

Catching Up With . . .

District 94
Career & Technical
Education
Division

Former Business Students at WCCHS

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
- Electronic Presentations for Business
- Technical Support Internship (TSI)
- AP Computer Science Principles
- Intro to Business
- Marketing
- Accounting
- Business Law
- CWT (Work Experience)
- Consumer Education
- Investments



Erin Powell, Class of 2014

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Alex Weier—Class of 2012

Alex Weier graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 2012. After high school he attended Northern Illinois University graduating in 2016 with a degree in Accountancy. He then received a Master of Accounting Science in 2017 while serving as a Teaching Assistant at

NIU. Alex is now a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and serves as an International Tax Senior at **Deloitte Tax LLP** in Chicago. While a student at WeGo Alex took several business classes including **Accounting, Marketing, and Introduction to Business.** He also was a member

and officer of **Future Business Leaders of America.** As a member of FBLA, he took 2nd place in the Marketing competition at the state conference and competed at the national FBLA Conference in Orlando.

In reflecting on his time at WeGo, Alex states: "Every business school at every college

in the country requires all business majors to take a basic accounting class, so I recommend taking one so you are ahead of the curve. What FBLA helped me most with in my career was giving me the opportunity to experience a variety of business areas. By getting to experience different things, you might discover a skill or a passion you never knew you had!"

Erin Powell—Class of 2014

Erin Powell graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 2014. She attended Indiana University and graduated in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Media Advertising and Spanish.

Erin's first job out of college was at **Starcom** in Chicago working on their Cheez-Its financial team. Part of her responsibilities included putting money behind advertising, tweeting from Shaquille O'Neil and Charles Barkley's Twitter accounts, and handling million dollar budgets. In April, she began working at **Northwestern University** in the Office of Global Marketing and Communications as a project coordinator. In her current role, Erin helps



implement and execute marketing/advertising campaigns for one of the premier universities in the country. In addition to working full time, Erin is also a freelance photographer using skills she learned in Photography classes at WeGo. Check out her website at www.erinskypowell.com.

As a student at West Chicago, Erin took **Consumer Education**, which has helped her as she transitions into a young adult living and working in Chicago, and also was a member of **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)**. As a junior, she qualified for nationals in Management Information Systems and attended the national FBLA Conference in Anaheim.

David Pater—Class of 2002

David Pater graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 2002. He attended Western Illinois University graduating in 2007 with a degree in Physical Education/Health Education. He then attended Concordia University earning a masters degree in Educational Leadership.

David started his teaching career in Elgin School District U-46, then returned home to WeGo in the fall of 2011. David was our Dean of Students for four years and then transitioned

"Taking business courses early can set you up for success regardless of the career you are looking towards."

—David Pater, Class of 2002

into our Director of Student Services. This fall, he became our Athletic Director

While a student at West Chicago

David took **Keyboarding, Computer Applications, Business Law, Accounting, and Consumer Education**.

In looking back on his time as a student, here, Pater states, *"Business classes have greatly impacted my performance on the job. Budgets and accounting are a large part of my current job. Without prior knowledge through high school and college courses I wouldn't be as comfortable as I am dealing with purchasing and organizing accounts. The West Chicago Business Department guided my understanding of these concepts."*

Alison Miller—Class of 2012

Alison Miller graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 2012. After high school she was a direct admit to Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. She majored in Marketing and minored in Finance and graduated in three years, in 2015. Alison was also involved outside the classroom in college serving as the Director of Corporate Relations for the American Marketing Association.

Alison has worked at **ADLI Corporate Headquarters** in Batavia since gradu-

ating college. In her first role, she worked as a Marketing Account manager overseeing hyper-local projects in the Midwest and West Coast. Recently, she was promoted in the Public Relations department and now manages the Corporate Communications program to ensure ALDI is being positively promoted as often as possible.

While a student at WeGo, Alison was our Business Student of the Year in 2012, and took many business classes including **Keyboarding, Computers**

Applications 1 & 2, Introduction to Business, Accounting, Business Law, Marketing, Investments, and Consumer Education.

Alison's experience prepared her for her future, and states: *"The opportunity to take business classes in high school allowed me to sample many of the different aspects of the business world before picking a major. It was during my high school marketing class that I fell in love with the field, and I have been pursuing that path ever since!"*