

Wallace State Community College

Student Success/Graduation Feature Stories: Cutter Green

Heart of a Lion: How Cutter Green Pounced Forward While Giving Back

Cutter Green has a lot of irons in the fire compared to most college students. In fact, when it comes to metaphorical molten metal, he'd no doubt rival most *blacksmiths*.

For the perpetually busy Wallace State student, college represents a scorching cauldron of opportunity, full of chances not only to build skills and make career connections... but to transform entire communities for the better.

"Extracurriculars keep me very engaged," says Green, always prone-to-understatement.

When he isn't diligently planning the next event for Wallace State's "Buddy Program," which he helped launch, you'll find Green immersed in his pre-law studies, or possibly coaching the local Miracle League team. His involvement on campus, alongside his academic achievements, have earned him numerous accolades, including a prestigious appointment in the All-Alabama Team Scholars program, a nationwide scholarship program that recognizes academic achievement and leadership.

And while he isn't *technically* allergic to free time, Green has also managed to become the WSCC 2022 President's Cup Winner, a Lion Leader Ambassador for Wallace State's Alumni Association, and a member of multiple honor societies on campus.

"I've really enjoyed my time at Wallace," the "Green machine" reflects. "My experience has been academically challenging, it's been motivating, and it's been fun."

Some of Green's most impactful work has been for the benefit of his community. His favorite among those experiences has been coaching his local Miracle League — a sports team for kids with special needs.

"They have been amazing," gushes Green. "We'll get all the kids out there, and we'll have a good time."

Prolific as he is passionate, the busy student also spearheaded WSCC's Buddy Program, alongside the college's president, Dr. Vicki Karolewics, mathematics professor Stacey Silvey, and head of the English department, Dr. Kathy Buckelew.

"We basically get students together from Wallace, and we match them up with an individual with special needs from the community," explains Green.

Green assists with planning and executing events, like playing basketball in the arena at the Tom Drake Coliseum, or hosting a Build-a-Wally, where participants create a stuffed version of the Wallace State mascot, Wally the Lion. It's a chance, he says, to feel like he's part of a broader community mission.

"It's a great time," beams Green. "It's a great way for students to give back to their community ... and just be better connected."

Leading the initiative opened the door for Green to get an inside look at the ins-and-outs of event planning at the college. Green admits that this initially slow process made it tough to get the ball rolling on the Buddy Program.

"That was definitely one of the challenges, just figuring out how that works," he reflects. "Learning the process for getting something to happen at the school, how you need to submit something, how you need to talk to certain people."

Eventually Green found his footing, and with the help of his support system, began executing successful events across campus. Green says he credits "having amazing people to help guide me through that process" to assist in making the initiative a reality.

His above-and-beyond involvement, he says, helps him feel strongly connected to the college.

“[My extracurriculars] help me academically to stay there, stay on top of my grades, because I have a purpose,” says Green. “Learning how to organize, learning how to talk to people ... approach people ... to make all of these different events happen.

“I think they’re all skills that will help me in my future career.”

Not only did Wallace State equip the inspiring scholar with the essential skills to succeed, it provided the necessary tools. With countless resources — like knowledgeable faculty, comprehensive courses, and helpful tutoring services — at his disposal, Green had what he needed to get to work so he could start making a difference.

“I’ve definitely learned how to utilize resources that the college offers,” he concludes.

Managing to find time amidst his laundry list of extracurriculars, Green is working toward his goal of earning a political science degree at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. Once he finishes at the four-year university, he plans to move forward with law school.

And though he isn’t “one hundred percent sure” what section of law he ultimately wants to specialize in, he has an idea.

“I would want to work with individuals from financially challenged backgrounds,” Green ruminates. “And I do like working with special needs individuals, and that might be something I want to do later ... but that is my general direction.”

For Green, the community at Wallace State has been a critical cornerstone for his current — and future — success.

"It really takes a community to help a college student achieve what he wants to do," says the grateful learner. "And [Wallace State] really has been that community for me ... to help me get to where I want to go.

"I'm thankful for them beyond words."