



Mind Wide Open



## Nova Scotia Student and Graduate Profile

### The 2006-2007 Cisco-ACCC Technology Scholarship Program for Women — Nova Scotia provides a winner.

In 2006, Cisco Systems joined forces with the **Association of Canadian Community Colleges** (ACCC) to promote integrated IP-based technology and increase enrollment in IT programs. One component of this alliance was the launch of the Cisco-ACCC Technology Scholarship Program for Women. Its purpose is to encourage more women to enter studies and careers in IT, to meet growing demand in the labour force.

#### Three Scholarship Awards

The Cisco-ACCC Technology Scholarship Program for Women consists of three regional awards to students entering their second year of a telecommunications or networking technology program in an ACCC-member institution. It is open to those with a minimum course load of 60 percent and first-class standing at the completion of their first year. Each ACCC-member institution is invited to submit one nomination. All submissions are evaluated by a Cisco-ACCC partnership committee on the prioritized merits of 1) response to three essay questions, 2) letter of recommendation from the dean of IT/Engineering Technology or their designate, and 3) nominee's first year marks.

#### The 2006-2007 Winners

Western—Dena Ponech, Camosun College, Victoria, BC.

Central—Farah Reslan, St. Lawrence College, Kingston, ON.

"I want to one day have my own business fixing computers in the small town where I grew up. That's Clare, Nova Scotia, between Yarmouth and Digby. It's only 10,000 people but there's a need there. I'll first get a job and use some of the money to gradually build my own business part time."

**- Renée Gaudet**



#### Eastern—Renée Gaudet, Nova Scotia Community College, Burrigade Campus, Yarmouth, NS.

Working on a school project in grade 11, Renée took a computer apart and laid it all out on a piece of wood. When she reassembled everything and found it still worked, she thought, "This is the coolest thing I've ever done. I could do this for the rest of my life!" Staying with that thought, Renée enrolled in the Computer

Service Technician program at Nova Scotia Community College. "I was nervous," she admits, "because I felt I was going into a guys' course. I'll be the only girl, they'll just ignore me. In fact, the complete opposite happened. We're all best friends... and there was another girl. Another thing was that I'd always been in French school and now I had to use English. I had to go online to translate all the terms." Dave Crabbe, a faculty advisor for the program Renee entered, says: "Renée views problems as challenges, which is the secret to success in technology. She works well with the group, as well as independently, and she demonstrates a great deal of maturity and passion for what she does. She also has a very clear vision of what she wants to do." Renée explains: "I want to one day have my own business fixing computers in the small town where I grew up. That's Clare, Nova Scotia, between Yarmouth and Digby. It's only 10,000 people but there's a need there. I'll first get a job and use some of the money to gradually build my own business part time." Sounds like a great plan, Renée!

#### Doubling to Six Awards for 2007-2008

The Cisco-ACCC Technology Scholarship Program for Women will double the opportunities for 2007-2008 by awarding six scholarships, two per region. Visit [www.accc.ca](http://www.accc.ca) for details.