

# Alumni Spotlight Featuring Justin “JT” Guy



Justin “JT” Guy, 21, of Pittsburgh, attended Westmoreland County Community College from 2022-2024 and is our featured alumnus.

So what made Guy decide to attend Westmoreland after high school?

“With coming to Westmoreland County Community College, I had one goal in mind and that was to become the first one in my family to graduate college. I wanted to break a generational curse in my family of not graduating/finishing college,” says Guy. “Westmoreland allowed me to take my general elective classes now and save money, too.”

At Westmoreland, Guy studied liberal arts. He states, “I chose liberal arts as my major. That came from wanting to save up some money because as we know, college is not cheap, even if you get financial aid. Also, I wanted to go further with my education, so choosing liberal arts as my major has helped me with my business classes that I am now taking.”

After graduating, Guy had plans to attend St. Vincent College, but an unfortunate event took place.

“I had plans to attend St. Vincent College but then I actually never got to step foot on the campus. There's reasoning behind why that is. On July 23, 2024, which is my birthday, my grandma passed away very suddenly and unexpectedly. It was a very hard and tough time for me because me and my grandma were very close. So after going through all of that and thinking it over, I decided that it wouldn't be good for me to go in person to college with that weighing so heavily on my mind. I am now attending Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) and I am loving it there. I am still a business administration major with a focus on organizational leadership. My anticipated graduation date would be in the Spring 2026. I am planning to honor my grandma whenever I graduate from SNHU,” says Guy.

When looking back at his college days, Guy can recall two fond memories.

“Two of my most fondest memories at Westmoreland County Community College would include Westley's Giving Tee that we did around Christmas for children in Westmoreland County. The second memory would be graduation day because that generational curse was finally broken after receiving my diploma,” exclaims Guy.

Not only did Guy have a favorite instructor, he had two.

“My two favorite instructors would include Dr. Reamer and Professor Zappone. They are both extremely helpful and very informative in their lectures. They want to see the best out of their students and they always come in with a smile on their face. That, in return, makes the class and their college journey a good and enjoyable experience,” says Guy.

During his time at the college, he was involved in the TRIO program. (TRIO is a federally funded support program that strives to help students succeed in college, continue to enroll in courses and either graduate or transfer to a senior institution.)

Guy states, “It is often said that in college you will meet people who will become so influential, not only in your college journey, but also in your life. TRIO was the biggest influence in my college journey. I participated in a couple activities, like the Christmas cards that go to Saint Ann's Home. The TRIO Program has some fantastic staff, including my advisor, Jesse Somers. He was a wonderful advisor and helped me out a lot.”

Now that he has graduated from Westmoreland, what is he up to now?

He started off working with the Pittsburgh Steelers in their merchandise department for training camp during the summer and then at the stadium for their home games. He is currently employed at JCPenney's and on his way to becoming a leader on duty. He plans to stay there for his future career by trying to become a district manager.

Guy has been involved in his community.

He was a part of the Westmoreland Community Action's Advocates 4 Change board, which is a group of individuals who are trying to end the stigmas around youth homelessness and homelessness all together.

"I was homeless when I started my college journey but I never let anything or anyone stop me from my goal of being the first college graduate in my family. So never give up! I loved my time at the college," Guy shares.

In his spare time, Guy likes to cheer on the Pittsburgh Steelers and is also a fan of MTV's, *The Challenge*.

There are certain people during Guy's journey that he would like to mention.

They are his mom, brother, sister, dad, grandma, great grandma, uncles, Jesse Somers, Maria Loffredo, Julie Zappone, Dr. Reamer, his donor and everyone who has walked alongside him throughout my journey.

His advice to current college students?

"Don't let your past define your future. Your current situation doesn't mean it's your future situation. Give 100 percent in everything you do and enjoy every minute of the journey," says Guy.

City and State you live in?\*

Pittsburgh Pennsylvania

Birthday\*

MM

/

DD

/

YYYY

Years attended (for example, 2005-2007)\*

2022-2024

What made you decide to attend the college?\*

Wanting to become the first one in my family to graduate from college to break a generational curse in my family of not graduating/finishing college.

What subject(s) did you study?\*

Liberal Arts

Did you move on to further your education/training? If so, where?\*

I am currently enrolled for the Fall 2024 Semester at Saint Vincent College

Fondest memory?\*

Two of my most fondest memories at Westmorland County Community College would include Westley's giving tree we did around Christmas for children in Westmorland County and graduation day because that generational curse was finally broken after receiving my diploma.

Favorite instructor and why?\*

My two favorite instructors would include Dr. Reamer and Professor Zappone. They both are extremely helpful and very informative in their lectures. They want to see the best out of there students and they always come in with smile on there face and that in return makes the class and sometimes there college journey a good and enjoyable experience.

Were you involved in any clubs/sports/committees, etc?\*

I was in the TRIO Program

Current work/employer and how you got to this point. What was your journey after WCCC?\*

I am currently working with the Pittsburgh Steelers in there merchandise department for training camp in the summer and then on there home games I will work done at the stadium as well. Whenever I am not doing that I will be working at another job elsewhere.

How did the college prepare you for your current career?\*

Westmorland County Community College helped prepare me for my current career by taking my general elective classes now and saving money but also getting those general courses out of the way now allows me to focus on my business class once I get to Saint Vincent.

Spouse/partner, children, pets, and/or family members you want to mention?\*

My mom, brother, sister, dad, grandma, great grandma, uncles, Jesse Somers, Maria Loffredo, Julie Zappone, Dr. Reamer, my donor, and everyone who has walked along side me throughout my journey.

Current hobbies, interests, likes, etc?\*

Huge Pittsburgh Steelers and MTV's the challenge fan,

Any community involvement or professional networks?\*

I was part of Westmoreland Community Actions Advocates 4 Change board which is a group of individuals who are trying to end the stigmas around youth homelessness and homelessness all together.

Advice to current students at the college?\*

Don't let your past define your future, your current situation doesn't mean it's your future situation, give your 100 percent in everything you do and enjoy every minute of the journey.

Any other information that you would like to share?

I was homeless whenever I started my college journey but I never let anything or anyone stop me from my goal of being the first college graduate in my family. So never give up! I loved my time at the college