

A Little Focus Goes a Long Way

Many times an education at Schoolcraft College teaches you more than information – it teaches you about yourself.

Alumni Focus with T.J. Frader

“That’s what happened to me,” said 2008 SC alumnus T.J. Frader. “One person in particular – accounting instructor Michelle Randall – helped me to be serious about my studies, which naturally led to my doing better in school.

“In fact, I felt that, because she helped me so much, I would stay after class and help other students who needed a little tutoring. I took the initiative and worked harder on what I was learning so I could communicate it back to the others who needed help. That made me feel better about myself and caused me to focus even more on my studies.

“And that’s all thanks to Professor Randall. She cared. She made me make decisions on which road to take. I took the accounting road.”

Why Schoolcraft? “I really didn’t know what I wanted to do,” said Frader. “So I decided to go to Schoolcraft instead of a four-year school to give me time to figure out where I wanted to be. I tried out a few different subjects and, after spending time talking with Professor Randall on my options, I decided on accounting.

“I believe that other schools wouldn’t have given me the chance to meet and know professors and get their opinions that can help so much. Many of their classes are so large that you never get to even talk to the professors, much less have a meaningful conversation.”

After graduating from SC, Frader went to Eastern Michigan University, where he received a bachelor’s degree in accounting. He’s now an underwriter for refinance loans at Quicken Loans in Detroit.

“I love it here,” he said. “It reminds me of Schoolcraft College in that both

places have a really nice atmosphere. At school, you’re able to work closely with your professors and you have an open, relaxing atmosphere. And it’s the same here at Quicken. We have great flexibility here and it’s open, not closed off like in some companies.

“At Quicken – just like at Schoolcraft – I get the feeling that I’m valued. And what’s more important than that?”



T.J. Frader in his element at Quicken Loans, Detroit Michigan