WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE
FOUNDATION
Your Legacy. Their Opportunity.
NEWSLETTER
FALL
2022

Appleton and Nix Named 2022 WTC Distinguished Alumni

Foundation Honors Alumni

The Western Texas College Foundation named Dave Appleton and Jody Nix as the 2022 recipients of the Western Texas College Distinguished Alumni Award. The prestigious award recognizes outstanding alumni that demonstrate leadership in their chosen profession and distinguish themselves through service to their community.

"We're very pleased to honor these two alumni who represent the best of Western Texas College," said Dr. Barb Beebe, Western Texas College President.

Appleton attended WTC from 1980 to 1982 before he started rodeoing professionally. He qualified for the PRCA National Finals Rodeo eleven times. Today, Appleton works as the Manager of Business Development and Corporate Sales for Grady Rentals/ProCoil Tubing & ProFlow LLC.

Nix attended WTC from 1970 to 1973 before he went on to record music with Bob Wills at age 21. In 1975, the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City gave him a Western Heritage Wrangler Award for his outstanding contribution to western music on the album Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys for the Last Time. He continues to play for large crowds of fans.

Dr. Barb Beebe presented the Distinguished Alumni Awards to Jody Nix (left) and Dave Appleton (right).

"Dave and Jody join the ranks of WTC's distinguished alumni that continue to inspire our students," Beebe added.

Beebe presented the awards at the Red Dirt Soiree on Thursday, April 14, 2022. The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor granted to an alumnus of WTC.

WTC Establishes Farm and Ranch Management Program

Program Launches with Farm and Ranch Expo, Red Dirt Soirée

After seeing a need in the community and surrounding areas, Western Texas College launched a new Career and Technical program: Farm and Ranch Management.

"We developed the Farm and Ranch Management program so that students can learn in an engaging, hands-on way," says Dr. Barb Beebe, Western Texas College President. "We're connecting agriculture students with exciting, new pathways, and West Texas farmers and ranchers with a new avenue to acquire great employees."

WTC's Title V Grant staff initiated the new program, spearheaded by Jeffrey Martin, WTC's Title V Project Coordinator. The Grant staff concentrated on renovating the Agricultural Science Complex and agricultural classrooms on campus. They also updated the curriculum for agriculture programs. The Title V Grant staff consisted of Britt Canada, Title V Project Director, Christylee DeBlieck, Title V Administrative Assistant, and Martin.

To give the new program exposure, the Grant staff created two events.

"We decided early on that we needed more than just a recruiting event," says Jeffrey Martin, WTC's Title V Project Coordinator who coordinated the event. "We wanted to raise scholarship funds for our Farm and Ranch Management Program while providing a learning event for our agricultural community," added Martin.

The learning event transformed into the WTC Farm and Ranch Expo, held on March 24, 2022. The event was free for anyone who wanted to attend.

WTC engaged wildlife and agricultural experts to give live demonstrations and relevant talks for West Texas students, farmers, and ranchers. The lineup included

Dr. Calvin Trostle, STEM in Agriculture/Small Grains: Sorghum and Wheat; Dr. Peter Dotray, Weed Control in Cotton; Dr. Ron Gill, Livestock Handling Demonstration; Dr. Ron Kendall, Disease in Wild Bobwhite Quail & Treatment Solutions; and Mike Valentine, Miller Ranch Black Angus Program through 44 Farms.

Attendees also had the option to tour the renovated facilities.

Approximately 400 students from 10 high schools and 100+ farmers and ranchers attended the Expo. Numerous businesses and entities provided underwriting for the Expo that included breakfast and lunch for everyone.

The Grant staff also wanted to raise scholarship funds for the new program. With the help of several committees and dedicated community members, WTC hosted the Red Dirt Soirée, a ticketed steak

and shrimp dinner, on April 14 at WTC Coliseum. Hargrove Crop Insurance generously underwrote the dinner. The Red Dirt Soirée Dinner Committee included Ms. Kathy McCombs Smartt (Chairperson), Ms. Brandyl Calley, Ms. Christylee DeBlieck, Ms. Amy Hargrove, Ms. Misty Hinton, Ms. Penny Perry, and Ms. Darla Wiggins.

WTC alum, 1988 World Champion All-Around Cowboy, and RFD-TV Rodeo color analyst Dave Appleton hosted the event. WTC welcomed famous photographer Wyman Meinzer as the special guest speaker. The evening ended with dancing and music from the ever-popular Jody Nix, another WTC Alum.

The event sold out and WTC raised over $30,000 for Farm and Ranch Management scholarships.

Message from the College President

WTC Welcomes Sheila Hale, New Foundation and Event Coordinator

Sheila Hale
WTC Foundation and Event Coordinator

With a new year comes a change of direction. After the 2021 school year, Alex Phillips, the Director of College Development for Western Texas College, decided to become a stay-at-home parent and enjoy her children to the fullest while they are still small. These times are precious, and we are proud to accommodate her request to choose her family first.

With that decision comes a change in leadership. Sheila Hale comes to Western Texas College from the nonprofit world with many years of experience and a desire to impact the community. The Foundation has already seen numerous, positive modifications under Sheila's leadership, including enhanced scholarship information.

The WTC Foundation Board of Directors' mission remains to ensure that the legacy of those memorialized through endowed scholarships is honored. Western Texas College will continue to provide the upstanding support to students and their families that you have come to expect. We are excited for the future, wherever that may lead us, and we are thankful for your continued support as we provide unmatched educational opportunities in Scurry County.

Gifts to the WTC Foundation

January to July 2022

Century Club - Rotary Club Scholarship
In memory of Dr. Mike Dreith
Snyder Rotary Club

Darden Family Foundation Scholarship
Larry Darden

Dr. Marvin Genuchi Memorial Scholarship
Vena Genuchi Alesio

Dr. Robert L. Clinton Memorial Scholarship
Wanda Clinton

Evelyn Clair McLaughlin Memorial Scholarship
Evelyn McLaughlin Davies

John Archer Fagin Memorial Scholarship
In memory of Richard Gaston Fagin
Martha Ann Fagin

Ray Robbins Memorial Scholarship
Geniece Robbins

Shawn Odom Memorial Scholarship
In memory of Ken Horan
Scott and Sherry Odom
Ashley O. Moon
Scott and Sherry Odom

Westerner Fund
Rick Tate
In memory of Dr. Mike Dreith
Dr. Barbara Beebe
Britt Canada
KUM DUBB Sunday School Class
Gerald and Patricia Claxton
Kathy Hall
Tami Linebarger
Donna Morris
Marjann Morrow
Ralph Ramon
Donna Robinson
Rick and Melanie Schwertner
In memory of Ann Galyean
Britt Canada
Gerald and Patricia Claxton
Kathy Hall
Tami Linebarger
Randy and Donna Morris
Marjann Morrow
Donna Robinson
Rick and Melanie Schwertner
Ernest and Melissa Ynguanzo
Tessa Cotter
Jerry and Geanene Dever
Raul Alcala
Glenda Boyd
JJ and Laura Caswell
Shawn Fonville
Ray and Teresa Newton
Dave and Cindy Hanes
Sharon Gill
James and Gina Goolsby
Ruth Richburg
Stacey Sewell

Western Texas College Memorial Scholarship
In memory of Dr. Mike Dreith
Julie Sentell
N.C. Smith
Mike Thornton
In memory of Ann Galyean
Dr. Barbara Beebe

WTC Rodeo Exes Association Scholarship
In Memory of Robert Baylos Erwin
Aldene and Annette Gaillard
Mike and Diane McLain
Sandy Miller
Mark and LeAnn Mitchell
Sid and Paula Perry
Sam and Jacque Rich
Karla Stewart

Dedicated Benches

Limited Number of Benches are Available to Dedicate

In honor of David Hiltpold and Randy Mosley.

In loving memory of W. A. "Bill" Jones,

The WTC Dedicated Bench Fundraiser began in 2019 and has received tremendous support. Two additional benches were installed in 2021 and are already being put to good use by students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

One blue bench, donated by Jay Cromeens and Johnny Wallace, has been dedicated to the vision of instructors David Hiltpold and Randy Mosley. The courtyard between buildings 15 and 16 has a beautiful place for students to relax.

One green bench, donated by the Jones family in loving memory of W. A. "Bill" Jones, now provides a space for students outside the student center.

A limited number of benches remain available to be dedicated to a loved one of your choosing. The proceeds from each $800 donation benefit the Westerner Fund.

The Westerner Fund helps subsidize student scholarships, educational and cultural activities, and campus and facility improvement and development.

All gifts to the Westerner fund are invested, and only the interest is used, ensuring that the funding lasts perpetually. Your gift creates a sustainable resource for student success at WTC.

If you are interested in dedicating a bench, please contact Sheila Hale at foundation@wtc.edu or 325-574-7943.

Inspire Program

Spring 2022 Recipients Announced

The board of directors voted on each proposal and generously decided to fund each of the three INSPIRE projects. The Spring 2022 semester projects include:

- New scores table for the on-campus athletics gym
- Telescope upgrades for Astronomy Classes
- New softball field speakers

The WTC Foundation is thrilled to be able to continue to fund projects around campus that significantly improve both the student and community experience.

BOARD MEMBERS

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