Each year, Watco’s All Aboard Foundation provides scholarships to several very deserving graduating seniors. To qualify, recipients must be a dependent of a Watco Team Member, they must be in good academic standing, and planning to attend a post-secondary institution within one year of graduating from high school. Congratulations to the following seven recipients who were each awarded a $500 scholarship.

**Kylene Barney**
Kylene’s parents are Jeremy and Amanda Tyler. Jeremy is a conductor/engineer on the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad. Kylene will graduate at the top of her class and will be attending Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas. Kylene is involved in many clubs and has received several academic awards throughout her high school career. She has been active in her church, which has led her to be a more active volunteer in community charities.

**Kayden Camp**
Kayden is the son of Adam and Mandy Gray. Adam is a track foreman on the Stillwater Central Railroad and works out of the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma depot. Kayden is the class Salutatorian and plans to attend the University of Oklahoma. Kayden served on the Student Council as reporter and class vice president. He is a member of the Honor Society, the Cyril Academic Team, the Superintendent’s Honor Roll, and served as a varsity football team captain. Kayden has also been heavily involved in community events.

**Delaney Cedeño**
Delaney’s parents are Pat and Julie Cedeño. Pat serves as senior vice president network relations and works from the Pittsburg, Kansas, office. Delaney will be attending Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas, and works from the Pittsburg, Kansas, office. Delaney serves as senior vice president network relations and was elected state vice president of the North Dakota Association of Honor Societies. Adam has been a volunteer in a number of organizations and is a member of the Cathay Fire Department. He serves as a mentor in the 7th Grade Mentoring Program and feels that community development should start with the youth programs.

**Adam Gorseth**
Adam is the son of Daniel and Brenda Gors. Adam will graduate at the top of his class and plans to attend the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma. Adam has been involved in a number of academic organizations and was elected state vice president of the North Dakota Association of Honor Societies. Adam has been a volunteer in a number of organizations and is a member of the Cathay Fire Department. He serves as a mentor in the 7th Grade Mentoring Program and feels that community development should start with the youth programs.

**Kasandra McClanahan**
Kasandra is the daughter of Dustin and Alisha McClanahan. Dustin is the chief mechanical officer for the Autauga Northern Railroad in Prattville, Alabama. Kasandra plans to attend Auburn University in Montgomery, Alabama. Kasandra is a strong believer in volunteering and feels it teaches a person respect and true selflessness and continues to volunteer beyond school service projects.

**Juliza Vidales**
Juliza is the daughter of Teodoro Vidales and Maria Esparza. Teodoro is an operator at the Dallas (Zacha) Terminal in North Dakota. Juliza was the yearbook copy editor, orchestra president and second chair violinist, and participated in the PALS (Peer Assistance And Leadership Program). She has also been a member of the LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) and NEST (National Educators on Sex Trafficking) organizations.

2019 Scholarship Winners
Austin Team Member appreciates Idaho beginnings

By Jay Benedict
Digital Communication and Social Media Specialist

Transito Pedraza started on the Eastern Idaho Railroad (EIRR) 12 years ago, and is currently a conductor/engineer on the Austin Western Railroad (AWRR), where he transferred 10 years ago. He caught the railroad bug when he was young, but his path into the industry and to Watco wasn’t the most straightforward.

“Growing up, we grew up poor. I dropped out of school to help my dad. I was working the fields, I worked for a roofing company, and when I got old enough, I started working at the local sugar factory where my dad worked too.”

That’s where Transito’s first personal experience with railroading happened. They had a 25-ton switch engine on the property, and part of his job was bringing in railcars so he could inspect and clean them before they were loaded.

“We lived across the canyon from the Eastern Idaho, so it was always there, but when I started switching, that’s when my passion for it started to grow, and it never left,” Transito said.

He’d been working at the sugar plant for eight years when he decided to apply for a job with the EIRR in 2006. At the time, John Brown was the general manager, and Transito kept stopping by the Rupert, Idaho, depot, asking for updates on his application.

“I didn’t think they were ever going to give me a chance,” he said. “I wanted to work for the railroad so bad, but I didn’t think I was going to get the opportunity there. I was ready to go somewhere else, but the day I put in my two-week notice at work, I got a call from the Watco recruiter. I guess it was destiny, God heard me crying.”

Transito says the challenge of the work is what drew him to railroading. He says all the changes the AWRR has undergone over the years are great examples. The AWRR used to operate strictly during the day, but when centralized traffic control was implemented they had to adapt. They couldn’t co-mingle with the passenger trains, which meant operating at nights which brings its own set of challenges. They operate in a seven-hour window and interchange with Union Pacific and BNSF, so everything has to click perfectly.

“It’s a special technique. Either you’ve got it or you don’t, there’s no in between about railroading. You like it, or you don’t,” he said. “The way we run now, it’s almost like a Class I railroad, like a miniature Class I. There’s a little bit of everything on this railroad, and everything has to be almost perfect. In this industry nothing’s ever perfect, so if you aren’t ready, it’s going to bring you to your knees real quick. We’re fortunate, though, we have a great team out here.”

It goes beyond that for Transito, though. He’s thankful for the opportunity he’s received, and that he’s able to provide for his family. He and his wife, Erika, have been married 10 years, and they have a nine-year-old son Javen and their daughter, Arlette, is six.

“Watco’s team member development and opportunities to move up are great, but for me you can find that anywhere you work hard and have a passion for what you’re doing. For me, I hold Watco dear to my heart because they gave me an opportunity that no other railroad would. I feel like I’ve been so blessed,” Transito said. “I think about the Webb family, they gave me the opportunity to grow. I’ve never met the Webbs, but if one day I could, I would thank them for what they’ve done for me. I have two children and a wife, that’s what Watco gave me, the opportunity to be blessed with my family and grow. I have a good job and I’m doing what I love to do. If you look at Mr. Webb, Dick, and everything they sacrificed and what they did to keep the company afloat. I bet he never imagined the company would be this big someday, but he never gave up for him or his family, and that’s why when I look at mine, Watco’s always going to be dear to my heart. As long as I keep breathing and as long as they’ll have me, I’ll always try to give them 110 percent, because of what that man once did for his family, I’m allowed to do the same for mine and provide.”

TEXAS & NEW MEXICO RAILWAY
wins ASLRRRA Business Development Award

By Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Watco Team Members on the Texas & New Mexico Railway (TXN) were able to bring back an underutilized pipeline terminal to ship out crude from the Permian Basin via rail.

“The Team worked to obtain not only a Customer, find the correct tanks cars, and develop an operating plan. All of this needed to be completed in a very condensed window. Because of their team work and the ability to serve the needs of a Customer, they were awarded the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association’s (ASLRRRA) Business Development Award.

Kurtis Lindsey, commercial manager, and Todd Trammell, TXN general manager, traveled to Florida last month to collect the award at the ASLRRRA’s annual convention on behalf of the TXN and Watco.

Lindsey said, “There was a lot of collaboration both internally among our groups from the rail side, the terminal side, some of our engineering expertise, and our Class I partners played a real critical role in getting some of the interchange capacity and some of the other operations details put together, and of course our Customer played a key role as well.”

There were 120 days from the formation of the idea to the ribbon cutting at the facility. In the first four months, 4,000 carloads of crude were moved and a long-term sustainable business was developed. This also helped develop the trust of our Customer for being able to accomplish what we had set out to do with such a quick turnaround.

“If you have the right team, you have the right passion about your team, and your company, and you listen to your Customer, they’ll let you know.”

Texas & New Mexico Railway’s (TXN) General Manager Todd Trammell and Commercial Manager Kurtis Lindsey, accepted the ASLRRRA Business Development on behalf of the TXN Team and Watco at the Connections Conference recently held in Orlando, Florida.

And that’s exactly what they did, they let us know. They said ‘here’s what we need, can you do it?’ and we could,” said Trammell.

Congratulations to the entire team who worked tirelessly together in order to bring the project to completion, you all earned this award.
Commodity: Fertilizer  
Customer: Archer Daniels Midland  
Location: Blytheville, Arkansas

Capital expansion projects are sometimes years in the making, and the recent addition of a fertilizer blending machine to the Blytheville, Arkansas Terminal was no exception. The wait and preparation is worth it though, when it allows us to bring a new capability to the region, better serve our Customer, and grow alongside them.

About two years ago, the terminal lost a longtime Customer, so VP Commercial Dan Lester and the team were looking to fill that gap. Conversations started with Archer Daniels Midland (ADM). ADM is a global leader in the agriculture industry, and one of its areas of focus is fertilizer. When discussing the capabilities of the Blytheville Terminal, fertilizer blending arose as one feature that could give ADM a competitive advantage in the area.

“We spent several months going back and forth determining scope, size, what we needed to run, what we were going to do for installation, and who was going to build it. Once we got that nailed down, we were able to agree to a long term contract with guarantees,” said Lester.

Fertilizer blending allows farmers to deliver the exact nutrients a field needs, depending on the properties of the soil. Those properties can vary from field to field. By targeting exactly what the fields need, the farmers and ADM can use less fertilizer, saving time and money, but still get maximum crop yield.

There’s no other supplier in the area offering this tailored approach.

“It’s a capability that doesn’t exist in the area and hasn’t for some time. So, when we looked at it to see how they could get a competitive advantage, that’s how we determined the need for this service,” Lester said.

“The closest blending system is about 70 miles south in Memphis, so it opens up this whole market area.”

Doyle Manufacturing fabricated and installed the blending system, which consists of four hoppers that connect to the mixing drum. The drum resembles the mixer on the cement trucks. Before installing the system, an old conveyor had to be removed. The team also built a full loadout system to fill the Customers’ trucks after the fertilizer is blended.

The new system required tech upgrades as well. It operates on a logic control system, so wireless connectivity was installed to connect the blender to the hub in the scale house. The scale clerk there can punch in what blends are needed, and as long as the hoppers are full, the system automatically measures and mixes the fertilizer.

“It took considerable training on our part, but now all our team has to do is enter the desired mixtures and make sure the bins are full. The fertilizer is mixed, blended, and loaded into the truck via logic control. It’s a pretty slick setup. It’s amazing how far the technology has come. It used to be a few guys with shovels and a front end loader trying to get a blend right,” said Lester.

The Blytheville terminal receives five main types of straight fertilizer via barge. Urea, potash, ammonium sulfate, monoammonium phosphate, and diammonium phosphate are unloaded at the floating dock on the Mississippi River and carried nearly ½-mile on an elevated conveyor to a 40,000 sq. ft. warehouse where it’s stored before being sold as-is or blended. In the blending system, micro-additives like boron and zinc can also be added in small amounts.

The new system came online in late March, and is currently accounting for about 40% of the fertilizer volume leaving the facility. After the material is blended and loaded, the farmer and ADM both receive a report detailing the total tons of fertilizer they received with detailed breakdown of how many tons of each component and micro-additive were added. This helps them track what was spread on each field so changes can be made if crop yield isn’t does perform as expected. It also ties into the terminal’s inventory management system so the team can more easily track how much product is on hand.

“So far what we’ve seen, in this short amount of time, is that the blending system is being received very well by the market. ADM is getting more tons through the facility than either of us anticipated and a lot of that is because of this other feature,” Lester said. “They’re able to bring Customers in and say, ‘we can give you straight product that you’ll use anyway, and we can give you this blended product for your fields that might need some kind of boost.’”

Lester added, “Through ADM’s Farm Direct program, ADM buys all that crop back from the farmers. So, we’re helping our Customer provide better service to their customers, who will in turn see better crops, which means ADM will then see more grains on their grain side. Everybody wins.”

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Two Watco Mechanical Shops get an opportunity to try something new

By Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

Team members at the mechanical shops complete many similar tasks throughout the day so they especially enjoy it when they get the opportunity to work on new and different projects.

In November, NRE contacted the mechanical division regarding their Queensland locomotive project about work on eight locomotive cabs and some dynamic brake structures.

The fabrication shops at Wood River, Illinois, and Jacksonville, Florida, both had the chance to try out something new.

The Jacksonville Team completed a total of five locomotive cabs and the Wood River Team completed three cabs.

The teams began working on the project in February and finished up at the end of April.

Jacksonville Shop Manager Charlie Sigley said, "Our fabrication guys really enjoyed getting to work on a different project. They thought it was fun getting the chance to do something a bit different from what they're normally used to doing."

He added, "They did a great job and completed their part of the project as required. I'm proud of the job they did and look forward to seeing the final product."

Nebraska Team completes confined space training

By Jay Benedict
Digital Communication and Social Media Specialist

The Watco Mechanical Services Omaha Team recently completed Confined Space Training including exercises for the Emergency Response Team.

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Manager John Livermore brought his years of experience as an Air Force Firefighter to the classroom instruction and Railcar Coordinator Rocky Aiken helped develop the exercise scenarios based on his experiences from more than 20 years in railcar repair and manufacturing. Safety training like this is crucial to developing our safety awareness and culture, and is part of WMS’s focus on "making every team member a Safety Manager."

Cool safety celebration

Congratulations to the Ingevity Switching Team in DeRidder, Louisiana. To recognize their outstanding safety record and celebrate them reaching their 16th injury-free anniversary, the team received these coolers as a thank you for safely providing service to our Customer each and every day.

Sixteen years is quite an impressive record, let’s shoot for grills to celebrate the next 16.
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Southern railroads acquire ballast cars

All railroads require maintenance to keep our Customers’ freight moving, and laying down new ballast is part of that. In order to get more bang for their buck, the Vicksburg Southern (VSOR) (pictured here), Mississippi Southern (MSR), and Arkansas Southern (ARS) railroads purchased 10 ballast cars using CapEx funding.

The ballast cars are split across the railroads with the VSOR getting four of the cars, the MSR getting two, and the ARS getting two cars for each of their two branches.

Jeff Buck is the general manager for each property and says with the savings they will see, the cars will basically pay for themselves within the first year.

Buck said, “Having the cars allows us to purchase the ballast locally, generating a cost savings of about $23 per ton. This allows us to do business with the communities we serve and the cars will pay for themselves within a year, making more funding available for future investments in the lines.”

Happy retirement to the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad’s Robert Eineke. Robert had been an engineer on the railroad since 1998.

Robert filmed a Why Watco video in 2017 and in it he said that he loved “the adventure every day of being out on the rails.”

Here’s hoping your adventure into retirement is as enjoyable to you as your career with the railroad. Best of luck!
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM LEADS TO A DIFFERENT KIND OF SHIP

by Tracie VanBecelaere
Managing Editor

When three Watco Team Members gathered together as members of the Leadership Development Program (LDP) in 2018, they didn’t know the result would be a lasting friendship and what they hope to be an annual fishing trip to the Gulf Coast.

John Milhalic, Industry, Pennsylvania terminal manager, Scott King, Guntersville, Alabama terminal manager, and Donnie Gunter, Decatur, Alabama terminal manager all completed Watco U’s LDP last year. While in the class, they not only learned to become better leaders, but the bonus was, they also bonded over their love of fishing. Scott said, “There were about five of us in the class that really hit it off when we attended the class in Pittsburg (Kansas). I think Cris Hatcher (director of training and development) thought we were going to be trouble at first, but we were serious when it came time listen, learn, and develop our leadership skills.”

Out of the five though, this trio really hit it off and began communicating on a regular basis. Since Donnie and Scott are both located in Alabama, they are able to get together a little more often then they are with John.

However, the three planned a trip down to the Gulf Coast together and Milhalic flew into Birmingham to meet the rest of the crew and then they spent six hours chatting (telling fish stories) on the road on the way to their destination.

“‘We’re like brothers,’ said Scott. ‘I think of them as an extension of my family.’”

Scott also thinks that John has the personality of a Southerner and if he could fix his accent, he’d fit in just fine down south.

Not only did the guys bond, John and Scott both appeared in the Coastal Angler Magazine for their impressive bull red catches. Scott also made it again for a bass he caught. It appears the LDP class not only taught the men about leadership, it also taught them about a more important ship, friendship.

“The LDP classes are a great thing and can lead to long-lasting friendships,” said Scott.

GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to all our Watco Team Members and their families who are graduating from high school and college this May.

Bobby G. Baker III: Son of Bobby G. Baker Jr., Locomotive Engineer & TS&IC Leader, Louisiana Southern Railroad in Minden, LA; graduating from Southwood High School in Shreveport, LA.

Kylee Barney: Daughter of Jeremy Tyler, Engineer/Conductor, South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad, in Cherryvale, KS; graduating from Labette County High School in Altamont, KS.

John Barrows: Revenue Analysis Intern in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Pittsburg State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance.

Jordan C. Burks: Son of Reginald Burks, Location Manager in Lake Charles, LA; graduating from A. M. Barbe High School in Lake Charles, LA.

Kaidyn Campbell: Son of Adam Gray, Track Foreman on the Stillwater Central Railroad, in Oklahoma City, OK: graduating from Cyril High School in Cyril, OK.

Delaney Cedeño: Daughter of Pat Cedeño, SVP Network Relations in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from St. Mary’s Colgan High School, Pittsburg, KS.

Isaac Coomes: Son of Kevin Coomes, Plant Manager - Junction City Mechanical Shop, Junction City, KS; and nephew of Steve Coomes, SVP Operations, Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Ft. Hays State University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Isaac has been a two-year Intern with Watco in Overland Park, KS location, and will be full-time after graduation.

Madison Davis: Daughter of Maurice Davis, Manager Car Accounting /Demurragge, and step-daughter of Veronica Davis, Revenue Account Specialist in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Frontenac High School in Frontenac, KS.

Brett Freeman: Son of Brian Freeman, Director of Purchasing in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Pittsburg High School in Pittsburg, KS.

Lance Greenwood: Son of Lisa Butts, Car Accounting Controller in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Liberal High School in Liberal, MO.

Elizabeth Hayes: Daughter of Tom Hayes, Assistant General Counsel, in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Kansas State University, with a Bachelor of Arts, and a Minor in Dance and Communications.

Michael Hayes: Son of Tom Hayes, Assistant General Counsel, in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from University of Kansas Law School and Philosophy, with a Juris Doctorate in Law and a PhD in Philosophy.

Derrick Johns: Son of Todd Johns, Manager of Safety and Training, in Tuscaloosa, AL; graduating from American Christian Academy, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Ryan Kinyon: Son of Teri Kinyon; Senior Revenue Analyst in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Benedictine College; Atchison, KS with a Bachelor of Business in Accounting & Finance.

Kavanaugh Krueger: Son of Kevin Krueger, Trainmaster in Horicon, WI; graduating from Carroll University, Waukesha, WI, with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science.

Jalisia Norman: Daughter of Danyale Norman, General Manager in El Dorado, AR; graduating from El Dorado High School, El Dorado, AR.

Ashley Sayre: Recruiting Coordinator in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Pittsburg State University with a Bachelor of Science in General Studies.

Annie Snow: Daughter of Brad Snow, President of All Aboard Foundation in Pittsburg KS; graduating from St. Mary’s Colgan High School, Pittsburg, KS.

Vincent Sweeten: Son of Jason Kight, Conductor at the Greens Port facility in Houston, Texas; graduating from Splendora High School, in Splendora, Texas.

Taylor Trammell: Daughter of Todd Trammell, General Manager of Lubbock & Western Railway, Texas & New Mexico Railway, and the Pecos Valley Southern Railroad; graduating from Northeast High School in Arma, KS.

Dalton VanBecelaere: Son of Tracie VanBecelaere, Communications Director, in Pittsburg KS, graduating from St. Mary’s Colgan High School, Pittsburg, KS.

Juliza Vidales: Daughter of Teodoro Vidales, operator at the Dallas (Zacha) Terminal in Dallas, TX; graduating from Irma Ranges Young Women’s Leadership School in Dallas, TX.

Emily Wood: Daughter of Penny Wood, Purchasing Card and Cell Phone Manager, in Pittsburg, KS; graduating from Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, KS, with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with an emphasis of Psychology in Law.

Cierra Woods: Daughter of Clint Woods, AVP Division C; graduating from Concordia University of Ann Arbor, MI, with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
Births
Jocelyn Jirayia Reberg
Edward and Annetra Garcia are proud to announce the birth of their granddaughter Jocelyn Jirayia Reberg.
Jocelyn is the daughter of Zackery and Kristin Reberg. She was born on April 8, 2019. Edward and Annetra both work out of the PCA DeRidder, Louisiana, location where Edward is a switchman and Annetra is the office administrator.

Ezekiel James Daniels
Joseph and Aleishah Daniels are proud to announce the birth of a son Ezekiel James.
He was born on March 27, 2019, and weighed 7 lbs., 7 oz., and was 20.5 inches long.
Ezekiel was welcomed home by his sister Trinity, 9, and brother Titus, 7.
Joseph is an operator at the Roanoke Terminal in Virginia.

Vivian Faith Mettler
Shawn and Mary Linn Mettler are proud to announce the birth of a daughter Vivian Faith.
She was born on April 5, 2019, and weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz., and was 21.5 inches long.
Vivian was welcomed home by her sister Arizona Rae.
Shawn is the roadmaster at the Kanawha River Railroad.

Reighn Alexander Anderson
Kareem and Recheam Anderson are proud to announce the birth of a daughter Reighn Alexander.
She was born on March 17, 2019, and weighed 6 lbs., 2 oz., and was 19.5 inches long.
Reighn was welcomed home by her sisters Emriess, 8, Kylee Ann, 6, and Zyiona, 4.
Kareem is a railcar repairman at the Junction City Kansas, mechanical shop.

Congratulations to the following Team Members celebrating anniversaries this month

1 Year: Gregorio Alvarez, Sotero Amador III, Brooks Backes, Rodrick Bell, Richard Burns, Willard Burwell, Jose Carrizales, Isaias Collins, Mathew Coon, Richard Cooper, Nicholas Desjarlais, Perla Diaz, Floyd Dixon, Alton Durham, SaulAngel Estrada, Clinton Falcon, Jose Fana, Joshua Fetzer, Broderick Fountain, Justin Gardner, Julie Gilbert, Andrew Gossett, Stacy Grad, Jacob Green, Robert Green, Roosevelt Green, Shane Guglielmetti, Timothy Guymon, Jimmy Guyton, Abraham Hamilton, Christopher Hardy, Payton Hedge, Dionicio Hernandez, Ryan Hisey, Nicholas Halas, Brady Humphrey, Jossie Izaguirre, Harold Jackson, Miguel Jacobo, Jessica James, Derrick Johnson, Danny Kelley, Eric Kirby, Chance Klatt, David Knorr, Robert Koehn, Zachary Landrum, Chris LaRocque, Tuscan Larsen, Bieleka Leiva, Kristin Leo, Nerisa Leota, Brett Lindstrom, Stephen Maloney, Jarrett Manhart, Sheldon Nashburn, Isaias Mata, Biet McGuire, Mercedes Medina, Delayious Merryll, Clara Moore, Ryan Neal, Johnathan Nowland, Ronald Owens, Shannon Parker, Jose Perez, Denise Phillips, Jose Pina, Walter Puntenney, Donald Ray, David Sanchez Gonzalez, Ashley Sayre, Joshua Schlatter, Joshua Schultz, Aaron Scott, Jordan Seideman, Christopher Shobleldredge, Kalaisinh Silbabouth, Samantha Starks, Christopher Steed, Johnathan Striegel, Garrett VanBeeclesane, Antwone Walker, Dalton Want, John Watson, Jason Williams, Christopher Wilson, Lynae Womble
2 Years: Mario Almazan, Evan Baker, Shae Bauer, Justin Bland, Quintin Blunemel, Alexander Blum, Joshua Brisenoe, Clarence Brown, Jared Clark, Isaac Coomes, Keith Cornelst, Veronica Garcia, Joshua Greer, Cole Kerskherst, Rojelio Lopez, William Martin, Christopher McGee, William McKinnon, Johnathan Miller, Phillip Moorlag, Kenneth Morgan, Aaron Morris, James Ortiz, Jennifer Otto, Luis Oyervides, Derek Peek, Ray Price, Logan Reed, Kylee Robinson, John Salazar, Tyler Smith, Johnathon Tanganeman, Victorio Tudor, Bryan Vail, Ail Valdez, Teodore Vidales, Erik Wagoner, Amanda Warnen, Jimmelie Welch, Brandon Willis, Chad Zent
3 Years: Jorge Castaneda, Roy Cooper, Christian Daniels, Aaron Garcia, Santonio Goinis, Joshua Golightley, Joseph Hamm, Dakota Hedges, Tori Herman, Michael Holop, Brier Johnson, Matthew Magee, Chris Martin, Jeremy Melani, Thomas Power, Hector Reta, Tyler Sessions, Patrick Stephenson, Amanda Thomas, Douglas Tolliver
5 Years: Ryan Albracht, David Alvarado, Robert Blevins, Pamela Cannon, Travis Chamberlain, Lloyd Christenst, Marcus Connelly, Aaren Davis, Derrick Davis, Caleb Delleas, Rasheed Devine, Perry Diehl, Gabriel Gonzales, Sharon Hansen, David Hasket, Michael Holland, Christopher Klemam, Scott Kort, Dave Kunes, Robert Leeper, Brandon Lockley, Matthew Lunn, Christopher Maxwell, John McRae, Christopher Nunnelley, Adam Ovesson, Jerrie Quintana, John Ray, Ryan Shockley, Jacob Short, Dwayne Smith, Traci Swan, Karrie Torina, Andres Villa, Jerry Waun, Jason Wehr
6 Years: Jordan Brown, Shawn Delaney, Gary Doxtor, Carl Dunlap, Ernest Eckley, Thomas Fabis, Melissa Gardner, Corey Gossens, Tabitha Hansen, Kris Hembry, Jeff Huser, Kevin Jackson, Roy Lanthorn, Mal Moland, Henry Sanchez, Cole Schulz, Lawrence Shinavich, Michael Smith, Jessica Swafford, Zachary Woolridge
7 Years: Terry Bell, Timothy Boyd, Ozell Campbell, Trinity Campbell, Jason Castie, John Davis, Daniel Farr, Ivan Gallegos, Denen Green, Tashata Jackson, Jerome Lawson, Raul Lazo, Jerry Lowe, Marcus McCalman, Drexel Newton, William Patterson, Daniel Perez, Tyler Pruitt, Lovon Simmons, Matthew Tarwater, Christopher Thomas, Christopher Thyer, Mem Webb, Jeffrey Wilkins
8 Years: Joseph Bradley, David Castagno, Robert Dixon, Anthony Hampton, Wesley Lindell, Christopher Miller, Magdaleno Monjaraz, Kenneth Powell, James Richards, Robby Rodriguez, Samuel Rodriguez, Jack Scott, Terrence Snell, Jeremy Stegner, Eric Thurlow
9 Years: Juan Aguilar, Eloy Alvarado, Mario Bredato, Christopher Colley, Matthew Collins, Alejandro Fonseca, Adam Hall, Timothy Herbert, Joshua Holt, Jeff Justice, Latonya Smith, Kyle Whitman
10 Years: Kevin Anselmi, Miguel Garcia, John Matteucci, Steve White
11 Years: Randal Barrios, Mark Bohr, Thadius Hawkins, Nakia Jenkins, Melanie Miller
12 Years: Juan Aguilar, Michael Hubbs, Chris Labrie, Ricardo Leija, Kenneth McGrarity, Danyale Norman, Miguel Osorio, Jeffrey Raker, Matthew Smith, Christopher Spear, George Yanas
13 Years: Jason Danz, Charles Davidson, Matthew Koser, Gregory Lewis, Hugh Peo, Dan Sanger, Keith Schlotman, Nicholas Zerebny
14 Years: Aaron Coester, Steven Conrad, Dougas Corbin, John Gaither, Evan Groth, Timothy Groth, Kevin Leport, John McFadden, Jason Noll, Jerrel Whiteside, Ron Willman
15 Years: Aaron Hawkins, Amy Parady, Melissa Ross, Bradley Walker, Lance Williams
16 Years: Matthew Fetzer
17 Years: John Banks, Joshua Frame, Michael Greenwalt, James Lilly
18 Years: Enrique Castillo, Christopher Hamill, Allen Kellar, Richard Kelly, Duane Spurrer, Neil Waguespack, Mark Williams
19 Years: John Johnson, Chuck Shaffer
20 Years: Robert Cronce, Terrance Redd, Casey Thrall
21 Years: Stanley Bryant, Thomas Lipp, Douglas Marshall, David Muth, Jay Parsons, John Watson
22 Years: Irineo Basurto, Scott Davis, Joe Hinckley, Stanley Bryant, Thomas Lipp, Douglas Marshall
23 Years: Joseph is an operator at the Roanoke Terminal in Virginia.
24 Years: Mark McClellan, Jay Prawucki
25 Years: Terry Market
26 Years: Mark McClellan, Jay Prawucki
27 Years: Birdie Thomas, Walter Tisler
28 Years: Barbara Cody, Anthony Delecce
29 Years: Irineo Basurto, Scott Davis, Joe Hinckley, Stanley Bryant, Thomas Lipp, Douglas Marshall
30 Years: Tim Reidness, Robby Rodriguez, Samuel Rodriguez, Jack Scott, Terrence Snell, Jeremy Stegner, Eric Thurlow
31 Years: Juan Aguilar, Eloy Alvarado, Mario Bredato, Christopher Colley, Matthew Collins, Alejandro Fonseca, Adam Hall, Timothy Herbert, Joshua Holt, Jeff Justice, Latonya Smith, Kyle Whitman
32 Years: Joseph is an operator at the Roanoke Terminal in Virginia.
33 Years: Vivian Faith Mettler
34 Years: Vivian was welcomed home by her sister Arizona Rae.
35 Years: Shawn is the roadmaster at the Kanawha River Railroad.
36 Years: Reighn Alexander Anderson
37 Years: Kareem and Recheam Anderson are proud to announce the birth of a daughter Reighn Alexander.
38 Years: She was born on March 17, 2019, and weighed 6 lbs., 2 oz., and was 19.5 inches long.
39 Years: Reighn was welcomed home by her sisters Emriess, 8, Kylee Ann, 6, and Zyiona, 4.
40 Years: Kareem is a railcar repairman at the Junction City Kansas, mechanical shop.
Watco’s Junction City mechanical shop is constantly in need of qualified welders to work on the various railcars that flow through the shop on a weekly basis. Coincidentally, just 21 miles down the road is a solution to help the team fill that need.

The Manhattan Area Technical College is located in Manhattan, Kansas, just a quick drive down Interstate 70 and offers a variety of courses to enable students to obtain their welding certification.

Junction City Plant Manager Kevin Coomes, Environmental, Health, and Safety Manager John Abel, and Director of Training and Development Cris Hatcher, visited the college and met with their Welding Program students. The class will be graduating in May with many of the participants seeking employment that will involve the craft of welding.

Coomes told the students about the Junction City shop and opportunities to use their newly developed skill as a team member.

Hatcher provided students with an overview of Watco and additional career opportunities within the company as a whole.

"The Junction City Mechanical Shop looks forward to building a relationship with MATC’s Welding Program for career opportunities with Watco," said Coomes.

Coomes is also excited about tapping into other area resources and schools in order to recruit new talent to join his team in Junction City.

Watco’s Kevin Coomes and Cris Hatcher (r) visiting with the class about employment opportunities at the Junction City, Kansas, mechanical shop.

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**Sunnymaine Team donates to RMH**

The Watco Terminal Team at the location on Sunnymaine Road in Oklahoma City recently put their heads together to come up with a project to help benefit the community they operate in.

The Team Safety and Improvement Committee (TS&IC) presented the idea of raising funds to purchase toys for the Children at the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) in Oklahoma City to their fellow team members and they were able to meet the goal they had hoped to achieve.

"We were able to build a sense of unity by working together towards one goal," said TS&IC Leader Gage Gorman. It always makes you feel good when you can help little kids, especially those that are either experiencing medical problems or have a brother or sister who is in the hospital. Just knowing that you may have made their day a little better is always satisfying."

Gorman and fellow team member Tom Shilling delivered approximately $400 worth of toys to the RMH.

Watco’s newest short line, the Ithaca Central is going strong and moving more carloads than ever. Pictured are (l-r): Michael Cooper, general manager, Jason Camann, track inspector, Thomas Nicholson, operations manager/engineer and Joe Battaglia, engineer/conductor.