



Resources You Should Check Out: [Student Activities](#), [Wake Tech Xtra](#), [Peer Leaders](#), [Student Success Coaches](#), [Tutoring and Learning Center](#)

It's time for Wake Tech's monthly newsletter! The insights in this issue are brought to you by peer leaders; both old and new! We are very excited to feature the following new peer leaders: Annie Anglin, Kaitly Arias-Cornejo, Malexis Barinotto, Victoria Ong, and Thomas Wilkie.

Two special things to note are:

- The annual Diversity Fair will be happening at the Scott Northern Campus in the library in Building L on February 5th from 10 am-12 pm!
- Our very own Elle Ruiz will be hosting an event called Heartstrings & Handmade! It will occur on February 12th from 11 am-2pm in building L on the Southern Wake Campus!

We hope to see you attend these events!

Meet the Featured Peer Leaders:

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|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| • Annie Anglin | • Kendall Briggs | • Victoria Ong |
| • Kaitlyn Arias-Cornejo | • Derek Gonzalez | • Ruby Waibel |
| • Malexis Barinotto | • Nidhi Karerakattil | • Thomas Wilkie |

Questions Covered in this Issue:

What is one victory you had last semester, and what you did to make sure you succeeded?

What is one mistake you made last semester, and what advice would you give someone to avoid making the same mistake?

What is one habit of yours that helps you manage school that you think might help another student succeed?

What is one tip you have for setting and achieving goals? Whether it's tackling a large workload, SMART goal, etc.

[Submit Questions Here!](#)

[Submit Feedback Here!](#)

SPECIAL REPORT

On Wednesday, February 5 from 10 am - 12 pm Wake Tech Libraries will host our annual Diversity Fair. The fair takes place on the first floor of the library at Scott Northern Wake Campus. The Diversity Fair gives students an opportunity to interact with all of the student groups, student services, and departments that support various aspects of diversity at Wake Tech. Students can visit tables that represent these groups to talk with members and representatives and receive information and resources that correspond to that group's core mission and purpose. Additionally, the Diversity Fair will have snacks and prizes. Please consider joining us!



**WAKE TECH LIBRARIES AND THE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
INVITE YOU TO THE**

DIVERSITY FAIR!

LEARN MORE ABOUT CAMPUS
RESOURCES, RECEIVE SNACKS AND GIFT
BAGS, AND VIEW ART DISPLAYS!

**APRIL 6, 2022
10 AM - 12 PM
SCOTT NORTHERN WAKE CAMPUS LIBRARY**



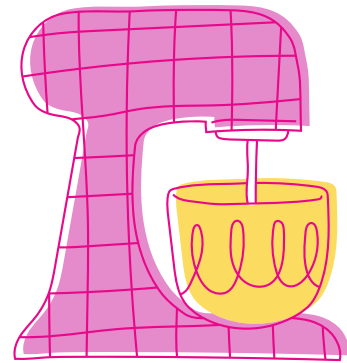


ANNIE ANGLIN

Program of study – Public Safety Administration

Favorites:

- Movies/shows – My favorite movie right now is "The Lord of the Rings."
- Hobbies/interests – Cooking and baking, and really into exploring, whether trying out different foods or just discovering unique spots in places



I'm a Peer Leader because ... I want to help guide people in any direction they're taking in their time at Wake Tech. I know that college can be challenging, and it's important to have someone you can turn to for advice, support and encouragement. As a Peer Leader, I hope to create a welcoming atmosphere where students feel comfortable seeking help and know they're not alone in their journey.

What is one mistake you made last semester, and what advice would you give someone to avoid making the same mistake?

I almost quit a class because of ONE bad grade. I also wasn't having great communication with my professor, which made me feel like I wasn't cut out for the class. I ended up with an A. My advice: One bad grade doesn't define you. You're allowed to make mistakes and still be good at something! Learning takes a lot of effort, and you're tackling something new, so it's not always going to be easy. Also, don't forget to communicate with your professors—if you want to do well in a class, ASK QUESTIONS.

What is one tip you have for setting and achieving goals? Whether it's tackling a large workload, SMART goal, etc.

As for goal setting, I think [DAPPS goals](#) are great! Dated, achievable, personal, positive, and specific. It gives you structure and motivation, whether your goals are big or small.



KAITLYN ARIAS-CORNEJO



Program of study – Associate in Arts pursuing a major in Political Science

Favorites:

- Music/musicians – Tyler the Creator and Kali Uchis are my favorite artists recently, but I love all music!
- Hobbies/interests – I am a competitive Olympic weightlifter under USA Weightlifting.

I'm a Peer Leader because ... I enjoy contributing to any community and connecting with those around me. My main goal is to help my fellow peers be the most successful students they can be while also maintaining a healthy mindset!

What is one victory you had last semester, and what you did to make sure you succeeded?

A victory I had last semester was definitely maintaining a healthy mindset even with all the stress and work load!

What is one mistake you made last semester, and what advice would you give someone to avoid making the same mistake?

One mistake I made was underestimating the workload of an online class, advice I would give is to leave an adequate amount of time to work on online courses.

What is one habit of yours that helps you manage school that you think might help another student succeed?

One of my habits is journaling and using a calendar. I am someone who is all over the place so journaling helps me stay organized!

What is one tip you have for setting and achieving goals? Whether it's tackling a large workload, SMART goal, etc.

My main tip for setting and achieving goal is taking it one or two goals at a time whether is short or long term overloading yourself might lead to you not finishing any of your goals, so keeping it reasonable is definitely important!



MALEXIS BARINOTTO

Program of study – Associate in Arts to achieve Bachelors in Business Administration

Favorites:

- Hobbies/interests – I love to draw and listen to music. I also love spending time with my family and friends.

What is one victory you had last semester, and what you did to make sure you succeeded?

One victory I had last semester was ending the semester with all A's, meaning for the fall I had a 4.0 gpa. I studied like crazy to stay on top of my classes, and reaching out for help when I needed it. I also made sure I left out some days for myself and family, as overworking yourself (or at least me personally) can be a challenge.



I'm a Peer Leader because ... I want to motivate my peers around me. I once struggled with not being able to believe in myself, and it is not an easy path. I want to be able to help those who may feel how I once did. I want every student to acknowledge and be proud of the journey they are taking, handling life situations while balancing their education.

What is one habit of yours that helps you manage school that you think might help another student succeed?

One habit of mine that I have that I think will help others succeed is the habit of asking questions without a fear. Sometimes it can be frightful to ask a question in fear that it may be a “dumb” question, but no question is a dumb question! Ask all that you need and get all the help that you need in order to make you a better scholar.

What is one mistake you made last semester, and what advice would you give someone to avoid making the same mistake?

One mistake I made last semester would be procrastinating some of my assignments till last minute. My advice to students is to not leave assignments or projects until last minute before the due date. Try to make it a challenge for yourself to turn it in a few days before. This is the biggest stress reliever and it also makes sure your work is complete and well done.

What is one tip you have for setting and achieving goals? Whether it's tackling a large workload, SMART goal, etc.

One tip I have for setting and achieving goals is to keep yourself motivated. Whether that'll be by watching motivational podcasts, creating motivation boards, or reading books of success. There's many different ways to get yourself motivated, the more motivation you have the more you work for your end goal.



KENDALL BRIGGS

Program of study – Healthcare Administration

Favorites:

- Music/Musicians: Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande, SZA, Halle
- Hobbies/Interests: Figure Skating



I'm a Peer Leader Because... I have a genuine interest in helping to steer my peers in the right direction so that they thrive, especially in their new Wake Tech environment. I will share the wisdom I have gained during my Wake Tech journey by having an empathetic ear, using my communication skills and motivating them to be their best.

What is one victory you had last semester, and what you did to make sure you succeeded?

There are two major victories I had last semester, and one was being awarded the role of a Peer Leader at WTCC, and two receiving a 3.5 GPA in my classes.

What is one mistake you made last semester, and what advice would you give someone to avoid making the same mistake?

One mistake I made, was showing up for a big presentation event last semester late. Which meant that I ended up missing a big opportunity. So, a word of advice from me is to always be prepared no matter what in life!

What is one habit of yours that helps you manage school that you think might help another student succeed?

Keep track of time and how much you are spending it doing something. That way, you can plan out time(s) to start adding in studying, attending the TLC, etc.

What is one tip you have for setting and achieving goals? Whether it's tackling a large workload, SMART goal, etc.

One tip I have is to put in your best effort. You have a better chance of doing well in life if you put in the work and really strive to achieve a goal!



DEREK GONZALEZ

Program of study – Associate in Science, eventually BS in Chemistry

Favorites:

- Hobbies/interests: I'm really into gaming, and I've been trying to get back into writing as well.



I'm a Peer Leader because ... I am a big believer that people should give back to their community.

What is one mistake you made last semester, and what advice would you give someone to avoid making the same mistake?

One mistake I made last semester was not taking care of my mental health! It took me a lot longer than I would like to admit for me to realize how stressed I felt. One way to avoid this mistake is to stop and check in with yourself every once in awhile. Think about what you're feeling, and try to name those feelings. It can be really helpful in helping you recognize what you're feeling, why you're feeling those things, and the things you can do to process those feelings!

What is one habit of yours that helps you manage school that you think might help another student succeed?

I am a huge fan of keeping some sort of planner and/or calendar. I mostly use my planner to have to-do lists because I've found that I'm more likely to get things done if I can check them off on a list. On my calendar I usually keep track of exams, due dates, and any other thing I think is important. That way I can be sure not to get caught off-guard by any "surprise" assignments.

What is one tip you have for setting and achieving goals? Whether it's tackling a large workload, SMART goal, etc.

I break my assignments up into chunks! Having to do 30 math problems is more manageable if I do 5-10 a day!

I also let myself be flexible with the amount I get done in a day. Sometimes I won't hit the amount I want to do for whatever reason, and that's okay! I know I'll get it done eventually, but maybe in that moment I just need a break. Going in with that mindset helps to keep me from feeling burned out or overwhelmed.



NIDHI KARERAKATTIL



Program of study – Associate in Arts, I plan to major in Archaeology.

Favorites:

- Music/musicians: My taste in music is extremely eclectic, ranging from The Beatles and ABBA to Cavetown and Mitski to Yoasobi and Ado. At the moment, though, I have the concept album for "Epic: The Musical" on repeat.

- Books/authors: Douglas Adams and his Hitchhiker's series will forever be my top recommendation. The world and characters in his books instantly drew me in, and his style has influenced my writing in more than one.

I'm a Peer Leader because ... when I first joined Wake Tech, I wished I had someone to guide and support me as I stumbled about figuring out the ins and outs of college. Now, I hope to be that person for someone else.

What is one mistake you made last semester, and what advice would you give someone to avoid making the same mistake?

I'd say the biggest mistake I made was not celebrating my achievements. I did a lot last semester – I became a peer leader, I joined PTK, I got an internship – yet, I never took the time to celebrate them. Instead, I looked at the things everyone around me had accomplished and felt disappointed I hadn't done more. That is something I am going to work on this semester.

I would say, celebrate your wins – even the small ones. When you do well on a test or a quiz, get excited about it; when you land that job, get a treat. It isn't selfish to celebrate yourself.

You deserve it!

What is one habit of yours that helps you manage school that you think might help another student succeed?

Schedules and to do lists – everywhere. I have my basic class schedule tacked onto my wall. I have two to-do lists on my phone and I keep another one in a small notebook. Those daily planners the CARE Center hands out? I have two. And I check them religiously – before I leave the house, before class starts, after class ends, before I start a task, after I finish a task. Anything to remind myself of what I need to do.

If you don't want to be a schedule maniac like me, that's understandable. I would recommend writing down a list of short tasks, like going through flashcards, checking your email, or responding to texts, things you can finish in those five minutes you can't fit anything else into, like when you're waiting in line to order, or waiting for class to start. That way you don't need to carve out time from your day just to do them.

What is one tip you have for setting and achieving goals? Whether it's tackling a large workload, SMART goal, etc.

Remember every day, or week, may not be perfect, but every effort you make is taking you closer to your goal. Give yourself some time to adjust to new schedules and take up new practices. If it still doesn't work, try adjusting it. If you want to work out five times a week but you never seem to be able to, don't give up completely. Try to work out two times a week to start or try a different kind of work out. You can always work towards your goal.



VICTORIA ONG

Program of study – Pre-nursing

Favorites:

- Music - The Weeknd!
- Hobbies/interests – Drawing, painting, reading, cooking, baking, music, piano



I'm a Peer Leader because ... I genuinely want to help other students as they navigate their college journey. My goal is to create a friendly and supportive environment where everyone feels comfortable reaching out for advice or simply chatting about their experiences. Together, we can make college a more enjoyable and fulfilling experience for everyone!

What is one victory you had last semester, and what you did to make sure you succeeded?

During the last semester at Wake Tech, I experienced a significant personal victory by joining several student organizations. I decided to participate in the Student Veterans Association, the National Society of Leadership and Success, and the Pi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Engaging with these groups broadened my horizons and allowed me to connect with a diverse range of individuals who share similar interests. It was refreshing to step out of my comfort zone, attend meetings, and participate in events, fostering new friendships and creating memorable experiences. This involvement enriched my college experience and helped me grow socially and academically.

What is one mistake you made last semester, and what advice would you give someone to avoid making the same mistake?

Last semester, I fell behind in my classes right from the beginning of the term. I struggled to keep up with the coursework, leading to a frustrating cycle of missed assignments and poor grades. This setback hindered my understanding of the material and affected my confidence and overall motivation throughout the semester. After reflecting on my experiences, I realized I should have better managed my time and sought help sooner. Now, I've developed a more proactive approach to my studies, including setting clear goals and creating a structured schedule to stay on track. This experience has taught me valuable lessons about preparation and accountability that I will carry forward into future semesters.

What is one habit of yours that helps you manage school that you think might help another student succeed?

I make weekly detailed lists outlining all the tasks I need to complete. This helps me stay organized and ensures I don't overlook any important responsibilities or deadlines. Each list includes work-related items and personal errands, appointments, and goals I want to achieve. I can effectively manage my time and maintain focus throughout the week by reviewing and updating my list regularly.

What is one tip you have for setting and achieving goals? Whether it's tackling a large workload, SMART goal, etc.

When setting my goals, I make it a priority to actively seek out feedback and opinions from others. Engaging with friends, family, and colleagues allows me to gain diverse perspectives I may not have considered. This collaborative approach not only helps me to identify potential blind spots but also encourages me to refine my objectives for greater clarity and focus. I create an environment of accountability and support by sharing my aspirations and discussing them openly. This practice has proven invaluable, as it has significantly contributed to my ability to achieve the goals I set for myself.



RUBY WAIBEL



Program of study – Associate in Science, intend to major in Environmental Sciences at North Carolina State University.

Favorites:

- Artist: Chappell Roan
- Hobbies/interests: Reading, crafts, gardening

I'm a Peer Leader because ... I want to help students make the most of their time at Wake Tech, both academically and personally. People often say you get out what you put in, and in my opinion, that applies perfectly to community college. This year, I hope to help as many students as possible take advantage of all Wake Tech has to offer.

What is one victory you had last semester, and what you did to make sure you succeeded?

One victory from last semester was earning an A in my toughest class.

This class was challenging from start to finish, requiring consistent effort every week. I earned my lowest score of the semester on the first test, and I knew I had to change my approach to turn things around. After reflecting on what wasn't working, I made a few key adjustments:

- Improved note-taking: I started taking detailed notes during class, breaking down each problem step-by-step and adding notes in the margins to explain the process and reasoning behind the work. This made it easier to review and improved my understanding of the material.
- Created a focused study environment: I realized I often got distracted studying alone at home, so I started meeting with a friend to study together. This kept me focused and helped reinforce the material as we talked through problems.

For anyone facing a tough class, whether it's math or something else, don't be afraid to evaluate what's not working and make adjustments. If you're not sure how to improve, talk it through with a classmate, friend, or a Wake Tech staff member.

What is one habit of yours that helps you manage school that you think might help another student succeed?

A habit that has helped me manage schoolwork recently is scheduling study time and homework for my unstructured classes.

It can feel overwhelming when there's always more homework you could be doing, but creating a routine has been a game-changer for me. My brain thrives on structure, so planning specific study and homework times has helped me stay on top of my work while also allowing me to enjoy guilt-free downtime.

For example, if I have an afternoon with no other plans, I'll block off 1 hour for each of my classes, taking breaks in between. Depending on my deadlines and how the rest of my day looks, I might add extra time for longer assignments later.

Don't get me wrong, you don't have to plan every day of your life. If I have a couple of unstructured days in my week, I'll only block out homework time for 2 days and play it by ear for the rest. On days when I'm on campus and have a more set routine, I adjust my schedule accordingly. Flexibility is key to making the system work without feeling overly rigid.

If this approach sounds helpful, you can try it using a calendar app, a physical planner, or phone scheduling apps like Structured. Setting specific times for schoolwork can make your workload feel more manageable and less like an endless to-do list.

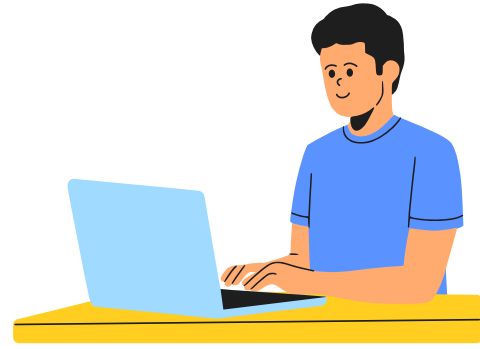


THOMAS WILKIE

Program of study – Cybersecurity

Favorites:

- Movies/TV – Most anime, such as Bleach, Ergo Proxy and Claymore
- Books/authors – "360° Leader" by John C. Maxwell



I'm a Peer Leader because ... I want to encourage others to follow their chosen path to completion. It is often easier to complete major tasks with some guidance and assistance.

What is one victory you had last semester, and what you did to make sure you succeeded?

One victory last semester was finishing all 5 courses and getting a 4.0 GPA for the semester. I focuses, and ensured I applied time management in an effective way that worked for me.

What is one mistake you made last semester, and what advice would you give someone to avoid making the same mistake?

One mistake I made was allowing myself to fail a certification exam and letting a Cisco Badge slip away. I did not focus on the exam and bombed it.

What is one habit of yours that helps you manage school that you think might help another student succeed?

One habit I have is to ensure I complete all tasks in a timely manner. If I don't stick with time management and ensuring things are done, I am prone to procrastinate. Don't get me wrong, I work well under pressure, but that's not a great way to work on coursework.

What is one tip you have for setting and achieving goals? Whether it's tackling a large workload, SMART goal, etc.

Setting reasonable and realistic goals is key. If it cannot be accomplished relatively soon or is subject to changes between start and finish, it may be too big to undertake. For example, graduating is reasonable in your final semester, it is not something you can do in your first semester. So setting a goal of completing this semester with a 3.5 or better GPA is a reasonable and realistic goal for now. Let graduation be the result of meeting a bunch of small goals.

Have any feedback? Please fill out the form below!



THANK
YOU

Interested in Becoming a Peer Leader?

Student Success Peer Leaders are expected to facilitate positive interactions between students and assist them with the transition to the Wake Tech community. Peer Leaders serve as role models, lead icebreakers, and present information on campus resources to students.

The Peer Leader's primary role is to provide guidance and leadership to new students during:

- One on one and group sessions
 - Class presentations
- Care Center engagement events

If interested or for more information, contact successcoach@waketech.edu.