Recruit, Recruit, Recruit!

A big thumbs up to those counties that have already planned their WestStar County meetings in time for recruitment. The county meetings are essential for spreading the word about WestStar and for spotlighting the leaders in your community that would benefit from going through the program.

As most of you know, recruitment has been moved up this year to starting September 1st. Please make a note of this as you are speaking to community leaders about applying. For more information on the application process, see page 2.

In the next few weeks, look for a recruitment packet in the mail. This will have all the information you need to recruit an applicant from your community.

“One of the true tests of leadership is the ability to recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency.”
Arnold Glasow

Have you received your 2012-2013 WestStar Alumni Directory?
If not, you might not be current on your WestStar Alumni Association dues.
Contact Jackie for inquiries. weststar@utm.edu
Recently, Virginia, Jackie, and I had the opportunity to take Dr. Bob Smith and his wife, Ramona, to dinner after they moved back to Tennessee after a 12 year sabbatical up north. For those of you who do not know Dr. Smith, he is one of the three founders of WestStar and former president of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. His vision for WestStar has never changed during the course of our 23 years of service. While serving as Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at UTM, he took on the role of Executive Director of WestStar and laid the foundation for this wonderful program.

It is not only an honor to welcome him back to Tennessee, but comforting to know he still supports the mission of WestStar. I hope you will come out to visit with Dr. Smith during the reunion and get to know him and his wife. They are the epitome of servant leadership and we are so proud to have both of them back in Tennessee.

I also want to thank everyone who attended the mini-session in Lake County. I have heard only great things about the session and I hope people will go back with their families to enjoy the outdoor pleasures the area offers. Thanks again for helping make West Tennessee a better place by being involved and engaged! Onward WestStar!

Sincerely,

Charley Deal
Class of 2000

Don’t Forget....
2012 TACL Conference
Your Passport to Leadership!
October 24-26
Chattanooga, TN
Visit Here for more information

The TACL Planning Committee is hard at work to insure that you have a blast at the 2012 TACL Conference and walk away with tools you can take back to your leadership programs in your community.
WestStar Mini-Session

Lake County

A huge thank you to Marcia Mills and Frankie McCord for coordinating our event in Lake County on August 10, 2012. We had a great attendance of over 70 Alumni and were able to visit Port of Cates Landing which is a popular topic among the economic development community. We could not stop in Lake County without visiting Boyette’s to have a belt bursting meal. We finished our day exploring the Reelfoot Lake Museum. We even got to meet a few interesting creatures. Enjoy the pictures!

WestStar Applications On-line

For a few years now, the WestStar Application process has been available on-line. On our website you will find the Nomination Form, Application Form, and Reference Form. Click Here

If you would like to nominate someone, fill out the form and an email will be sent to them with the application link for them to complete.

Each application has a spot for two references and their emails. An email will be sent to the reference with a form attached. If an applicant asks for your reference, please fill out the form ASAP. (Board of Trustees are not allowed to be references.) Their application will not be considered complete until two references are received. A late reference form could result in a denied application.

Paper applications and reference forms are available upon request for those without regular access to a computer. Please contact the WestStar office, 731-881-7298, if you would like a paper version.
The West Tennessee Regional Entrepreneur Conference was held on June 19, 2012 at the West Tennessee Agricultural Education & Research Center in Jackson, TN. The conference was attended by over 100 of West Tennessee small business owners and community leaders. Three tracks were offered to participants: new businesses, existing businesses, and professional development. Topics included funding resources, disaster readiness, marketing tactics, and stress and time management. The keynote speakers were Felecia Teddleton, owner of Felecia Bella Boutiques, and Steve Holt of Steve Holt consulting. Business resource booths were offered to give participants the information and resources to back what they learned through the conference. Sponsor booths included Charter Business, First South Bank, TSBDC - Jackson, The REED Center - TSBDC, Martin, USDA Rural Development, Southwest TN Development District, Northwest TN Development District, and Pathway Lending. Other sponsors included the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis - Memphis Branch, UT Center for Industrial Services, Green Frog Company and WestStar Leadership Program. The conference is scheduled for next year on June 11, 2013. We hope to include a larger audience next year, so as you meet new business owners, please mention this conference and keep a look out for information in the Spring.

Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Brian Smith, owner of The Sideline physical therapy and fitness center in Martin, received the 2012 Entrepreneur of the Year award at the West Tennessee Regional Entrepreneur Conference. According to his nomination, Smith recognized the need for a physical therapy clinic in the Martin community and opened the business in 2003. With success the business expanded and relocated in 2005 into the town’s 1947 movie theatre. The Sideline is active in the community and employs 10 full-time staff members and 43 part-time.
RisingStar and FutureStar Summits

Last year was WestStar’s first solo venture into youth leadership summits. We could not have imagined a bigger success or more interest from the WestStar community than we have received. Throughout the year, we have had many conversations with Alumni about the need for the summits and the expanding interest has just fueled the fire for this upcoming year. Both summits will be offered in November; **FutureStar will be held on November 2nd, 2012 and RisingStar will be held on November 29-30, 2012.**

Later this month, the committees for both Summits will meet to discuss the activities for each event. RisingStar will be offered to high school Juniors and Senior in West Tennessee high schools while FutureStar will be offered to seventh graders of select counties. Our goal for FutureStar is to open it up to each county in West Tennessee within a few years, but to now slowly expand to monitor logistics of the Summit in order to ensure it’s success.

If you are interested in more information for your county’s youth, please contact the office. We are excited about the opportunity to shape the future of West Tennessee by molding the future leaders of our communities.

Below is a letter from a 2011 RisingStar participant. We thank London Brison of Collinwood High School for taking the time to sum up the days’ events and we are excited to see what the future holds for him.

Hosted by the WestStar Leadership Program and the University of Tennessee at Martin, the RisingStar Leadership Summit is a program that invites students who have participated in leadership programs or been active in leadership roles within their high school and/or community. As an eleventh grade student (now a senior) at Collinwood High School, the conference proved to be one of the most influential learning experiences in which I have been privileged to participate. During the time spent at WestStar, I was able to learn many novel things about myself, as well as develop and foster friendships with other student leaders from across the state.

Divided into smaller groups, we were encouraged to share our personal reflections about the current techniques we strive to promote within the community. Each day, the students attending the summit discussed various approaches for becoming better leaders and making a difference in both our communities as well as state. In addition, we were taught several beneficial skills such as influential leader characteristics and simple etiquette practices that pave the way for a future as the potential leaders of Tennessee.

Subsequently, each time I find myself in a position of leadership, I am reminded of my life-changing experience at the RisingStar Leadership Summit. It provided not only me, but also many other young leaders with the characteristics and techniques to excel. Now, the independence and confidence gained throughout the program is traceable in every leadership decision I make. Ultimately, I smile knowing the future for Tennessee’s young leaders is brighter.

London Brison
Collinwood High School

London is pictured on the first row, 2nd from right along with his fellow classmates and Charley Deal
Class of 2012 Graduation

Left: Virginia Grimes and Bob Smith, WestStar Founding Director

Below: Bobby Goode, 2012 winner of the Jimmy Daniel Make a Difference Award; Peggy Daniel, wife of the late Jimmy Daniel; and Charley Deal

Left: Cary Vaughn, 2012 winner of the C.P. Boyd Award which was awarded from his classmates; Donnie Leggett, 2011 winner of the C.P. Boyd Award

Left: Dennis Henderson, 2012 winner of the McWherter Leadership Award; Charley Deal

Right: Joey Mehlhorn, Sarah Levy, John Thorpe, Class of 2012

Left: Bobby Goode, Mike McWherter, and LeAnn James

Right: Frank Wagster, Amy Griffin, Katie Pace, Dave Bratcher, Class of 2012
Gayle Bowling, Class of ’98 - We grieve with the family of Gayle in Somerville, TN upon her death on July 21, 2012

Tawnya Moore, Class of ’02 - Congratulations to Tawnya for being awarded the Jackson Exchangite of the Year award and the Tennessee Exchangite of the Year award.

James Teague, Class of ’03 - New job as the Fayette County School Board Superintendent

Jeff Lewis, Class of ’03 - Congratulations on his recent marriage to Lisa.

Pat Riley, Class of ’02 - Will speak to Leadership Middle TN on September 12, 2012 about natural gas

Larry Ray, Class of ’96 - Writing a series on Civil War events that occurred on the Tennessee River. You can view his achieved articles at www.myparismagazine.com.

Leah Gray, Class of ’09 - We grieve with Leah at the passing of her mother

Randy Brundige, Class of ’04 - We grieve with Randy on the passing of his mother

Jason Rushing, Class of ’09 - Congratulations to Jason upon his recent marriage!

Jan Boud, Class of ’98 - We grieve with Jan on the passing of her mother

LaMar Bartlett, Class of ’07 - We grieve with LaMar on the passing of his mother

Deidra Beene, Class of ’05 - We grieve with Deidra Beene on the passing of her mother

Congratulations to Southwest Tennessee Development District’s REDI College Access Program upon receiving a coveted Innovator Award at the Southern Growth Policies Board’s Conference in Chattanooga TN.

Where are the lost Alumni?

In the midst of job changes, retirements, and mail kickbacks; we have lost track of these Alumni. If you recognize any of the following names and have their contact information, please pass it along to us.

Jennifer Appell
Terry Ark
Sandra Bailey
Carl Billings
Barbara Blount
Kay Carroll
Barbara Clark
Karen Dunning-Lewis
Charles Dyer
T.J. Fish
Jim Flanagan
Ruth Graves
Karen Gremmels
Sharon Harley
Tracy Hutchison
Liz Jennings

Reggie Jones
Jane Kellogg
Cynthia Lake
Ron Loving
Renee Martin
Donna Parmer
William Rector
Will Sims
Lawana Sleadd
Charles Smith
Bob Stockman
Vickie Stratton
Lisa Thomas
Tammy Wallace
Dennis Washburn
We have had a tremendous response to the Lifetime Memberships over the past few years. The Class of 2012 has 100% and we could not be more proud of them. When you see these special alumni, give them a pat on the back, for they are helping sustain WestStar for many years to come.

### WestStar Alumni Association Membership

It's that time of year again to update your Alumni Association Membership. Dues are $50 and you will be sent an updated WestStar Directory with updated contact information on your fellow Alumni and added Alumni from the Class of 2012.

### Alumni Association Awards

**Loving Cup Award** - Class with most Alumni Assoc. participation

**New County Star Award** - County with most participation

*These are awarded annually at the Reunion*
You are invited by Mayor Randy Brundige and the City of Martin to attend the 7th Annual WestStar Soybean Luncheon.

**When:** Friday, September 7, noon,

**Where:** The Lindell (142 South Lindell) in downtown Martin

This is a multi-purpose luncheon—it is the WestStar Weakley County monthly luncheon and it is also celebration of the Tennessee Soybean Festival [http://www.tnsoybeanfestival.org/](http://www.tnsoybeanfestival.org/) Mayor Brundige and his staff always do a superb job in filling us up with food and entertainment and he promises to do the same this year. Menu is Barbecue Ribs and all of the trimmings….Can’t beat the great food & fellowship, especially since it is FREE!

We would like to give the Mayor and his staff plenty of time to cook all of this food so I need to know by **Monday, September 3, by noon** if you plan to attend.

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**WestStar Reunion**

**Leadership Seminar Featuring:**

Dr. Bob Smith, Founding Director of WestStar

David Browning as Barney Fife

**$15 for Alumni Assoc. Members**

**$20 for Non-Members**

**Reunion Celebrations Featuring:**

The Dueling Pianos: Hudson & Saleeb

**$25 per person**

**October 11, 2012 at Pickwick State Park Inn**

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. for Seminar

Dinner begins at 6:00 pm

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“**There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed.**

- Albert Schweitzer

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