

# JEFFERSON COUNTY NEIGHBORS

## Cody Wadding highlighted as outstanding graduate at BC3 @ Brockway

By Matthew Triponey  
Jefferson County Neighbors

**BROCKWAY** — With graduation approaching, the different branches of Butler County Community College — more commonly known as BC3 — are each highlighting an outstanding graduating student. The newest member of the BC3 family, BC3 @ Brockway, approaching the end of its first full year of operations, has chosen to highlight 24-year-old Clarion resident Cody Wadding.

Wadding is graduating from BC3 @ Brockway with an



**CODY WADDING**

associate's degree in business management with an emphasis on sales and marketing.

He said his interest in business stems from his childhood, as his mother and stepfather had their own business while he was growing up.

"I grew up around that atmosphere, that lifestyle," Wadding said. "I really enjoyed it, and I sincerely miss it ... It's something I'm more used to. I enjoy being put in that managerial position, and I wanted to pursue an education that would allow me to do what I enjoy, do what what I've grown up (See BC3 on Page 8)

### BC3

(Continued from Page One) and feel more comfortable with but still be able to make a good living at it."

Wadding is a 2008 graduate of Lakeview High School in Sandy Lake. After his graduation, he traveled while doing concession work and also worked with someone he met through his parents' business in both Pennsylvania and California. After that, he worked at a McDonald's restaurant in Grove City before moving to Clarion, since the majority of his family is from the surrounding area.

Wadding first found out about BC3 — specifically, BC3 @ Upper Allegheny — through a job fair at the Clarion Mall. Interested, he looked into it further and became a student shortly thereafter. When BC3 opened a campus in Brockway, he ended up there.

Wadding said that his experience at BC3 @ Brockway has been positive, specifically since he worked full-time throughout the duration of his college education, first as a produce delivery driver and currently as an assistant manager at a sporting goods store.

"Being able to go through BC3 @ Brockway and take courses online and the hybrid courses, where it's online and then in a classroom maybe once a month, has worked in my work schedule," he said, "because I'll put in 40, 50 hours a week at work, be able to come home, I might not feel like jumping and hitting the books that night but the next night. I can study for a little bit, take my test kind of in my time.

"It does take a lot of self-discipline in order to learn outside of the classroom setting, to actually sit down and read a

book, put in the time to put in projects whenever you're not in a classroom and you have a professor saying, 'Hey, do this, do that, read this, write this down.' But because of my work and everything else, it's been convenient for me."

Wadding added, "To me, it would have felt awkward jumping right into that college lifestyle, that atmosphere, because I've been working since I was nine years old. I couldn't imagine not working or only working 10 hours a week and going to college the majority of the time. So, BC3 has allowed me to continue to work, which I enjoy, and further my education; that way, I can get a better job, and I can be a better person and a more productive member of society."

He cited both his father and stepfather as inspirations toward pursuing higher education, saying both had placed value on it.

"That way, you can have a field of study, something you know in your heart that you can make a career out of in multiple fields," Wadding said.

As for the future, he plans to stay with BC3 @ Brockway for another year or so to obtain a few more credits that will transfer directly to Clarion University, where he hopes to earn his bachelor's degree. He said he needs about 60 credits to do that, and he can get about half of those at BC3.

Wadding said he wants to stay with BC3 because it's cheaper, about a third of the cost, and because it has fit into his work schedule so well.

"And plus," he said, "I like the program, I like the online courses with BlackBoard, and I like my advisor, Jill, and her secretary, Jade. They've helped me a tremendous amount."