

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



Lily Michaels, Class of 2016

Business Education Staff:

Ms. Nancy Blume
Ms. Donna Durbin
Ms. Ashley Walsh
Ms. Mia Wirth
Mr. Marc Wolfe,
Division Head

September 10, 2021

Inside this issue:

<i>Lily Michaels</i>	1
<i>Blanca Rios</i>	2
<i>Jacob Urban</i>	2
<i>Alison Miller</i>	2

Lily Michaels—Class of 2016

Lily Michaels graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 2016. After high school she attended Northern Illinois University graduating in 2020 with a degree in Business Management with an emphasis in Leadership and Management. She also completed minors in Entrepreneur-

ship and in Marketing. Lily is now a Project Coordinator at Lowe's in the Project Sales Exteriors division. While a student at WeGo Lily took several business classes including **Accounting, Marketing, Intro to Business, Computer Apps 1/2, Business Law, Investments, and Consumer**

Ed. She also was a member and officer of FBLA/BPA. In reflecting on her time at WeGo, Lily says: "Taking business classes at WeGo helped me understand how to be prepared for anything. For example, taking the Computer Applications courses were the foundation of learning how to create, sort, and filter through a lot of information. Taking classes at

at WeGo, NIU and now at Lowe's, I know how to quickly and efficiently manage information, which helps me stay organized throughout the workday. Being in FBLA taught me how to professionally present myself and how to interact with other professionals . . . (it) helped me stand out in my Lowe's interview."

Blanca Rios—Class of 1995

Blanca Rios graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 1995. She attended Northern Illinois University and majored in Business/Spanish Translation and minored in Broadcast Journalism.

For the last twenty years, Blanca has worked in both Spanish and English television news. She currently is the New Writer and Digital Producer at ABC 7 Chicago.

Participating in FBLA/BPA was a big part of Blanca's high school experience, and she says, *"I was the FBLA Secretary my senior year of high school.*

While I did not take the business route in my career, FBLA helped me



build networking and communication skills. I learned how to conduct myself in a professional setting and learned valuable interviewing skills. I'm also putting my knowledge of parliamentary procedure and Robert Rules of Order to good use as the Secretary of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists!"



Jacob Urban—Class of 2015

Jacob Urban graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 2015. He attended Syracuse University graduating in 2018 with a degree in Finance and Energy.

Jacob is currently an Energy Trader at BP in Chicago. He trades distillate products at BP helping to grow their energy business and actively trade in the marketplace.

While in high school Jacob was a very active member of the student body serving as President of Student Council,

"It is hard to imagine a scenario where I am in the seat I am today without the course offerings in West Chicago" —Jacob Urban, Class of 2015

competing in Personal Finance Challenge, and as the President of FBLA. He also took **Sports Marketing, Accounting, and Economics** to prepare him for his future.

In looking back on his time as a student, here, Jacob states, *"Courses at WCCHS taught me how to read and interpret company financial statement. More importantly, they gave me chances through which to view business opportunities. Fundamental concepts I apply today—such as risk/reward and market analysis—began the business and economic courses at WCCHS. Additional having the chance to compete in FBLA and Personal Finance Challenge gave me a network to learn from and skills to apply later in life."*

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!"*