

2015 PARK UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AWARDS LUNCHEON

The Park Promising Young Professional Award recognizes a Park University alumnus/a who shows exceptional promise of leadership and contribution to his/her profession and/or community. The recipient of this award will have graduated from Park within the last five years and be under the age of 35.

WAYNE EUGENE WILBOURN II, '10, DEPUTY CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER, ROBERT E. BUSH NAVAL HOSPITAL TWENTYNINE PALMS |

When asked what he does for a living, Wayne Wilbourn II often casually replies “computer stuff.” But as the deputy chief information officer at the Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms (Calif.), it’s hardly that simple.

In 2014, Wilbourn was appointed to lead a team of 20 to oversee all network systems at the hospital to ensure efficient operations and services — from admissions to electronic health care records, lab equipment, surgery, clinics and the pharmacy. “It’s very important to ensure all military members and their families receive proper care and their health records are secure and accurate, particularly as they are relocated and deployed around the world,” Wilbourn said.

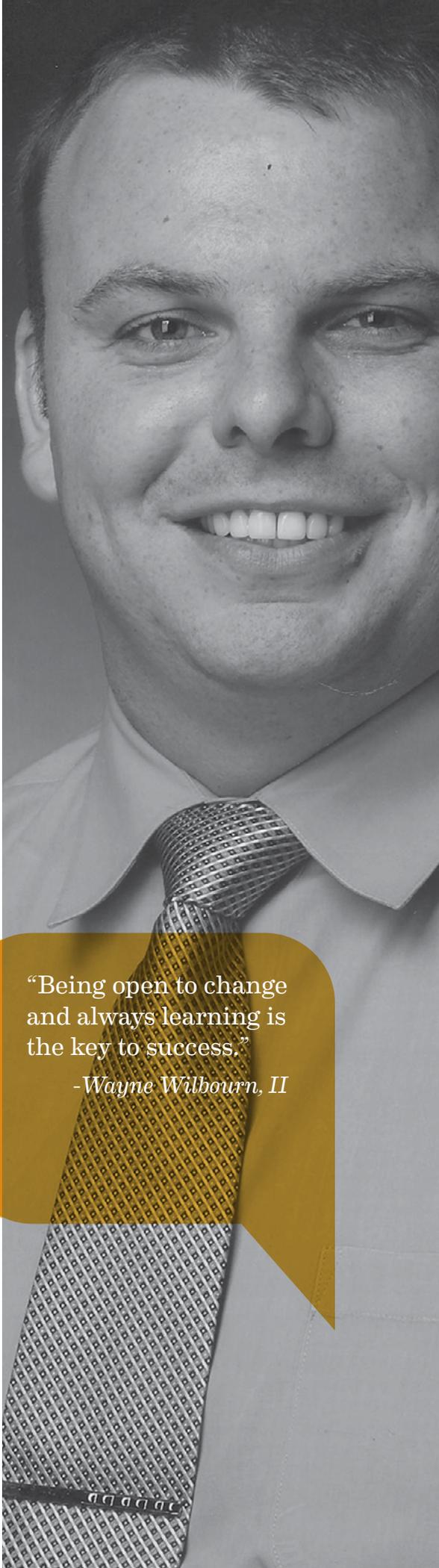
Born and raised in Alabama, Wilbourn entered the U.S. Marine Corps in 2002 and was stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Though stationed in the sunny West Coast, he spent most of his five years of service with a Marine Expeditionary Unit, traveling the globe to countries including Australia and Germany and Singapore — and three deployments to Iraq.

It was during his military service that he was exposed to computers and networks, working as a technician on combat and tactical communication equipment and electronic systems. “If you would have told me back when I was in high school that I’d have a career in computers, I would have said there’s no way,” he said. Yet Wilbourn has been on an information technology career fast track since earning his Bachelor of Science degree in management at Park University and going on to earn a Master of Business Administration.

Wilbourn attributes his career growth to a fundamental desire to learn. “I’m constantly learning, which is critical in the IT world,” he said. “My career in the computer field is ultimately rooted in my business education. Working in IT should not be considered an isolated expertise. It’s critical to fully understand how computer systems can best support overall business processes and goals.”

He brings to his deputy CIO role a wealth of diverse experience. After the Marines, he worked for several government contractors, including QinetiQ North America, one of the world’s leading defense and security technology companies. He then served as a network engineer for the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. As an IT operations officer at the Barstow Marine Corps Logistics Base (where Park has a campus center location), he supervised unclassified and classified networks. Wilbourn has also served as an adjunct faculty member, teaching online information technology courses for a variety of colleges. When he’s not sharing his knowledge or leading hospital operations, Wilbourn enjoys spending time with his wife of seven years, Samantha, and their growing family of three children, and coaching youth soccer.

In the fast, ever-changing world of computers, Wilbourn considers himself a perennial student. “Whatever I know today probably won’t be relevant five years from now,” he said. “If you don’t adapt to change, it’s nearly impossible to survive in this industry. Being open to change and always learning is the key to success.”

A black and white portrait of Wayne Eugene Wilbourn II, a young man with short hair, wearing a white dress shirt and a patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

“Being open to change and always learning is the key to success.”

-Wayne Wilbourn, II