



News Release

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Century College and the Pedro Family

Members of the Pedro family of White Bear Lake have made Century College their gateway to the future.

Five of the 10 Pedro children either have gone to or are now attending Century as [Post-Secondary Enrollment Options](#) students. And the other five may do the same.

The Pedro family trend is to home school the children until they are high school juniors, and then send them to Century full time for their junior and senior years. Graduating with 62 to 72 free college credits, the students typically go on to a four-year college.

David Pedro, 17, the fifth Pedro to attend Century and currently the only Pedro at Century this semester, is a gifted student in math and science who also loves music and theatre. His long-range plan is to become a doctor. The four Pedros who preceded him are Thomas, 24, a marketing employee at Deluxe Corp. who is currently in the MBA program at St. Thomas University; Daniel, 23, a financing employee at SPS Commerce, a software engineering company; Rebecca, 21, a Bethel University student currently working

as a student teacher, and Charissa, 19, a Bethel University student who is also majoring in elementary education.

The Pedros who are likely upcoming Century students are Timothy, 15; Joshua, 13; Anna Esther, 11; Jeremiah, 9, and John Michael, 6.

“Century prepares us all to go on to four-year college,” said Century student David Pedro, who will graduate in May 2011 after taking four to five classes a semester for two years. “I am so impressed with the teaching faculty. All of them have advanced degrees and many have PhDs. I love many of my professors, and one of my favorites is Dr. Emmanuel Doh in English. He keeps everyone’s attention while mixing in stories from his family and his life in Africa. He is just extremely funny and very engaging. Several of my older siblings had him as well, and Daniel credits Dr. Doh with making him an excellent writer.”

Pedro said he also loves his current calculus class taught by Dr. Delia Letang. “She is one of the best teachers I have ever had,” he said. “She makes calculus seem extremely easy. She introduces a concept and then runs tons and tons of examples. She only uses the book as a frame of reference or to assign problems.”

For extra-curricular activities, Pedro is in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and currently serves as the vice president of the Rocket Science Club at Century. The club advisor, Dr. Robert Klindworth, is another Pedro favorite. “He is probably one of the smartest people I have ever met,” said Pedro. “He has a doctorate in nuclear physics, but he is also extremely funny, and can relate well one on one with students.”

An outgoing young man with a ready smile, Pedro said he and all his siblings are not shy about talking to their professors. “We all like talking to them and getting to know them,” he said.

Pedro said he loves the diversity at Century, where nearly 30 percent of the students are students of color. “I have three good friends from Century who are Iranian,” he noted. “A couple of semesters ago, one of my good friends was Hmong and several others were African-American. I love the fact that I know all these people. Some of them are very hard-working people who are holding down jobs in addition to going to school. I am learning a lot about the real world from them.”

Mary Kaye Pedro, mother of the Pedro children, said she loves it when David brings his friends from Century home for home-made bread or other treats. “It’s really fun for the whole family to meet these students and learn about their cultures,” she said.

Mrs. Pedro said she has “nothing but accolades” for Century.

“I think it’s a really great school,” she said. “We have had such good experiences with the staff and the faculty. The staff is so committed to students and so available to them. The career and counseling office people are just amazing – so helpful.”

Pedro, a University of Minnesota graduate and a licensed teacher, said the college credits earned by her children at Century have transferred to a four-year college with no problem.

“Century has done a great job of preparing guide sheets that show which credits will transfer and which ones won’t,” said Pedro. “Staff members go out of their way to help students make good decisions about their education.”



Photos: David Pedro, Pedro siblings