

# Alumni Spotlight featuring Sandra Keller



Sandra Keller, 66, of North Huntingdon, attended Westmoreland County Community College from 1996-1998 and is our featured alumnus.

So what made Keller want to attend Westmoreland after high school?

"I was set to go to Westmoreland right after high school to study computer technology, but accepted a job offer instead. Fast forward nearly 20 years later, I was being laid off but given the opportunity through a Pennsylvania program where they would help fund my education to further myself. That's when I decided to finally go to college," exclaims Keller.

At Westmoreland, Keller earned two associates in science degrees: Graphic Design and Printing/Production. She also attended additional classes the summer following graduation to receive

a diploma in microcomputer processing.

When looking back at her college days, Keller has fond memories that stick out.

"I remember receiving recognition at an awards dinner for the highest GPA in my field for that year. All of my instructors were great, but I really loved my graphics classes, photography class and public speaking class," says Keller. "I was also part of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, the National Dean's List, Vision/Media Club and Computer Club."

Now that she is a graduate of the college, what is she up to now?

Keller states, "A month before graduation, I interviewed and accepted a position as a graphic designer in proposal development with Electronic Data Systems (EDS). The day after graduating, I flew to Dallas, TX, to begin my training. I worked in their Pittsburgh office, eventually being promoted to proposal manager / Northeast regional contact, going remote in 2002. EDS was acquired by Hewlett-Packard in 2008, where I continued working as part of their global proposal team. In 2016, I accepted an RFP Analyst position with PNC, being promoted to content administrator a year later. I continue working at PNC and plan on retiring in July, 2026!"

Keller adds that she has been very fortunate along the way-- in each company she's worked for, she was given the opportunity to better herself personally and professionally by self-education; either by learning HW/SW on-the-job, after hours, or by classes offered by her employer or local

colleges. She thrives on continuous learning and adapting to an ever-evolving environment. Education is truly a gift.

During her career, she's earned the following certifications: CFA Institute Investment Foundations level; Shipley Associates: Writing to Win and Winning Proposal Strategies; Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Expert Levels in PowerPoint and Word, Specialist Level in Outlook; APMP (Association of Proposal Management Professionals) Foundation Certification and Micro-Certification in Graphics.

Keller credits her knowledge of graphic software and public speaking from Westmoreland that really prepared her for the positions that she has worked in the past 25+ years.

Keller would like to thank her husband Chuck, son Ian and daughter-in-law Jamie as well as her grandchildren Milo and Evie, and Keller couldn't forget to acknowledge her cats Xena and Millie for staying by her side.

In her spare time, Keller enjoys reading, gardening, watching movies, and listening to Spotify while working. She's a daily walker at her town's park. During the warmer months, she bikes on the many trails offered around southwestern PA. She also volunteers at the Westmoreland County Food Bank, packaging food each month for over 1,600 qualified senior citizens in the county. She's also an active member of her church's decorating committee, which oversees the installation of interior decor based upon the liturgical calendar.

Her advice to current college students?

"Attend your classes, do your assignments and enjoy your time at college!" says Keller.