



# Foundation Scholarship Student Spotlight: Marco Matranga

## International Student Shines on Soccer Team, Phi Theta Kappa

Marco Matranga burst onto the soccer scene at Western Texas College (WTC) last year, journeying from Palermo, Italy. A relentless force, Marco's fire lights his way through his second year at WTC.

Fueled by ambition, Matranga majors in Business Administration and Management, seizing the coveted Dr. Mary and Dr. Duane Hood Phi Theta Kappa Leadership Scholarship for the 2023-2024 academic year, courtesy of the WTC Foundation. With the intensity of a champion, he's an essential pillar of the campus Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Psi Zeta. The chapter just reelected him as treasurer.

"Every time that somebody recognizes my work, I feel extremely honored and grateful. The fact that this scholarship is awarded to only one person on the entire campus who shows leadership skills makes me very proud.

"I read the story about Dr. Duane and Dr. Mary Hood and it fascinated me. They are truly inspirational figures who are willing to financially support youngsters during the hard times at college that can get you through."

With unwavering resolve, Marco set his sights beyond WTC, aiming to leap into a 4-year University to seize his Bachelor's, with the ultimate aim of a Masters of Business Administration.



*WTC Foundation scholarship recipient Marco Matranga poses next to the Phi Theta Kappa table in the LRC/Library.*

Marco's relentless journey accelerates as he eagerly approaches his final semester at WTC.

With unyielding commitment, he pours 100% of his energy into both his classes and his team, leaving no stone unturned in the pursuit of excellence.

# Westerner Welcome Day 2023

WTC Faculty and Staff Welcome New Students



*(L-R) The welcome sign greeted Westerners; Students visiting club/organization tables at the event; Dr. Beebe draws the name of a prize winner from a bucket held by Sheila Hale. More photos on back page.*

Western Texas College's Westerner Welcome Day was an incredible success, with Saturday, August 19, 2023, marking a memorable day for both new and returning students.

The campus came alive with the spirit of Texas hospitality, as WTC rolled out the red carpet for its students and their families. The day began with students and their families checking in at the Student Commons, where they received free meal tickets and the chance to enter an exciting drawing for various prizes. The excitement in the air was palpable, setting the tone for a fantastic day ahead.

For sports enthusiasts, the highlight of the day was undoubtedly the Westerner Men's Soccer Team's thrilling match against Texas A&M-San Antonio, which kicked off at 1:00 p.m. on Weaver Field, just across the street from the main entrance. The soccer match had everyone on the edge of their seats, and the cheers and camaraderie among the crowd added to the excitement.

The heartwarming welcome extended to all new and returning students was a testament to WTC's commitment to creating a sense of belonging on campus. The Welcome table in the Student Commons was a hub of activity, catering to different needs:

Meal tickets and frozen treat coupons were distributed generously, ensuring that everyone had a chance to enjoy a delicious meal and cool off with a sweet treat. The drawing for prizes added an element of excitement, with lucky students winning fantastic rewards.

WTC faculty and staff played a crucial role in guiding students, offering tours, and providing answers to questions. They ensured a smooth transition into campus life. Hydration was also a priority, with an abundance of water and Gatorade available to keep everyone refreshed.

Local food trucks, a true highlight of the event, served up mouthwatering dishes. Students and their families had the choice of savoring either the delectable pizzas from Rollin' Woodfired Pizza or the delicious Mexican food from Norma's Cafe. To satisfy their sweet cravings, attendees indulged in frozen treats, all while enjoying their meals in the comfort of the covered parking area next to the softball field.

But that wasn't all. The event offered an opportunity for students to get involved and explore various clubs and organizations on campus. Phi Theta Kappa, Psi Zeta Chapter, Student Support Services, National Society of Leadership and Success, WTC Tutoring, College Work-Study Program, and more were on

hand to showcase what they had to offer.

Students also had the chance to connect with Snyder Family Healthcare to address their healthcare concerns and inquiries. Local churches were present to introduce themselves to those looking for a spiritual community.

And of course, the prizes! The drawing added an extra layer of excitement, with lucky winners taking home amazing rewards, including dorm essentials gift baskets, WTC merchandise from the WTC Bookstore, and gift cards to popular local businesses.

The success of Westerner Welcome Day wouldn't have been possible without the generous sponsorship from the Snyder Chamber of Commerce, and for that, special thanks were extended.

The event left a lasting impression, instilling a sense of community, friendship, and excitement for the upcoming academic year. Western Texas College students and their families departed with hearts full of gratitude and memories of a truly remarkable Westerner Welcome Day.

# Fall at WTC

## Message from WTC Foundation and Event Coordinator

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In August, the WTC Foundation welcomed 34 students who will be supported by scholarships that have been invested by donors who believe in the impact of Western Texas College.

These students are provided support as they navigate their classes in accordance with their degree plan. Grade checks are completed at 5 and 10-week increments to ensure that if students are struggling with a class, they are provided the means to be successful.

This is an effort that can only be accomplished through teamwork provided by the WTC Foundation office and the Director of Student Success, Melissa Perryman, who is dedicated to providing exemplary tutoring services at Western Texas College.

While you may think that the WTC Foundation only seeks to receive contributions from donors to impact Western Texas College, the reach is far greater than contributions. The influence provided through the Western Texas College Foundation for the next generation of Westerners not only ensures they can be successful but also pays tribute to the faculty and staff that paved the road in the previous 50 years.

My favorite part of the Foundation office is the Articles of Incorporation that have been lovingly framed and hung on the wall as a reminder that you cannot know where you are going unless you understand where you came from.

I am forever thankful for the seven individuals who founded the WTC Foundation in 1977 and I am proud



*Sheila Hale*

*WTC Foundation and Event Coordinator*

to serve Western Texas College as we welcome another generation of Westerners!

# Community Alumni Spotlight

## Ashley Jones, AEMT for Scurry County EMS

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The WTC Alumni Association proudly showcases Ashley Jones, AEMT for Scurry County EMS.

Ashley is a 2018 graduate of Western Texas College who chose WTC to obtain her degree in Mass Communications. In 2022 she earned her Advance EMT certification through Scurry County EMS's partnership with WTC - College on the Square.

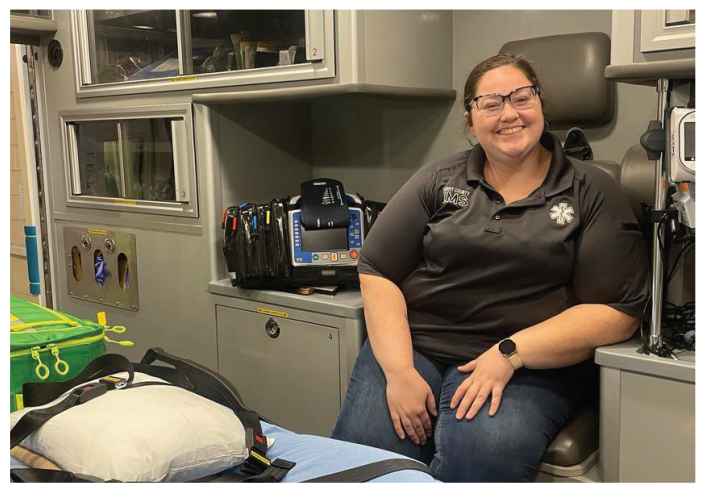
Ashley enjoyed attending basketball games and sportscasting during her time at WTC.

Currently serving as the President of the Snyder Rotary Club, Ashley is making an impact in the community of Scurry County.

Ashley's story of impact:

"My experience at WTC was fulfilling, it allowed me to grow as a young adult, and I had lots of support as a single parent. I made friends from all over the world, and that helped me gain more understanding of different cultures and diversity.

"WTC was the starting point that led me to where I am now as an AEMT with Scurry County EMS."



*Ashley Jones ('18), AEMT for Scurry County EMS*

The Western Texas College Alumni Association is proud of WTC graduates who make an impact in their communities!

# More Photos from Westerner Welcome Day



## Gifts to the Foundation

July 2023 through October 2023

**Chevron Scholarship**  
Chevron Employees

**Robert Sterling Memorial Scholarship**  
Tony and Julie Cagle  
Randa Sterling



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