

# SOUTH CENTRAL COLLEGE - FARIBAULT CAMPUS OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

# 2019

## JASON DEMARS

Machine Tool Technology 1994



Jason DeMars grew up in Faribault and after graduating from Faribault High School he proudly served in the United States Marine Corps for five years and was deployed to Operation Desert Storm in 1991. When he returned home, he used the Montgomery GI Bill to attend South Central College's Machine Tool Technology program - the same program his father Dennis graduated from in 1968 (the program's first graduating class) and the same college where his mother Kathy taught for many years. He graduated in 1994 and went to work in industry. His employer's tuition reimbursement program, along with his GI Bill, enabled him to attend classes at Normandale Community College for General Studies.

After teaching at South Central College part-time for a couple of years, Jason left industry in 1997 to serve as a full-time Machining instructor at SCC. As education requirements changed for technical program faculty, Jason continued his education at Minnesota State University, Mankato, earning a bachelor's degree in Technical Teacher Education and a Master's degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology.

Jason was a strong supporter of SCC students and the scholarship efforts of the Foundation as a member of the faculty at SCC, and he continued to find ways to support his alma mater when he returned to industry in 2011. He served on the SCC Machining Advisory Committee for many years and raised thousands of dollars for student scholarships at SCC by collecting pledges for fun runs and marathons. He served as a community volunteer for the annual fund drive and as the Foundation's Fund Drive Chair in 2016-17. He and his family are building an endowment to provide an annual scholarship for an SCC student. The Faribault Daily News recognized Jason as an Unsung Hero in 2013 and as a Hidden Gem in 2018 for his many acts of generosity, most visibly as the founder and organizer of an annual ice golf tournament for charities and individuals in need.

Jason is currently a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt for Mercury Marine in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, just recently transferring there to be near his wife's family for the next chapter in their lives. He and his wife Maggie have three children: Kayla 28, Niko 24 and Mason 10. In his spare time, he enjoys working out, listening to audiobooks and podcasts, and traveling across the U.S. to sightsee or attend Twins or Vikings games.

2000

**SANDY  
NICHOLS**

Nursing (LPN) 1982



2001

**MARY  
FREEBURG**

Accounting 1986



2002

**JEANNE  
SCHOENBAUER**

Nursing (LPN) 1970



2003

**TOM  
TRNKA**

Carpentry 1977



2004

**STEVEN  
SCHMIDT**

Carpentry 1976



2005

**ADAM  
DRAHEIM**

Computer Integrated  
Machining 1997



2006

**MARNIE  
WHILLOCK**

Sales & Marketing 1979



2015

**MIKE  
GRAMSE**

Machining 1968



2016

**BRAD  
BREYER**

Accounting 1978



2017

**MARTY  
BENES**

Accounting 1991



2018

**MIKE  
BAUER**

Carpentry 1982



 South Central College  
Faribault Campus  
Foundation