

Catching Up With . . .

Former Business Students at WCCHS

District 94
Information &
Technology
Division

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The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight former students' accomplishments in the business field after getting their start by taking our courses here at West Chicago.

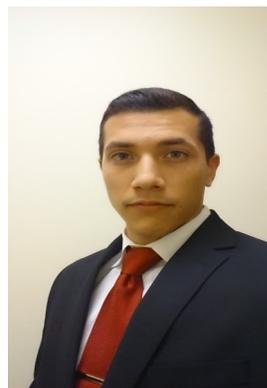
The Business Department offers a wide variety of courses ranging from computer based classes, to accounting, to work experience. All courses strive to be hands on, practical, and implement real world scenarios in the curriculum.

Students who enroll in business classes at West Chicago gain valuable skills that will benefit them in future high school courses, college,

and in the workplace.

Below is a list of our current courses offerings:

- Computer Apps I
- Computer Apps II
- Computer Apps III
- Multimedia Design
- Technical Support Internship (TSI)
- Introduction to Business
- Marketing/Sports Marketing
- Accounting
- Business Law
- CWT/BTI (Work Experience)
- Consumer Education
- Investments



Luis Guzman, Class of 2011

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Ms. Nancy Blume
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Luis Guzman—Class of 2011

Luis Guzman graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 2011. He attended the University of Illinois at Chicago earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and a Minor in International Business.

Luis is currently pursuing

a Master of Business Administration degree at Aurora University while working full time as a **Personal Banker II** at the **Fifth Third Bank** located in West Chicago.

Luis took several Business courses throughout his time in high school including **Introduction to Busi-**

ness, Marketing, Accounting, Business Law, Consumer Education, and Investments.

He credits the knowledge gained from these business courses and his participation at the state and national level in FBLA and LifeSmarts to improving and developing his verbal and written

communication skills.

He attributes his successes and preparation for a career in the Financial Services Industry to WCCHS. He states, *"The Business instructors at WCCHS helped me build a strong foundation that has allowed me to learn and grow both professionally and as an individual."*

Colton Reif—Class of 2011

Colton Reif graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 2011. He attended Miami (OH) University graduating Cum Laude in 2015 with degrees in Finance and Entrepreneurship.

Colton currently is a **Strategic Research Consultant** at **Allstate** in Northbrook, IL. In his current role, he is tasked to research, innovate and analyze emerging trends in people and technology to determine how to best leverage them to improve Allstate. He does a lot of work in the startup realm looking at new technology that can improve efficiency and effectiveness of the insurance industry.



As a student at West Chicago, Colton took **Accounting, Computer Applications, Investments, Marketing, and Consumer Education**. He also participated in FBLA and represented WeGo at LifeSmarts Nationals in Anaheim, CA.

Looking back on his high school career, Colton says, *“The fundamentals of business that were taught to me at WeGo were invaluable as I transitioned into college as well as into the job market. It was my teachers’ enthusiasm for the subjects they taught that sparked my interest in business in the first place and has ultimately landed me here in a job I’m excited to wake up for. My thanks goes out to them for starting me on this path.”*

Samantha Nolte—Class of 2008

Samantha Nolte graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 2008. She attended Illinois State University graduating in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education, a Spanish minor, and a computer programming endorsement. She is currently a Business Education teacher at Wheaton Warrenville South High School teaching primarily computers and programming courses.

As a student at West Chicago Samantha had an interest in business and

“I love teaching Consumer Ed because of the knowledge, energy, and overall passion my Consumer Ed teacher Mr. Zabelin brought to the class.”

—Samantha Nolte, Class of 2008

took **Marketing and Consumer Education** to explore the field. She attributes her career choices of Business Education to her Marketing

class stating *“I knew that I wanted to be a teacher at a young age, but was never quite sure what I wanted to teach. After taking Ms. Durbin’s marketing class, it created a passion in me for business and made me realize teaching core classes was not my only option.”*

Samantha has extremely fond memories of West Chicago Community High School and the education she received from all departments!

Jim Gelhaar—Class of 2011

Jim Gelhaar graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 2011. He then went on to earn an Associate of Arts degree from the College of DuPage and in 2015 graduated from Northern Illinois University’s College of Business with a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy. After completing a three month **Accounting** internship at Grant Thornton, Jim is now taking more college courses to obtain the 150 credit hours necessary to sit for the Certified

Public Accountant (CPA) Test. His goal is to start working in public accounting before transitioning to the private sector.

As a student at West Chicago Jim took many business courses including **Introduction to Business, Business Law, Marketing, Investments, Accounting and Consumer Education**. He also was a member of the 2011 LifeSmarts State Champion team competing nationally in Anaheim.

Jim says his high school business courses prepared him well for college and the workplace. He states, *“Each and every class I took had a large impact in college. I was required to take the college equivalent of each class. Because of the classes I took in high school I was able to do very well when we began covering more complicated subject matter because I already had an established base of knowledge. I am also doing very well in the stock market!”*