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- **Luciano Rodriguez Furtado,**  
**CCNA**

## New Brunswick Student and Graduate Profile

**New Brunswick Community College** (NBCC) was one of the early adopters of the Cisco Networking Academy Program, opening the program in 1998 on the NBCC Moncton campus. Don Daigle, a teacher at NBCC who is now retired, recalls, “We had just started offering a new Network Design and Administration class at the college when we learned about the Cisco Networking Academy. I was at a Cisco routing workshop and began discussing our networking class and the innovative ideas we had for the curriculum with a Cisco employee. Within a week, that same Cisco employee called me and asked us if we would consider opening a Cisco Networking Academy at the college. We jumped at the chance because we knew it would give our existing program a boost.”

The very next day plans were underway, and Don and fellow instructor Mike Leaman began their instructor training. Don says, “The Cisco Networking Academy gave our Network Design and Administration program more credibility, especially with the hands-on work the students were able to perform on the routers. Everyone was quick to recognize that being part of the Academy meant that they would have access to the most current and sophisticated technology available.”

**Joel Brewer**, a student from the first class of Academy graduates at NBCC, recalls, “It was great to get in on the ground floor when the program kicked off. I was drawn to it because I found the content—everything from networking to router protocols and programming—to be interesting and challenging. Plus, I knew it would open up doors for me career-wise.”

Indeed, it has. Joel is currently an electronics technologist for civil air navigation services provider **NAV CANADA** where he is responsible for maintaining the equipment used for air traffic control, flight information, and aeronautical information services.

NBCC has come a long way since it first opened the Moncton Academy. Don says, “We’re very proud that other NBCC campuses have opened Cisco Networking Academies, including NBCC Saint-Andrews and NBCC Bathurst, which teaches the curriculum in French.”

As the program expands, so do the opportunities available to students. Luciano Rodrigues Furtado arrived in Canada from Brazil in 2005 in order to be closer to his father who was working in New Brunswick. Luciano also wanted the opportunity to live abroad and take networking classes to build on the computer science degree he had already earned in Brazil.

He enrolled at the Cisco Networking Academy at the NBCC Moncton campus and learned such skills as advanced routing, multilayer switching, and the fundamentals of unified communications and security. He achieved his CCNA accreditation within one year, while tutoring other students and taking French classes.

“Participating in this program was a great experience for me. I learned more than just technology—I also learned about Canadian culture which has enabled me to establish my career in this country,” says Luciano. Today, Luciano works as an integration analyst at **GTECH Corporation**, a gaming technology company in New Brunswick. He says, “From here, I feel like I can go anywhere and really grow in my career.”