College of Technology Alumni Award

Josh VerHelst, ‘11

The nominator for Josh VerHelst wrote this about him: “About five years ago, Josh’s wife, a preschool coordinator at the time, found out her job had been cut. Josh reassured her that it would be okay, since he was still working. The upper management for the bank at which he worked came in that afternoon and closed down their branch. Now they were both without work, with a son and a daughter on the way. At that point, Josh decided to attend Davenport for a technology degree. Josh was an exemplary student. He worked hard, earning several certifications, all while juggling his classes and shared familial duties as his wife was a graduate student at Aquinas College at the same time. Right before graduation in 2011, one of his technology instructors needed someone at his work with a special certification. The instructor knew Josh had that certification, asked for his resume and hired him in the networking department of a local bank where he set up their new branch-wide network infrastructure.”

“Soon after, Josh acquired his current position as Lead District IT Specialist for Holland and Saugatuck Public Schools at the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District. He calls it his ‘dream job.’ Josh is currently working on his Master’s degree at DU. Josh never fails to give credit to Davenport for his education and his career and encourages others to attend Davenport.”

Josh is married to his wife of eleven years, Shana Ver Helst, who is now a member of Davenport’s English faculty. They have two children, Xander and Bella.