

# Alumnus Spotlight: Paul David

Paul David is 37 years old and a graduate of Inver Hills Community College. Paul graduated from Simley High School in 2000. He earned an Associate of Arts (A.A.) at Inver Hills and went on to earn his bachelor's degree at St Cloud State University.

## Paul on becoming an HR representative...

### What is something people should know about HR?

"HR professionals are problem-solvers. No matter what area you specialize in, you will face unique problems that don't always have clear answers."



### What is your favorite thing to do as an HR representative?

"I enjoy working with all the departments and employees of every level of an organization."

### Did your career choice change over time?

"I initially went to school for business management, and my first job when I got out of college was retail management. I worked in the industry for five years and during my time there I decided that this was not the long-term career for me."

"I studied the different types of departments and positions within a corporation to better understand what kind of opportunities there were."

### What made you decide that human resources was for you?

"I have always enjoyed helping others and solving problems. HR has many different functions, but customer service and working through problems is a part of them. At the time, I didn't know what area of HR I wanted to be in, but I knew I wanted to be a part of this because of the variety of the type of work it can provide. Between recruiting, benefits, payroll, and other functions. HR will work directly or indirectly with all levels of employees from entry-level to senior management."

### What do you like most about working in HR?

"I enjoyed the challenges of the different problems and issues that HR is presented daily. I also enjoyed the variety of different types of work. There are times where I

will be conducting an interview, filing an FMLA claim, and issuing disciplinary action—all in one day.”

### What are your biggest challenges on the job?

“One of the most challenging parts of being in HR is that the department is not always the decision-maker. When we are presented with an issue or problems to solve, we will research and investigate it. From there, we will present our recommendations to senior leaders, who ultimately will make the final decision on the issue or problem.”

### One word that best describes your experience at Inver Hills:

# FUN!

**Paul David:** I enjoyed my time at Inver Hills. I learned a lot and the experience helped prepare me for the university I transferred to as well as my career. The classroom sizes were great and gave the students an opportunity to have discussions with the professors—and that helped us become more engaged.

I also enjoyed working in groups to complete class projects. Now that I am in my career, I can see why knowing how to work with others and work in teams is essential to almost every job at a company.

There were also a lot of resources available for students that were easily accessible due to the size of the college. I was able to talk with people about what kinds of classes I should sign up for and how to build a resume. The professors I had were all friendly and approachable, which is a big benefit as some classes can be challenging.

### More information about Paul...

Paul David has been married for 14 years. Paul has an 11-year-old daughter and a dog and a cat. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with family, reading, fishing and kayaking.

“I would like to visit Australia,” Paul said. “The most exciting thing I have done is a Polar Bear Plunge. If I won \$1 billion in a lottery the three things I would do are 1) Go travel the world 2) Start a charity or nonprofit 3) Buy a house on a lake.”



### ***Fun Facts***

**Favorite sport: Football**

**If you could have a wild animal: Octopus**

**Best movie: *John Wick 3***

**Favorite TV show: *Jack Ryan***

**One thing you want to accomplish in life: Watch my daughter graduate**

**Dream occupation: Work in at a nonprofit helping others**

**Person you would like to meet: Dwayne Johnson**

**Skill you would like to learn and master: Persuasion**

**Most important issue or facing human kind: Lack of education**