



Welding Students Earn First-Place Awards at Competition

Students Compete at Gulf Coast Community College Welding Showdown

Two Western Texas College welding students took home first-place honors from the Gulf Coast Community College Welding Showdown held in Alvin on Saturday, November 4.

Samuel Hernandez and Patricio Araya earned first-place honors for their categories. Araya received a scholarship from the Foundation.

“Samuel had a leg up on the other competitors since his category is more of the type of welding work done in West Texas,” said Jeff Stewart, Western Texas College Welding Instructor.

“Patricio also had an edge over the other entrants as a sophomore student,” added Stewart. “His experience and knowledge really paid off.”

“But I am really proud of all the WTC students who competed.”

The other talented welding students from WTC who competed included Rowdy Atkins, Brody Nelson, Alejandro Ruiz, and Kayden Kelley. B&J Welding Supply provided the team shirts they wore.

Stewart gave the students great advice before they started: have fun.

“They had welding professionals judge their work, not



*Seated, front row: First-place winners Patricia Araya and Samuel Hernandez
The welding team and instructors back row, l-r: Rowdy Atkins, Kayden Kelly,
Alejandro Ruiz, Jeff Stewart, and Jeffrey Stewart.
(Not Pictured: Brody Nelson).*

just instructors in the classroom. They’re learning the expectations that future employers will require.”

Hernandez and Araya also walked away with prizes: they each received a welding hood and a cash prize.

“It was a great day for everyone.”

Inspire Grant Program

Fall 2023 Recipients Announced



The WTC Foundation Inspire Program provides a straightforward method for staff and faculty to directly request funds from the WTC Foundation for projects supporting education and cultural activities or campus improvements and development.

The board of directors voted on each proposal and generously decided to fund several Inspire projects.

The Fall 2023 semester projects include:

- Jimmy Fancher
Library Wall Renovation
- Sheila Hale
Visitor Center Waiting Room
- Victor Hinojosa
Student Government
Association

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

As an institutionally-related foundation, all projects must directly relate to Western Texas College and be administered by the College.

Full-time Staff, Faculty, and Administrators of Western Texas College may apply for grant funds.

Browning Memorial Scholarship

Designated Scholarship Supports Students in Memory of Stacy James Browning

At the close of 2023, Western Texas College received a \$10,000 designated scholarship aimed at supporting students in memory of Stacy James Browning, who departed in 2021.

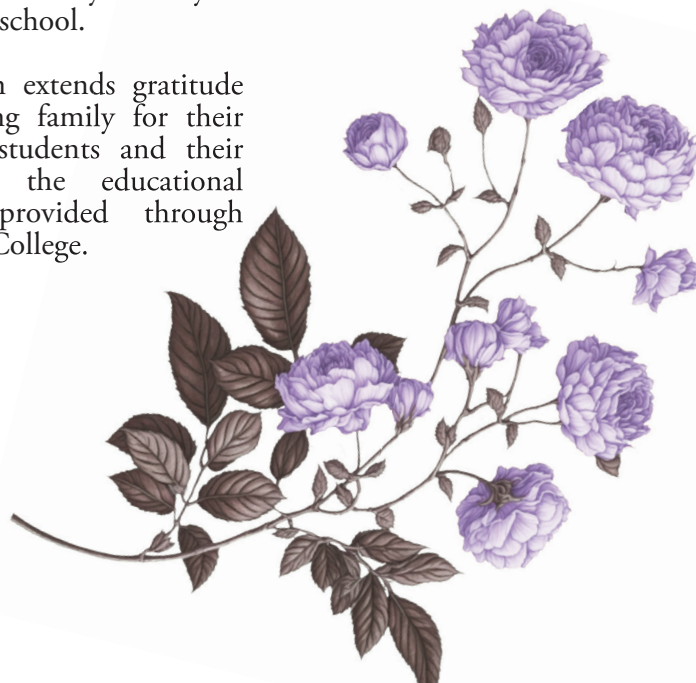
A long-standing resident of Snyder, Stacy garnered affection from the entire Snyder community.

Born on April 16th, 1970 in Snyder, Texas, to Billy and Pam (Teague) Browning, he held a deep fondness for family, movies, music, and the outdoors, and harbored a particular admiration for Daisy Duke. Renowned for his infectious smile, he possessed an innate ability to infuse joy into others' lives.

The scholarship addresses the immediate needs of students

at Western Texas College who graduated from a Scurry County or Borden County school.

The Foundation extends gratitude to the Browning family for their investment in students and their confidence in the educational opportunities provided through Western Texas College.



Scholarship Season at WTC

Message from WTC Foundation and Event Coordinator

2024 provides new opportunities for the campus and students of Western Texas College.

Following an extended break for the holiday season, students will return to campus to resume their studies and pursue their educational goals.

In the Foundation Office, the spring semester also brings scholarship season for the 2024-2025 academic year. The scholarship application opened in January for current and future Westerners.

Foundation scholarships aid students from nearby and all over the country, but they all have one thing in common: their dreams are made possible by the generous contributions of donors who believe in the power of education to transform lives.

For many students, receiving a scholarship is more than just financial support; it's a beacon of hope, a validation of their hard work, and a symbol of community belief in their potential.

As the Foundation team reviews applications, they are reminded of the profound impact these scholarships have on the lives of students. Each application tells a unique story of determination, resilience, and dreams for the future.

Each donor plays a crucial role in shaping the future of Western Texas College and empowering students to reach their fullest potential.

With each scholarship awarded, a new chapter begins in the journey toward academic excellence, personal growth, and endless possibilities. And for that, the entire Western



Sheila Hale

WTC Foundation and Event Coordinator

Texas College community extends its deepest thanks to its generous donors, whose unwavering support continues to transform lives and shape the future.

Alumni Spotlight

Jessica Colvin, WTC Assistant Professor, Agriculture

Jessica Colvin (WTC '97) serves as Assistant Professor of Agriculture for Western Texas College. A native of Sweetwater, Texas, Jessica chose Western Texas College for the meat judging program with a scholarship offered by Jim Judah.

Jessica's journey to WTC:

"I initially aimed to attend Texas Tech after graduating from Sweetwater High School, part of a competitive ag program led by Eddie Puckett and Kenneth Dudensing.

"However, a meat judging scholarship from Jim Judah led me to WTC for smaller classes. At WTC, caring instructors, including Dr. David Kattes, guided me to a job with the Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District.

"During this time, I met my husband, Ryan, and gained valuable experience working with farmers and ranchers.

"After graduating from WTC, I transferred to TTU, completing teacher certification. Teaching at Snyder High School and later applying for and securing Jim Judah's position at WTC marked significant milestones.

"My educational journey, highlighted at my going-away party, emphasized the importance of networking in the vast agriculture world.



Jessica Colvin, WTC Assistant Professor, Agriculture

"Having students whose families I've known over the years brings me joy, reinforcing the enduring connections traced back to my early years at WTC."

Walk of Honor Showcase

Markers Offer Special Tributes

Along the main walkway of the WTC campus lies a poignant tribute to dedication and service: the Walk of Honor. The meticulously inscribed memorial granite markers and bricks stand as a testament to the enduring spirit of community and commitment that defines Western Texas College.

Each stone is a testament to the individuals, organizations, and causes that have left an indelible mark on the fabric of WTC. Among these tributes stands Donna Robinson's marker, commemorating her years of dedication and service to Western Texas College.

The College honored Robinson after she completed thirty-five years of service in 2020.

Robinson retired at the end of 2023,



Above: The WTC Walk of Honor

Inset: Donna Robinson marker

but her dedication to the College remains memorialized on the front of campus.

Visitors can find the Walk of Honor across from the museum on the main walkway.

Gifts to the Foundation

November 2023 through January 2024

Jerry Ford Memorial Scholarship

Happy Heavenly Birthday, Hoyle Gay and Kay Hickman

Mickey Baird Memorial Scholarship

Margie Reynolds

Shawn Odom Memorial Scholarship

Mark and Ashley Moon
Scott and Sherry Odom

Stacey James Browning Memorial Scholarship

Pamela Browning

Western Texas College Memorial Scholarship

*In memory of Linda Hughes
In memory of Virginia Lee Johnston
In memory of Peggy Westbrook
Jeffrey and Janell Martin*

Dr. Jim Palmer



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