

STELLAR STUDENT



Lancour triumphs over trauma; finds strength in faith

By **Andrea Fencel**
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WAUKESHA — A marketing student at Waukesha County Technical College has survived a car crash and brain tumor and will graduate in May.

Amanda (Mandi) Lancour, 24, enjoys painting and other artistic activities along with participating in her church.

She originally planned on studying communications, but Lancour decided to enter marketing after realizing a communication major wasn't offered at the colleges she wanted to attend.

"I do not believe I made the wrong decision at all," Lancour said. "So far I have loved (marketing) and enjoyed learning about it."

Lancour will be graduating from WCTC with her associate's degree in May.

"I decided on WCTC because it was affordable, nearby, and I just had an inkling that was where I was to be. It felt right, and years before I had toured other colleges and none of them seemed like a good fit for me. I wanted smaller class sizes so I could interact with

other classmates and easily be in touch with the professors," Lancour said.

Along with her newfound love for business, Lancour enjoys participating in Collegiate Distributive Education Clubs of America.

"I am so happy I became a part of this organization. I have strengthened what I could about marketing being in this club. This club has given me friendships that I hope to last a lifetime. I have accomplished so much being a part of DECA," Lancour said.

"I am most proud of my advertising campaigns I have created for competing in Collegiate DECA. Last year my team and I won first place at state and nationals with our campaign. This year we took 3rd at state, and hope to conquer at nationals again. We created a whole advertising campaign for Fairlife milk last year, and this year we created a campaign for V8+energy."

Major challenges

Although Lancour accomplished a lot in her time at WCTC, it wasn't without significant challenges.

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Submitted photo

Mandi Lancour (right) stands with teammates Nick Sharafinski (center) and Anna Radewahn (left) as they receive their first place award at the International Collegiate Distributive Education Clubs of America Conference last year. The group also received first place at the International Collegiate DECA Conference this year.

Lancour

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“I have been through a lot concerning my health and I am always able to make it through,” Lancour said.

When Lancour was 15, she was in a car accident where she broke her neck.

“[I] had to wear this not-so-attractive neck brace for three months, and I was able to pull through,” Lancour said.

Then in October 2016, Lancour discovered she had a brain tumor, that resulted in her needing surgery as soon as possible.

“I ended up having the surgery late November last year. I suddenly had to figure out how I was going to finish my classes before the next semester and deal with the stress and fears that came along with having brain surgery,” Lancour said.

“I was able to finish all but one class, which I ended up having to retake because I was experiencing a lot of memory problems afterwards. However, now I no longer have the horrible symptoms that I had been experiencing for years and am healing more every day.”

Lancour found strength in her faith.

“Growing up in a Christian community that is focused on the growth of your relationship and faith in God molded who I am today. Through both my car accident when I was 15 and my brain surgery last year I had my faith as an anchor to rely on,” Lancour said. “That anchor being my trust in God that I would make it through, and that I believe I was given a large support system of friends and family

to help me through my trials and healing.”

Her parents Mary and Phil McCabe, husband Nick and her church was there for her every step of the way.

“(Nick) really helped me through my surgery and healing. Including the stress and fears that came along with such a scary time in my life,” Lancour said. “My church family has a program for their members that helps us through difficult times. They do so by making meals for the families so they have one less thing to worry about. They also offered so much emotional support. I am so thankful to have this kind support system and faith in my life.”

Future plans

“I have realized how short life could be and to really pursue the things in my life that I hold so dear. I want to appreciate more and experience more. I have always wanted to travel the world, and I have had some opportunities, but now I want to make sure I pursue that even more,” Lancour said. “I fully understand that you can’t control as much as you would like in life, but to be happy with what you have and appreciate who you have in your life.”

Lancour’s average week includes school on Mondays and working at her internship Tuesday through Friday.

“The weekends I work on my DECA stuff or homework. On Sundays, I usually reserve for church and family time,” Lancour said. “[I plan to] find a good fulfilling job. I would prefer something in digital marketing or advertising.”

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