

Wilco spotlight: Anthony DeMauro '16

Fire Science alumnus Anthony DeMauro is making a name for himself as a Firefighter/Paramedic with Nashville Fire Department as a Paramedic. Below he answers a few questions about his professional journey and how life at Wilco prepared him for it.



What is your current position and where are you stationed?

I am currently a Firefighter/Paramedic with Nashville Fire Department as a Paramedic in Nashville, TN. The mission of the Nashville Fire Department is to provide high quality fire, medical, and rescue emergency responses and community support services to the citizens and visitors within Nashville and Davidson County, so they can work and reside in a community where an all-hazard response minimizes harm to life, property and environment.

How your Wilco program prepared you for your career?

Lt. Mike Johnson and Lt. Mark Oglesby gave me quality tools to prepare me for my career serving the Nashville community.

How have you stayed engaged with Wilco as an alumnus?

When I'm home visiting my family I try to visit the Fire Science classroom at Wilco. I share my career journey with the students, as well as what skills they need to perform the duties as a Fire Fighter/Paramedic.

Wilco spotlight: Da'Riah Terrell '22



Da'Riah Terrell '22 Bolingbrook High School

Criminal Justice alumnus Da'Riah Terrell is making a name for herself as a freshman in college at Howard University in Washington, DC. Below she answers a few questions about her collegiate journey and how life at Wilco prepared her for it.

What is your current position and where are you stationed?

I am currently a freshman in college at Howard University in Washington, DC. My major is Political Science on a Pre Law track and I am hoping to become a successful Civil Rights Attorney.

How your Wilco program prepared you for your career?

My future career/educational plans include graduating early from Howard University with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. I will then attend Howard Law School and focus on becoming a successful Civil Rights Attorney helping the community as an advocate for individuals whose rights have been violated. I enjoy learning about the court of law, government and politics.

How has your Wilco experience impacted your educational/career accomplishments?

Mrs. Gunther, a former instructor of mine who taught Criminal Justice has particularly influenced me because I can tell she truly enjoys teaching Criminal Justice and cares for her students. Mrs. Gunther has influenced me to learn more about the court of law, what Criminal Justice is and why it is important. Her class guided me on the path of accomplishments because it has opened my eyes to learning about the court of law, government and politics. Two specific activities that I enjoyed in Mrs. Gunther's class was a mock trial that we did and interviewed a school resource officer. I was able to get a glimpse of the procedures in a trial and make a personal connection with an SRO.

Wilco spotlight: Josh Oberg '16

Fire Science alumnus Josh Oberg is making a name for himself as a Firefighter/Paramedic with Troy Fire Protection District in Shorewood. Below he answers a few questions about his professional journey and how life at Wilco prepared him for it.

What is your current position and where are you stationed?

I am currently a Firefighter/Paramedic with Troy Fire Protection District in Shorewood, IL.

How your Wilco program prepared you for your career?

Wilco gave me my first taste of the fire fighter occupation. I am a first-generation Fire Fighter/Paramedic in my family. During my time spent at Wilco, Lt. Oglesby was a great mentor and instructor whom encouraged me to pursue my dreams of being a Fire Fighter/Paramedic.

How have you stayed engaged with Wilco as an alumnus?

Currently, I am a guest presenter in the Fire Science classroom. I help students learn some of the many skills needed to perform my duties as a Fire Fighter/Paramedic.



Wilco Spotlight Matthew Hinchley '16

March 18, 2022

Fire Science alumnus Matthew Hinchley is making a name for himself as a Firefighter/Paramedic with Bolingbrook Fire Department. Below he answers a few questions about his professional journey and how life at Wilco prepared him for it.

What is your current position and where are you stationed?

I am currently working as a Firefighter/Paramedic with Bolingbrook Fire Department.

How your Wilco program prepared you for your career?

Wilco introduced me to the career. Wilco helped educate me and get me involved with the career, as well as train me on the many skills needed to perform.

How have you stayed engaged with Wilco as an alumnus?

I am thankful to have the opportunity to mentor students and work with them to help guide them on their career path.

What are your future career/educational plans?

I will continue to work and grow professionally at the Bolingbrook Fire Department.



Wilco spotlight: Aria Moscinski '09

Fire Science alumnus Aria Moscinski is making a name for herself as a Critical Care Paramedic with Edward Ambulance. Below she answers a few questions about her professional journey and how life at Wilco prepared her for it.

What is your current position and where are you stationed?

I am currently working as a critical care paramedic with Edward Ambulance.

How your Wilco program prepared you for your career?

Wilco allowed me to realize my passion and get a leg up in the field and higher education. My Instructor has been a tremendous influence during the pursuit of my career goals.

How have you stayed engaged with Wilco as an alumnus?

I am thankful to have the opportunity to mentor students seeking to follow similar career paths as mine. Therefore, I continue to help at Wilco when I can to pay it forward with respect for what the school has given me.

What are your future career/educational plans?

I would like to escape Illinois to pursue Flight Medicine in the South West.



Wilco spotlight: Annaliese McClelland '16

February 28, 2022

Culinary alumnus Annaliese McClelland of Romeoville High School is an aspiring entrepreneur and mom. Below she answers a few questions about her journey and how life at Wilco prepared her for it.

What is your current position?

Currently, Annaliese is working as a bus driver at Valley View School District while she is building her entrepreneurial business from home. Annaliese makes personalized items for charity, school functions and various organizations. If you are interested in working with Annaliese on specializing your event with personalized items, contact her at annie081998@gmail.com. Also, she is a busy mom of a little boy!

How your Wilco program prepared you for your career?

Annaliese began her Wilco journey in Auto body then came back her second year to Culinary. While in Culinary she competed in FCCLA for fondant cakes. During her year in Culinary she developed a love for design. Annaliese is thankful for her experiences at Wilco, because they helped her realize her passion for design and it gave her the confidence to begin her home personalization business come true.



Wilco spotlight: Alex Martinez '18

Criminal Justice alumnus Alex Martinez of Lockport High School is a Machine Operator at a metal manufacturing Co. Below he answers a few questions about his journey and how life at Wilco prepared him for it.

What is your current position?

Currently, Alex is working as a machine operator, as well as finishing up his degree. Alex plans to work with the police force.

How your Wilco program prepared you for your career?

Wilco impacted my decision to pursue a career in Criminal Justice and really gave me an edge and an advantage into the world of Law Enforcement. My Wilco Instructors, Mr. Malec and Mrs. Gunther were amazing mentors!



Wilco spotlight: Dylan Lorek '18

Law Enforcement alumnus Dylan Lorek of Lockport High School is a Police Officer at Orland Park Police Department. Below he answers a few questions about his journey and how life at Wilco prepared him for it.

What is your current position?

Currently, Dylan is working on a 4 year degree with a focus in Law Enforcement. Dylan is working his way toward being part of the Specialty unit.

How your Wilco program prepared you for your career?

Wilco impacted my decision to pursue a career in Law Enforcement by the Positive influences and mentoring from Mrs. Gunther and Mr. Malak.



Wilco spotlight: Katherine Dluzak '19

Criminal Justice alumnus Katherine Dluzak of Plainfield South High School is a police cadet at Aurora Police Department. Below she answers a few questions about her journey and how life at Wilco prepared her for it.

What is your current position?

Currently, Katherine is a Police Cadet at Aurora Police Department. Katherine will be attending the Police Academy in May 2022. Afterwards she will be a Police Officer for the Aurora Police Department.

How your Wilco program prepared you for your career?

Wilco helped Katherine make her decision in pursuing a career in Criminal Justice. Katherine shared, Wilco Instructor, Mrs. Gunther was a huge influence in her decision to be a Police Officer.



Wilco spotlight: Sydney Belcher '20

Culinary alumnus Sydney Belcher of Romeoville High School is working and continuing her education at Joliet Junior College. Below she answers a few questions about her professional journey and how life at Wilco prepared her for it.

What is your current position?

Currently, I am the Manager of Le Chocolate Du Bouchard in downtown Naperville, as well as attending Business classes at Joliet Junior College.

How your Wilco program prepared you for your career?

Wilco gave me several opportunities to learn and develop my hospitality skills. My classroom and lab activities helped develop my passion for serving others. Also, competing in the 2019 FCCLA National Competition.



Wilco spotlight: Josie Nassib '19

January 10, 2022

Culinary Arts alumnus Josie Nassib is making a name for herself as a cake decorator at Meijer in Plainfield.

How her Wilco program prepared her for a career in Culinary?

Josie, former FCCLA cake competitor and Wilco Culinary student is attending Joliet Junior College for baking. Josie shared her Wilco program gave her several opportunities to refine her techniques and develop her passion for cake decorating. Josie is a perfect example of how Wilco students develop their skills into a successful career!



Wilco spotlight: Darien Aranda '21

October 29, 2021

Criminal Justice alumnus Darien Aranda is making a name for himself as a United States Marine Security Guard. Below he answers a few questions about his professional journey and how life at Wilco prepared him for it.



What is your current position and where are you stationed?

I am currently a SOI (School of Infantry) in Camp Pendleton to become a rifleman. After, that I will go to Quantico Virginia to become a United States Marine Guard.

How your Wilco program prepared you for your career?

Wilco gave me several opportunities to think critically, problem solve, sharpen my discipline and grow my leadership skills. That, along with an effective curriculum helped prepare me for the difficulties of basic training and, ultimately, my military career.

How have you stayed engaged with Wilco as an alumnus?

I am thankful to have the opportunity to mentor students seeking to follow similar career paths as mine. Therefore, when I'm back in the Chicago area, I also plan on visiting Mrs. Gunther's Criminal Justice Class to inspire her students to build their skills of examination of criminological theories and models, methods of preventing or reducing the commission of crime, as well as prosecution and punishment of offenders.

What is your advice to Wilco students hoping to enter the military?

Get involved! The Criminal Justice program gives students several opportunities to get involved in different projects. "The military is a big decision and big commitment." "It's something you have to put your mind to and it's something you can't do for a little bit and give up." "You have to put your heart and soul into this, and be prepared for making sacrifices."

I think this is what sets Wilco apart from other career centers. While these projects provide for great social outlets, you also learn invaluable skills that will one day transfer over to your career and beyond. Being able to communicate and solve problems with groups of people will be skills you develop (whether you know it or not) and will be useful to you for the rest of your life. I would even say that developing these skills is just as important as getting good grades in the classroom. Good luck!