



# WTC Distinguished Alumni

Deborah Pruitt Boyd named first WTC Distinguished Alumni

Thousands of students have passed through Western Texas College. Each and every one left their mark on the college and we are proud of all their great accomplishments. Some shining stars have gone on to continue the proud WTC legacy and the Western Texas College Foundation and Alumni Association believed it was time to recognize these individuals.

The newly established WTC Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor granted to an alumnus of WTC. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding individuals who have demonstrated leadership in their chosen profession and distinguished themselves through service to their community.

Deborah Pruitt Boyd of Snyder, Texas, has been named as the first recipient.

After graduating from Snyder High School in 1974, she married her high school sweetheart, Gaylon Boyd, also a graduate of WTC. Mrs. Boyd attended WTC off and on for nearly twenty years, culminating in her Associates of Arts degree in 1993.

Dr. Harry Krenek, President of WTC at the time, fondly told Mrs. Boyd that “she had attended WTC longer than any other student!”

Mrs. Boyd continued her education at Lubbock Christian University earning her bachelor’s degree in Organizational Management in 2001. She has continued to take classes at her local community college, personifying the idea of life-long learning.



*Photograph by Steve Barrett*

Following her successful pursuit of a degree, Mrs. Boyd served as Scurry County Justice of the Peace from 2000 to 2014.

In addition to her career, Mrs. Boyd has stayed involved in the Snyder Community. She is an active member of East Side Church of Christ and serves as Service Unit Manager for the Snyder Girl Scouts. Mrs. Boyd is also the



*Marina Gonzales, Wind Energy Instructor, with students from Snyder Junior High*

# Winds of Opportunity

## Local STEM Students receive hands on experience

Western Texas College's Wind Energy program recently formed a partnership with Snyder Junior High School to introduce students to Wind Energy.

Marina Gonzales, WTC's Wind Energy Curriculum Specialist, and Brooke Piatt, SJHS's engineering teacher created the partnership to utilize Project Based Learning. Project Based Learning teaches students skills that can be learned and applied through real world, hands-on activities.

"Project Based Learning allows students to actively explore concepts through real world experiences providing them the ability to enhance their critical thinking skills and gain a deeper knowledge

of the content being taught," says Stephanie Ducheneaux, Western Texas College Dean of Instructional Affairs.

SJHS students spent three weeks in the classroom learning about the parts and associated functions of a wind turbine by focusing on engineering aspects that included electrical, civil and mechanical.

Approximately thirty students arrived on campus to take advantage of WTC's facilities and expertise. Students first received a quiz to benchmark their knowledge of wind energy. The instructors then split the students into groups of four and tasked the groups to build a miniature, working wind turbine.

"Students really get to stretch their thinking and problem solving skills and apply what they are learning in the classroom in a hands on project," noted Gonzales.

At the end of the day, the teams tested their miniature turbines by placing them into WTC's wind tunnel. If the students built the turbine properly, the attached light bulb lit up.

Mixed results ignited a flurry of brainstorming and problem solving to successfully light the bulb. By the end of the afternoon, every turbine the students built produced electricity that illuminated the light bulb. The student group whose turbine produced the most electricity received prizes of WTC gear.

By equipping students with the necessary tools and challenging them to succeed, the project opened students' eyes and inspired them to consider different career options, comprehend alternative energy, and apply their learned knowledge to a real world purpose.



## Gifts to WTC Foundation December 2015 thru March 2016

### **J.M. Kayser Memorial Scholarship**

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### **Scurry County Junior Livestock Association Scholarship**

Scurry County Junior Livestock Association

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# Message from the Development Office

Your update on the WTC Foundation

The WTC Foundation and Alumni Association hosted the first annual Western Texas College Alumni Reception. It was such a pleasure to meet our alumni at this fun event!

The reception was held the Saturday of the WTC Rodeo and alumni received free tickets to the rodeo that evening. A special alumni seating section was reserved and it was full of familiar faces.

I would like to extend my hardy congratulations to Deborah Boyd, the first ever WTC Distinguished Alumni. She encapsulates all the values WTC

holds dear and we couldn't be more pleased to have her represent our school.

The WTC Foundation and Alumni Association is looking forward to hosting more events and getting to know our alumni even better.

If you know WTC alumni please pass the word along of the new alumni association and have them sign up at [wtcalumni.com](http://wtcalumni.com).

Sincerely,

Katherine Neilson  
*Director of College Advancement*



## Student Spotlight: Legrand Bouyi

Always looking forward, Legrand Bouyi sees his future with bright optimism. His end goal is to be a USDA Meat Inspector.

“It’s a job with a future,” says Bouyi.

Bouyi came to WTC to study Animal Science, play Soccer, and be a part of the Meat Judging Team. He chose WTC because it made sense financially. With the availability of financial aid and scholarships, the burden was less for his parents.

What he found here was a supporting community with teachers who truly care about each student’s success. His advice?

“Don’t go backwards in life. Go forward. Learn and Improve.”



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the board chair of Scurry Community Service and treasurer for the Snyder Chamber of Commerce Gold Coats.

Mrs. Boyd currently serves as Snyder Municipal Judge and is a realtor at Hackfeld's Home and Ranch Real Estate. She and her husband also own Triangle D RV Park.

"WTC is part of my heritage and I'm thrilled to be a part of its future!" states Mrs. Boyd.

"WTC has been important to my family: my parents worked there, my siblings and children went there, and it remains an important asset to the Snyder Community."

WTC President Dr. Barbara Beebe presented the award to Mrs. Boyd at the WTC Alumni Reception held on April 2, 2016. For more information on the Distinguished Alumni Award or to nominate an alumnus, please visit [wtcalumni.com](http://wtcalumni.com).



*Deborah Boyd with members of her family. (Left to right) Stephanie Campbell, Maddie Campbell, Deborah, Gaylon Boyd.*

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