

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Thomas Alexander – Commack High School Class of 2007
(HVAC)

Thomas Alexander graduated from Commack High School and completed the Western Suffolk BOCES two-year HVAC program in 2007. At Tech, Thomas developed the skills and knowledge necessary to service and repair refrigeration, air conditioning, heating and ventilation systems for both home and business & industry. Since initiative and independence are required characteristics in the field, Thomas excelled.

He thoroughly enjoyed the program, including his instructor, Fred Castro, who gave him the tools and foundation needed to pursue the profession. Learning to work both independently and in a group assisted Thomas in his job search after graduation. Through a family friend who was involved in property management, Thomas secured a position as a building service worker in a New York City office building that is part of the Local No. 32 BJ Union. He enjoyed his job and learned as much as he could while he waited for the job he really wanted to become available. After about five months his patience paid off! A position as an Operating Engineer for Local No. 94A, the International Union of Operating Engineers, opened up. Thomas was thrilled and applied right away! He has been a successful member of this union and employed since December 2008 with the small family owned and operated real estate firm that owns the commercial building he services.

A typical day may find him servicing and/or maintaining any of the HVAC equipment that heats and cools the building. Thomas works with both steam turbines for heat and water chillers for cooling purposes. He is also responsible for the maintenance of every bathroom within the structure. Now Thomas commutes into the city to work, but eventually he wants to move closer. He is considering either Queens or Brooklyn as his future home. Thomas and his family are grateful for the quality education he received at Western Suffolk BOCES.