

Justin Knudsen, P.E.
Sr. Geotechnical Engineer



Like Father Like Son, Justin was destined to become an engineer with an affinity for international travel and a willingness to take risks. To this day, he is always willing to try something new, both personally and professionally, and has learned not to be afraid of something just because it is different...especially when it comes to food. "You never know what you might discover if you're willing to give it a try".

As a child, Justin had the opportunity to live abroad twice. In kindergarten, his father, a water quality engineer, took a long-term assignment in Korea in preparation for the 1984 Olympics and then four years later took another assignment in Brunei helping with coastal water quality. During those years Justin attended international schools where he met kids from many countries and his family travelled that area of the world. It helped him create an open mind about other cultures and how people navigate daily life. Throughout his career he has enjoyed many opportunities to explore new parts of the world and still appreciates learning about new places.

When he wasn't living abroad Justin considered himself a typical kid. School was pretty easy, he liked to ride his bike, hang out with friends and play lots of sports, particularly baseball and basketball. An early bloomer, he had reached his current height of 6' 5" by the time he was a freshman in high school and found

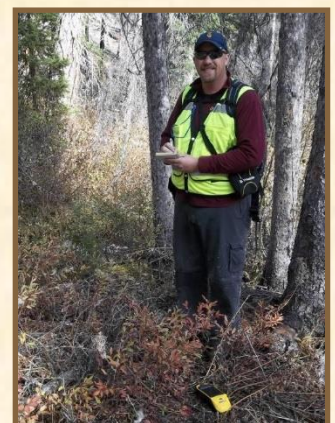
himself on the varsity basketball team all four years at Evergreen High School. For most of those games you could find his girlfriend, now wife and Tierra Group's Administrative Manager, Beth, on the sidelines cheering him on.



Justin always knew he would be an engineer so he took his strong math skills and headed to the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU) to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He did well initially but the coursework became harder his sophomore year. He spent that next summer working as a plumber's apprentice and although still currently registered in Colorado he is not looking for any side jobs. He found new motivation and perspective that summer and returned to CU with a renewed vigor to complete his civil engineering degree and spent his last summer before graduation working for Golder Associates doing CQA work. Upon completion, he stayed at CU to begin his Master's degree in Geotechnical Engineering. Although he appreciated the broad overview of civil engineering, there wasn't much exposure to geotechnical engineering and he decided he needed to know more if he was going build things on, and with, dirt.

Minutes after defending his master's thesis, Justin headed to California where Beth was already living. He spent his first year conducting foundation investigations for

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"The opportunity to live abroad as a child taught me valuable lessons about not judging other people, understanding differences between people and not being afraid to reach out across cultures."
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an engineering firm but it wasn't quite what he was looking for so they decided to go back to Colorado. Years prior Justin's dad had worked with Matt Fuller at Hydro-Triad so Justin was connected with Matt and Pete just months after Vector Colorado was formed. It was at Vector that Justin had his first exposure to the mining industry. He had the opportunity to

conduct site visits, get his hands dirty on site and experience mine life from initial development to operations and closure. He fell in love with big structures, big projects, and clients willing to invest in doing things right. "What better industry is there for a Geotech? You get to deal with seismic issues, big cuts and big piles of rocks and dirt. It's perfect!"



When asked why he chose to join Tierra Group Justin said the decision was easy due to a long history of working with co-founders Matt Fuller and Pete Kowalewski. They share a similar mindset for developing people, not just business, which is a passion for Justin, and frequently spend time teaching him the "bigger picture". Matt, in particular, has taught him the business side of things and demonstrated the importance of client relationships. He has appreciated the opportunity to influence the company from the ground up and experience firsthand the process of launching a company. Matt & Pete have always demonstrated a strong desire, and ability, to succeed and it made Justin willing to take a leap of faith to be a part of that next chapter.

After nearly 15 years in the industry Justin feels like he has developed good friends and strong relationships. "Mining is a small community where the people are real, down to earth, and hardworking with varied experiences and stories to tell of their career's journey. You can always be yourself." He has also been around long enough to see his designs reach construction phase which is very exciting, he says.



As Justin looks to the future he aspires to continually grow in his trade while contributing new innovations to the mining industry to provide safe and responsible technology to mining communities. He also hopes to serve as an industry expert on review boards in order to help drive leadership in the industry to provide economical and responsible designs for mining companies and the communities they serve. All of this, he aspires to accomplish as a team member, and ultimately an owner, of Tierra Group so he can be an integral part of progressing the company's vision. Ongoing professional learning and mentoring the next generation of engineers, both personally and professionally, will be crucial to achieving these goals.

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"I may not know how to do it yet, but by golly I'll figure it out."
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When he's not in the office and not on the road Justin loves to work with his hands. He spends a lot of time on home improvement projects and volunteers at church building sets for the children's programs. He approaches every home project with an engineer's mentality and says he learned the hard way to "measure twice and cut once" after having to re-machine a part during his time working in a lab at CU. He also enjoys the outdoors and would like to spend more time hiking, skiing, camping and playing golf.

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"As a charter member of Tierra Group I have appreciated the opportunity to influence the company from the ground up and be involved in getting the company off the ground and successful."



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