



## *News Release*

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### **New Job Changes the Life of Century Alum**

Greg Jennings of St. Paul Park went from being a factory worker to a building engineer after graduating from Century's two facilities maintenance programs and landing a new job that he loves.

"Going to college has been the best experience of my life," said Jennings, 52, who now works for the Frauenshuh Property Management Co. of Edina. "It is energizing to have a second chance at a career – a second chance at life. I am really blessed to have this."

Jennings, a 1975 Tartan High School graduate, worked for the Gillette Co. for 25 years until it was bought by another company and then closed in 2006.

Losing his job after nearly three decades of work in the same place was a shock at first. But now he sees it as the opportunity of a lifetime.

As a dislocated worker, Jennings qualified for retraining through the Minnesota Workforce Center, and he seized the opportunity to take computer classes at St. Paul College and then facilities maintenance classes at Century. He first enrolled in Century's Facility Systems Technology program, graduating in 2008, and then the Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning program, graduating in 2009.

"The first day I started college, it was scary," said Jennings. "I didn't even want to get out of my car. But I decided to look at it as a second chance. I decided to go for it."

By the time Jennings graduated from Century, he had earned a 3.86 grade-point average and was on the dean's list. One of his Century instructors lined him up with a job, and he started working at Frauenshuh a week before he graduated.

Jennings now takes care of the maintenance needs of a half dozen buildings and enjoys the changing nature of his work. "It's a great job," he said. "Basically, you are fixing things so that people can stay comfortable in these buildings. We take care of our tenants, and I love that. I also learn new things every day, which is great. It gives you real satisfaction to do this job. I can't say enough about it. And it's kind of recession proof – you have to keep these buildings maintained, even if ownership changes. You know all the building's secrets and how to keep things running smoothly."

Jennings said a person needs a mechanical aptitude and a good attitude to do the work he does. "You have to like staying busy," he said.

A single man, Jennings said he is so enthusiastic about his Century experience that he has convinced other young people in his neighborhood to sign up for classes.

"Once you get your education, no one can take that away from you," he said.



Photo: Greg Jennings