

Alumni Spotlight

Featuring Emily Faulds



Emily Faulds, 28, of Greensburg, co-founder of the Food for Thoughts Food Pantry, is our featured alumna of Westmoreland County Community College.

When students leave high school, they are faced with the ever-important decision of, “now what?” When Emily graduated, she started at a four-year university but soon realized that she did not know what she wanted to do. She decided to move home and enroll at Westmoreland. From 2015-2017, she focused on a degree in Business-Marketing Management.

Little did Emily know that one of her business class assignments, The Food for Thoughts food pantry, would turn into a service project that is still used at the college today.

“The Food for Thoughts food pantry was not just my idea. We talked in class about the need for a food pantry on campus and were learning how to create a business plan and how to market the pantry. The project turned into something real and good,” Faulds said.

Faulds said, “This pantry would not and could not be possible without the help of so many people, but mostly Dr. Bob Saul, faculty advisor, and my classmates. This project has done so much good and I am so excited to see it working for the students of Westmoreland.”

She credits this success to the counselors, advisors, grant writers, and all who donate their time, items, and monies to this cause.

The Westmoreland County Community College Educational Foundation has jumped on board with Emily’s project. Proceeds from events that they have hosted, such as Wizards of Westmoreland Trivia Night and Snow Place Like Westmoreland Trivia Night, have been donated to the food pantry.

In addition to her successful service project, Faulds has fond memories at the college.

“There are so many!” she says. “Stress-less week where a classmate, who is now one of my best friends, convinced me to go and hang out with her and the other Student Activity Board members. Also, being asked to present the Food for Thoughts food pantry at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR).”

While at the college, she was involved with the Westmoreland Concert Band and Orchestra, along with the honor society for two-year colleges, Phi Theta Kappa.

After graduation, Faulds began working in the Grants department at Westmoreland part-time. Eventually, she began working in the Information Center and was there for three years, full-time, which included working from home during the pandemic.

She left employment at the college at the end of 2020 and began working as a department clerk for Westmoreland County. She currently works for Westmoreland County as a Court Assistant for one of the four criminal court judges. In addition to working, she is attending Community College of Allegheny County, pursuing a certificate in Court Reporting and Stenography.

How did the college prepare her for her current job?

“When I attended Westmoreland, I learned a lot about how to communicate with others, organize events, deal with technology issues on the fly, and customer service; all skills that I use on a daily basis in my current job as a court assistant,” she explains.

Outside of the office, she performs in the pit at the Geyer Performing Arts Center and is starting to volunteer with them more. As a student member, she belongs to the National Court Reporter Association and the Pennsylvania Court Reporter Association. She is also a member of the Youngwood Park and Pool Board, member of The Order of the Eastern Star, Irwin Chapter, and adult volunteer with the Irwin Assembly Order of the Rainbow for Girls. Her other interests include music, theater, reading, Disney, and going on adventures with friends.

Through all of her successes, Faulds credits her friends and family.

She says, “My parents, especially my mom, really encouraged me to pursue some sort of degree after leaving the four-year university and was actually the one who suggested that I pursue a degree in business. My brother, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends all supported me through my new degree program which was not one that I ever thought about pursuing.”

Her advice to current college students is, “Talk to your teachers, professors and advisors. Ask for help. The one thing that I wish I was able to have done better was to ask for help when I was struggling, whether that was in the classroom or outside of it. The faculty and staff at Westmoreland are the best and are there to see you succeed even if you're just there to take a few classes and move on or earn a degree or certificate and begin working as soon as you graduate.”

If you would like to donate to the Food for Thoughts food pantry, please visit www.westmoreland.edu/give. Click “donate online” and choose “Food for Thoughts food pantry” from the dropdown menu.