Distinguished Alumni Award Winners 2020

Amarillo Campus – Michael Stumbo, BAS’14

After serving four years with the Potter County Sheriff’s Office, Mike has been a Pantex employee in the Safeguard Security Division for 32 years, currently protective force director. Besides his work leadership, he attends Valleyview Church of the Nazarene, where he serves on the church board as finance chairman and is lead on the church security team.

Stumbo gives back to the Amarillo community by serving as a leadership giver with United Way and has volunteered multiple years as a loaned executive. Mike is also a member of a southern gospel quartet called Revelation, which sings regularly during the holiday season for seniors in many panhandle retirement and care facilities.

Anchorage Campus – Monte Smith, BSOE’05

Monte returned to school in his 50s after being laid off from an Alaskan oilfield job he held for 21 years. With encouragement from the Anchorage campus staff, he reached his goal. He then was selected for his next job out of a pool of 300 candidates. He was grateful for the opportunity to finish his college degree and provide for his family, which he did until his death in 2009. This award was presented posthumously.

Clovis Campus – David Robinson, MBA’00

Currently the CEO of Plateau Cellular, David has more than 30 years of telecommunications experience, starting at Penasco Valley Telecommunications in Artesia, N.M., where he spent eight years before moving to Clovis to join Plateau in 1996. Since then, he has worked as the controller, chief financial officer and assistant CEO before taking his current role.

He also serves as Clovis city commissioner for District I, is a Chamber of Commerce ambassador, is chairman of the Clovis Committee of 50, and is a member of the United Way of Eastern New Mexico’s Youth Success Task Force. He also serves on the Clovis Municipal Schools Foundation board of directors and is active in his local church.

Fairbanks Campus – Dianna Durbin, BS’13, MAM’16, MPA’19

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Since 2018, Dianna has been a civilian employee in contracting of the U.S. Air Force at Eielson Air Base near her home in North Pole. She is also an active volunteer with the Air Force spouses group that organizes activities on the base for families and raises funds for various organizations in the community. She also attends North Pole Baptist Church.

In her free time, Dianna is an active member of the North Pole Lions Club and the co-chair of the club’s annual Cruising with Santa Car Show. The show raises funds for the North Pole Eyeglass Recycling Center, one of only seven Lions Club-affiliated centers around the country. Durbin often volunteers at the center, which sorts, cleans and reads glasses and then distributes between 30,000 and 50,000 pairs annually to those in need.

**Lubbock Campus – Kevin McConic, BAS’15, MAM’17**

Kevin is regional chief diversity officer for Covenant Health, where he works with employees across the hospital properties in Lubbock, Levelland and Plainview. He previously spent nearly 11 years with United Supermarkets in community partnerships. It was during that stint that he became an active volunteer with the Lubbock Area United Way. He has served as a loaned executive for several years and most recently has been the Community Impact Chair on the United Way board. In late 2019, the Volunteer Center of Lubbock recognized McConic with one of its 2020 Get Involved Honors for his work with United Way.

Kevin is also on the board of 100 Black Men of West Texas and serves as education chair, and the Lubbock Partnership Network, a school board for several schools in East Lubbock. He also serves on several Lubbock ISD advisory committees, including safety and social and emotional learning.

**Phoenix Campus – Neil Gang, BAS’15**

Neil serves as Chief of Police in Pinole, Calif., where he has served since 2013. He started his police career in 1988 in his native New Jersey, then served in Pembroke Pines, Fla., and in Surprise, Ariz.

He has been sharing nationwide for a year about his “Asher Model” of wellness for first responders, named for a fellow officer and friend who died of suicide in 1997 and aiming at protecting the mental health of those who serve our communities. In addition, he volunteers with Special Olympics and operates an animal rescue ranch that will soon offer equine therapy for first responders with PTSD.

**Plainview Campus – Dr. Mike Davis**

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Dr. Davis is campus dean for the Pampa Center of Clarendon College and dean of the career, technical and continuing education department. Prior to this recent appointment, Mike was a recognized expert on nuclear training and qualification, having spent 27 years in the field and working at the Pantex Plant, the Nevada Test Site, and at Los Alamos, NM.

He has been the primary donor for nine scholarships at Wayland and supports a variety of university projects. He has also given a commencement address at every WBU campus and has been honored with the Keeper of the Flame Award and the Distinguished Benefactor Alumni Award.

San Antonio Campus – Lee Little, BSOE’13

Founder, president and CEO of Premier Workforce Training, Lee has more than 25 years of experience in the area of workforce development, customer service, workers’ compensation and fleet safety management. He is also a certified corporate trainer and Lean Six-Sigma practitioner and held workforce and leadership roles for the American Red Cross, USAA and the City of San Antonio.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Lee earned several awards and medals during his career. He managed the 5th Medical Wing Communicable Disease Clinic at Minot AFB, N.D., and the majority of his military service was spent in healthcare management roles.

Sierra Vista Campus – Jacel Ramon, BAS’17, MBA’19

A native of the Philippines who emigrated in 2009, Jacel is a business owner both in her home country and on the internet. After more than 15 years in sales, Jacel turned a business class project into her first venture, an online handbag boutique called I Luv Purses.

During her graduate work, she opened an avocadoria in the SM Fairview mall in Manila in fall 2019. She is also investigating a new venture with food carts in high-traffic areas of the Philippines and another business opportunity in Sierra Vista, Ariz. Jacel is involved with the local Filipino-American Friendship Club and attends Christian House of Fellowship.

Wichita Falls Campus – Lori Apple, MEd’13

Lori is principal at Haynes Northwest Academy in Wichita Falls, where she took over first as interim administrator in 2018. Previously, she left a 10-year career as a radiologic technologist to pursue her calling as a teacher. She moved into administration after earning her master’s degree, becoming assistant principal at Burgess Elementary, a struggling school with low test scores.

Her hard work in turning around the school earned her the title of Region Nine Assistant Principal of the Year for 2018. She was then asked to take over the helm at Haynes and help that campus as well.

Note: There was no winner chosen from Albuquerque or Hawaii for 2020