

Kittanning woman earns second degree from BC3 @ Armstrong, eyes future as criminal profiler

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(Kittanning, PA) Butler County Community College's Class of 2020 will eclipse 560 graduates for a fourth consecutive year, and features a 61-year-old disabled veteran, an entrepreneurial 17-year-old, and a borough woman who returned to BC3 @ Armstrong for a second associate degree toward pursuing her goal of becoming a criminal psychologist.

BC3's Class of 2020 includes 563 graduates, 518 of whom will receive associate degrees in career or transfer programs, and 71 of whom will receive certificates or workplace certificates that take one year or less to complete.

Ciara Stone, 23, earned an associate degree in general studies from BC3 @ Armstrong in May 2019, and has added an associate degree in psychology.

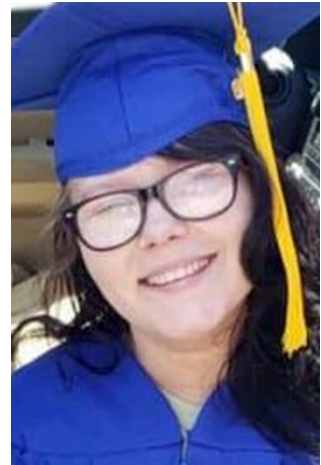
She plans to try to understand the minds of serial killers – “to learn more about their mental state and to determine why they did what they did” – after pursuing a bachelor's degree online from Maryville University in St. Louis in forensic psychology, a curriculum that focuses on psychology, criminal justice and social science.

“I have always had an interest in working in the field of criminal justice,” said Stone, who attended West Shamokin Junior-Senior High School and graduated in 2015 from Lenape Technical School.

“A criminal psychologist tries to get inside the head of the person who is committing the crime. They try to figure out what the person is doing and it may help you to catch others.”

The median annual wage for detectives and criminal investigators as of May was \$86,030, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Stone chose BC3 @ Armstrong because “it was close” and is among the 70 percent of BC3 graduates who are debt-free.



Ciara Stone, 23, of Kittanning, earned an associate degree in general studies from BC3 @ Armstrong in May 2019, and has added an associate degree in psychology from Butler County Community College's additional location in Ford City toward pursuing her goal of becoming a criminal psychologist.

“I don’t have to think about how much money I would have to pay back,” Stone said. “BC3 @ Armstrong was fantastic. All the professors were very nice. Most of the students who were there with me I knew from high school or outside of school itself.”

BC3 @ Armstrong offers associate degrees in three transfer programs. Students in BC3’s transfer programs can apply credits to public, private and online four-year colleges and universities.

BC3 @ Armstrong’s selection of two-year transfer programs features business administration, general studies and psychology. Students who complete a BC3 @ Armstrong degree in business administration or in psychology can transfer with junior standing to any Pennsylvania public four-year institution, such as Clarion, Edinboro, Indiana and Slippery Rock universities of Pennsylvania.

Students can also take most pre-nursing courses at BC3 @ Armstrong and finish their degree at BC3’s main campus. They can also take courses in social work, criminology and business management.

Among 31 student-veterans, BC3’s most senior graduate in 2020

Kathleen Cashaw, 61, of Butler, a disabled veteran, is the college’s most-senior graduate in the Class of 2020, with an associate degree in BC3’s medical assistant career program. She is also one of 31 student-veterans in BC3’s Class of 2020.

Saylee Grinnen, 17, of Wampum, is the youngest.

Grinnen is among nine students in the 2-year-old Riv-Ell Entrepreneurship Program for Lincoln and Riverside high schools. The program, a collaborative effort among BC3, the Community College of Beaver County and the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce, blends classroom learning with real-world experience. Students who complete the program earn 16 tuition-free, transferable credits and a BC3 workplace certificate in entrepreneurship.

Students from Valencia and Kittanning earned two associate degrees and one certificate. Victoria Berzonski achieved degrees in criminology and in emergency services-police services option, and a certificate in emergency services-corrections option. Sara Peters earned degrees in business management and technical trades-cosmetology management option, and a workplace certificate in entrepreneurship.

BC3 will also graduate its second class of presidential scholars; 126 members of its Rho Phi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, an international academic honor society; and 16 members of Delta Theta, its chapter of Kappa Beta Delta, an international honor society for business students.

Thirteen employees of Oberg Industries, a precision manufacturer in Freeport, will receive apprenticeship technology workplace certificates as a result of a program instructed onsite by

BC3. Courses in the college's 26-credit apprenticeship technology workplace certificate program, launched in fall 2016, are taught entirely at Oberg Industries.