

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
- Multimedia Design
- Website Production
- Introduction to Business
- Marketing/Sports Marketing
- Accounting
- Business Law
- CWT/BTI (Work Experience)
- Consumer Education
- Investments



Diana Martinez, Class of 2009

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Diana Martinez—Class of 2009

Diana Martinez graduated from Community High School in 2009 and from Northwestern University in 2013 earning a BA in Sociology with a minor in Legal Studies. She is currently studying for the LSAT exam while working full-time as a legal assistant and office manager at the Law

Offices of Hugo A. Ortiz, PC. It is Diana's plan to start law school in Fall 2014. She also founded the website, www.legal-lybrunette.org, which is dedicated to providing guidance and assistance to aspiring first generation law students.

While a student at CHS

Diana earned the **2009 Business Student of the Year** and took business electives every year of high school. She was also an active member of FBLA and Lifesmarts qualifying for nationals with both organizations.

Diana credits her business classes and FBLA for shaping her experiences in high

school and later in college. She states, "I began to learn what it means to network, dress professionally, manage time schedules, and expand my comfort zone." She adds advice to current students, "Let yourself grow as a person. Develop great relationships with the awesome advisors and teachers."

John Kinsella—Class of 2009

John Kinsella graduated from Community High School in 2009 and from the University of Illinois in May 2013 earning degrees in Finance and Accounting. John currently works for **Ernst and Young** in San Francisco, CA in their Fraud Investigations and Dispute Services Division.

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



Computer Applications II, and Accounting. John was originally interested in the aviation field until taking **Accounting** in high school. He states:

“My high school accounting class got me interested in business and put me on track for a job at a top global firm.”

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



Amy Axelrod—Class of 2006

Amy Axelrod graduated from Community High School in 2006. She attended Indiana University and graduated in May 2010 with a double major in Finance and Accounting.

While a student at CHS Amy took several business classes and was an active member of Future Business Leaders of America serving as the State Treasurer her senior year. Amy said her business classes at CHS prepared her to know what she really wanted to do for a career, and therefore she was able to

“I had a great business education experience at CHS and it really gave me an advantage in my career path at IU and beyond.”

Amy Axelrod, Class of 2006

declare her major as soon as she arrived at Indiana. At IU, many of her classmates never had a business class in high school and she felt she had an

advantage in her classes having had the business class background from high school. For instance, when her college accounting class covered a year's worth of high school accounting in one week, she had a foundation for the knowledge that was about to come very quickly.

Amy currently lives in Louisville, KY and works in cost accounting for Dow Corning, a global leader in silicones, silicon-based technology, and innovation.

Paul Majchrowski—Class of 2003

Paul Majchrowski graduated from Community High School in 2003. He then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science from Northwestern University in 2007 majoring in Mathematics and Psychology. Paul is a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society and works as a Senior Actuarial Consultant at CNA Insurance in Chicago. His current responsibilities include estimating future liabilities associated with Worker's Compensation losses using various statistical techniques.

While a student at Community High School, Paul took several business courses including **Keyboarding, Computer Applications, Introduction to Business, and Marketing.** He first learned about Actuarial Science from Ms. Blume while a student in her Computer Applications class.

Paul was also actively involved in Future Business Leaders of America and competed at the state and national levels in the Entrepreneurship

competition. Paul credits his college and career success to the skills he gained from business classes in high school and participation in FBLA stating:

“In today's fast paced world, computer skills and business acumen are more important than ever. With the outstanding curriculum and FBLA opportunities, West Chicago's business department offers many great ways to gain business skills and knowledge that will last a lifetime.”