

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/Sports Marketing
- Accounting
- Business Law
- CWT/BTI (Work Experience)
- Consumer Education
- Investments



Stacey Sams, Class of 2007

Business Education Staff:

Ms. Nancy Blume
Ms. Brigitte Debs
Ms. Donna Durbin
Mr. Dan McCarthy
Ms. Mia Wirth
Mr. Marc Wolfe,
Division Head

Stacey Sams—Class of 2007

Stacey Sams graduated from Community High School in 2007, attended College of Dupage for two years, graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration from Saint Mary's College in 2011, and received a Master of Accounting Science from Northern Illinois University in

2012. Stacey recently passed her CPA exam and will soon begin a position as a Tax Associate with Grant Thornton LLP in Chicago.

While a student at CHS Stacey got her start on her career by taking **Keyboarding, Consumer Education, and**

Accounting. She also became an active member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). The combination of class work and extra curricular participation increased her interest in business.

Stacy credits taking these electives in high school as directing her on her current career path:

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"Learning the basics of accounting and being exposed to how much more there was to learn got me excited about pursuing a career in this field. I have the CHS Business Department to thank for unmasking the career opportunities available to me in the business world."

Dan Rizzo—Class of 2007

Dan Rizzo graduated from Community High School in 2007 and received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Marquette University in 2011. Dan currently works at KPMG in their audit practice division. As an audit associate he works with a team of people reviewing transactions incurred by real estate companies.



During his time as a student at Community High School Dan took several business courses and was an active member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). Some of the courses he took included **Keyboarding**, **Computer Applications**,



Marketing, and Consumer Education. Dan was a successful college student and now is succeeding as a young professional and he feels his experiences at CHS helped stating:

“Taking these business courses, especially Marketing and Consumer Education, and participating in FBLA really helped me develop a base of knowledge that I could build off of in college. This was especially useful since I spent the first year and a half of my college experience thinking I wanted to go to medical school!”

We know whatever field Dan would have pursued he would have succeeded, but it's great to hear his business experience here is paying off!

Jeff Cisowski—Class of 2005

Jeff Cisowski is a proud 2005 graduate of Community High School. After high school he attended North Central College, graduating summa cum laude in 2009 with majors in Economics, Finance, and German. He then attended Chicago-Kent College of Law receiving his J.D. degree in 2012. He recently took the Illinois Bar Exam and will soon be a licensed attorney. He has already accepted a position with a Naperville law firm as an associate attorney representing community

“Today I read, write, and speak for a living and I cannot thank Ms. Wirth and Ms. Blume enough for their support, kindness, and competency”

—Jeff Cisowski, Class of 2005

banks, developers, manufacturing companies, and business owners in a wide variety of disputes.

While a student at CHS, Jeff took

Business Law and Marketing and was heavily involved in FBLA, which he still credits as one of the most positive and impactful educational experiences he had in high school. He states, *“FBLA helped me transfer my classroom skills (reading, writing, speaking) into real-life business scenarios.”*

As many former students have told us, the combination of business courses and involvement in FBLA have contributed to Jeff's success since leaving West Chicago.

Sean Reynolds—Class of 2004

Sean Reynolds graduated from Community High School in 2004. He then went on to earn a degree in Economics from the University of Illinois in 2008. For the last four years he has worked as a project manager for a vendor of McDonald's helping them start their digital menu board program from the ground up. He has recently accepted a position in Chicago at Analytics 8, a business technology and data warehousing firm.

While a student at Community High School, Sean took several business courses including **Keyboarding, Computer Applications, Business Law, Marketing, and Accounting.** He was also actively involved in Future Business Leaders of America and competed at the state and national levels in the Entrepreneurship competition. Sean credits FBLA will teaching him the value of leadership and helping to pave the way for future success academically and professionally.

Sean also says:

“When I think back at how my career got started and what experiences were most valuable to me, I think first about learning Excel functions as a freshman at CHS.”

None of these students would have been successful without their own efforts, but we are pleased to know that what we taught them in our department has been beneficial to their future education and professional lives.