

# CLINT MERRITT

## CLASS OF 2002

"When I think of a strong foundation in my life, I think of the two very special brick buildings in Whitesville. I grew up at St. Mary of the Woods and Trinity High School, and I'm thankful for the whole experience. I was blessed with a blend of teachers, coaches, friends, and families who helped mold my foundation. It was at Trinity High School I decided to further my education at Western Kentucky University. I obtained a degree in electrical engineering and a minor in mathematics. After college, I was hired in Bowling Green as a design engineer making circuit boards for aftermarket diesel engines. It was a fun job. We would build and write code for computer chips to give the engines more power. I married and moved back to Whitesville to raise my family and started working for a Japanese automotive company called Daicel Safety Systems. Daicel makes airbag inflators. The job included very advanced manufacturing technologies, such as high-tech laser welding machines and complicated data collection systems, and involved tons of PLC programming. I worked my way up to Assistant Engineering Manager at Daicel, but in 2017, I was able to start a solar power sales and installation business called Driven Solar, where I currently work full time. We started in residential, saving people money on their monthly electric bills, and now are doing larger commercial and agricultural solar projects. The solar job allows me to visit many homes in the surrounding areas. I'm proud to say that I often hear how we, at Trinity, are respected as hard-working people. I hope for all kids and teenagers to get guidance and support similar to what I was given at St. Mary and Trinity High School, which put me where I am today. I look forward to watching my children grow up with the same blessings and opportunities that were given to me there."

