

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • March 2, 2018

When he was 7 or 8, Brendon Johnson remembers playing a computer game called Zobooma-foo. But the game had some glitches and Brendon would have to tinker around with it.



"I always got it working eventually," he said.

That early memory is what Brendon believes put him on a career path to information systems.

Brendon completed Tony Eallonardo's Network System Technologies program in 2017 but has been a regular face on campus as an employee of the IT department since the summer after his junior year.

Vince Perhach's IT department has been employing students on campus for several years.

During the summer, Brendon and two other students prepared ASUS tablets for students; upgraded machines; and assisted C.J. Davis in running wire to connect additional wireless access points and office phones.

When Brendon returned for his senior year in fall 2016, he needed to take only two academic classes first semester. He then spent the rest of the day working first semester before working full time second semester.

The on-the-job experience he's getting has paired well with the classroom work, Brendon said.

"If you're committed and work with Mr. E., you can learn a lot," he said. "And Vince and C.J. are great bosses."

Vince and C.J. have equally positive things to say about having Brendon on board, as he helps bring new student workers up to speed.



Brendon Johnson prepares to run wire through a ceiling panel.

"Every student worker we hire has a different strength," C.J. said. "Brendon is great with software, hardware and customer service."

Tony agreed with C.J.'s assessment, saying that Brendon's willingness to help was one reason he suggested him for the job.

"He's really personable and he's a pretty good technician," Tony said.

"He's a quick learner and able to stay on task."

In fact, Brendon is such a good worker that he was asked to stay on through this school year.

But his job here is just one part of his very busy schedule. He also works at Walmart and Tumbleweed while attending DeVry University, working toward an associate's degree in Network System Administration, which he will complete this year.

A few years ago he started powerlifting and holds WNPF records in the 170 and 198 weight classes. And while in high school he played football and was captain of Zane Trace's wrestling team.

Brendon has no plans to slow down. He wants to earn his bachelor's degree after finishing at DeVry and then looks forward to getting a job as an IT technician in this field that he loves.

Congratulations to Brendon for all that he's accomplished and thanks to everyone involved in assisting with his successes.

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