



**Joseph Bussenger**  
**Director, Launch & Recovery Operations**  
**SpaceX**

DVSF: 2007 – 2009

Florida Institute of Technology  
B.S. Aerospace Engineering & Communications (2013)

At DVSF, Joe earned the opportunity to view a shuttle launch and was inspired to pursue a degree in Aerospace Engineering at Florida Institute of Technology.

Joe began his career at SpaceX as the lead engineer for recovery and landing operations. In his current role, Joe and his team are responsible for the recovery, refurbishment and reuse of orbital rocket boosters, helping SpaceX achieve its goal to reduce the cost of accessing space and – ultimately – enabling humans to live on other planets.

*"Participating in DVSF was a significant contributor in shaping me into the engineer that I am today. DVSF provided the skill sharpening that is required for a student to take their own work and skills to the next level.*

*One of the most important aspects of DVSF is meeting new people with similar ambitions; I was humbled to have met and traded ideas with some of the brightest students in the world. This experience helped pave the way for me to earn a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering from the Florida Institute of Technology with a scholarship earned through the fair.*

*Following college, I become the lead engineer on SpaceX's landing and recovery team and now manage the launch and landing operations team at Cape Canaveral.*

*Without DVSF, none of this would have been possible."*

