

# Catching Up With . . .

District 94  
Information &  
Technology  
Division

## Former Business Students at CHS

The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight former student's 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 work place.

Below is a list of our current courses offerings:

- Computer Apps I
- Computer Apps II
- Computer Apps III
- Desktop Publishing
- Website Production
- Introduction to Business
- Marketing
- Accounting
- Business Law
- CWT/BTI (Work Experience)
- Consumer Education
- Investments



Leslie Shambo, Class of 2000



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Paul Warkins (left),  
Class of 2008

### *Leslie Shambo—Class of 2000*

Leslie Shambo graduated from Community High School in 2000, Western Illinois University in 2004, and received an Master of Science in Integrated Marketing Communications from Roosevelt University in 2005. Leslie currently works for Now What Research. In her role as

Director of Client Experience and Innovation she does strategic planning for clients such as Kraft Foods, American Airlines, Verizon Wireless, and Sanofi-Aventis.

While a student at CHS Leslie got her start on her career by taking **Keyboarding**, and be-

coming an active member of Future Business Leaders of America where she participated at the state level in **Desktop Publishing**. Although she works in Marketing now, one of her biggest regrets is not taking **Marketing** in high school.

She says, "If I could offer one piece of advice to students it would be this: Take the opportunity to explore other electives available to you in high school, not just the 'standard classes'. The sooner you discover your niche, the sooner you'll discover yourself!"

## Vaimans Patel—Class of 2006

Vaimans Patel graduated from Community High School in 2006 and participated in our **Cooperative Work Training (CWT)** program. While a student in our program he worked at Walgreens as a Pharmacy Technician. After high school Vaimans went to Northern Illinois University graduating in 2010 with a degree in Computer Science. He currently works at Allstate Investments as a Software Engineer.

With a new report recently out that 40% of job applicants lack basic employability skills, it is very beneficial that our students have the opportunity to participate in a program like CWT where they are gaining real world work experience, earning high school credit, and getting paid all at the same time!



## Paul Warkins—Class of 2008

Paul Warkins graduated from Community High School in 2008 and will graduate from the University of Illinois this May. He has already accepted a position with West Monroe Partners, a management consulting firm in Chicago. Paul's interest in this field began in high school. While a student at Community High School Paul took **Introduction to Business, Marketing, Investments, and Consumer Education**. Paul was also a member of our Future Business Leaders of Amer-

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*"Without the interest sparked by the business program at WeGo, it is very possible I would not be in the position I am in today, and I will be forever grateful for the opportunities it provided me."*

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ica student group and was on the Lifes-marts State Champion team in 2006 and 2008. Paul states that "Taking business courses at West Chicago pre-

pared me for my degree at U of I more so than any other aspect of my high school career. Not only did it spark my interest in business, it gave me the basic background that I would need to succeed at the University. The talking points it gave me for applications even helped me become a member of the College of Business Honors Program at Illinois. Leadership positions in the clubs in high school also better prepared me for my leadership positions in both my social and business fraternities at U of I."

## David Yong—Class of 1996

David Yong graduated from Community High School in 1996. He then went onto earn a degree in Finance from the University of Illinois in 2000 and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business in 2006. David started his career in the Mergers & Acquisitions group at Bear Stearns in New York. He is now back in Chicago as an engagement manager focused on growth strategy at L.E.K. Consulting, a global strategy consulting firm.

While a student at Community High School, David took several business courses including **Keyboarding, Computer Applications, Business Law, and Consumer Education**. He was also actively involved in Future Business Leaders of America and served as the Vice President of the Illinois chapter. David had this to say about his high school experience:

*"The business courses I took at West Chicago helped me decide to pursue a career in business and provided me*

*with a solid business knowledge base that I further developed in college and at work. Being involved in FBLA taught me lessons in leadership, business concepts, and public speaking that have been valuable in my education and career."*

The Business Department is proud of David and all of our alumni success, and are pleased to hear that the foundation they learned here prepared them for their future.