no time, but I would have liked to. There were a variety of clubs available,” explains Dandar.

Now that she has graduated from Westmoreland, what is she up to now?

“I currently work as a high school biology teacher at Pittsburgh Public Schools, in addition to 9th and 10th grade learning support. Westmoreland provided me with a strong foundation to be successful at a four-year school and the biology knowledge and skills to instruct students in the subject successfully,” says Dandar.

Dandar is also active in her community. She helped launch/ coordinate the Lead Safe Westmoreland Program for Westmoreland County, which helps families remediate unsafe lead paint from their homes to prevent learning disabilities, heart, liver issues, and miscarriages. In her spare time, she likes making pottery, reading, watching movies, listening to music, and helping others in need.

She has two daughters. While attending Westmoreland, she tragically lost her four-year-old son in an accident and the college was very instrumental in not letting her give up on her education. She is so very grateful to have attended an institution who really cared about her and her family in such a difficult time. This meant more than she can express in words.

Her advice to current college students?

“Make the most of your education. Take advantage of all your opportunities to grow. You never know what you will utilize in the future,” says Dandar.