



**CenturyCollege**

## ***News Release***

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## **Century College's Exemplary Student Is Single Dad with Three Sons**

Justin Lundquist of Shoreview, Century College's 2009 Exemplary Student and the single father of three young boys, received an unexpected surprise when he returned to college.

He made friends for life.

"I made friends I would do anything for," said Lundquist, who graduated this month with a 3.88 grade point average. "I didn't expect that to happen when I went back to school."

Lundquist, 35, said when he first went to college after graduating from St. Agnes High School in 1992, he was not mature enough to take advantage of the opportunity. "It was my first time away from home, living on my own, and I did not act responsibly," said Lundquist.

After dropping out of St. Cloud State University, he attended an aeronautics school in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and then went to work for Northwest Airlines for seven years. He lost his airlines maintenance job in 2003 and then went to work as a truck driver.

In 2006 he went through a divorce, gained custody of his sons and moved in with his parents in Shoreview. Hoping to enter a career with better hours and better pay, Lundquist enrolled in Century's

Information and Telecommunications Technology (ITT) program in 2007. After a year of working odd hours and going to school full time, Lundquist quit his truck-driving job and concentrated on school.

Wanting to take full advantage of his college experience, Lundquist joined several college clubs including the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the Theatre Club, the Intercultural Club and the All-Sports Club. He also took a job as a student ambassador for Century, working at student orientation sessions and leading tours of the campus.

“I like to tell students that they should get involved on campus and meet new people,” said Lundquist.

“You can get to the point where, like me, you can’t walk down the hall without saying “hi” to someone. College is challenging, but it’s also fun.”

Lundquist said his goal is to become a network administrator, chief information officer or information security officer at a larger company. He plans to transfer to a four-year institution to earn his bachelor’s degree.

“I am really motivated now,” said Lundquist. “I want to do better for myself and my children.”

In his Century College graduation speech on May 15, Lundquist thanked his parents and his children for providing support and motivation. And he had a special message for his fellow graduates: “I would like to encourage everyone here to reach out to the community. There are so many things you can do to make the world a better place.”



Photo: Century College 2009 Exemplary Student Justin Lundquist in the Kopp Technology Center.