



## Prince Edward Island Student and Graduate Profile

**Nothing phases Canadian champ — “I’m confident. I’ll figure it out even if I know nothing about a situation!”**



Inspired by an older brother who had attended the same course at the same college, PEI native Travis Axworthy earned his Cisco Networking Academy wings through the Information Systems Technology (IST) course at **Holland College** in Charlottetown. He first completed the prerequisite Computer Engineering Technology course, which covered hardware basics and Novell and Microsoft operating systems; in this course, Travis earned his Microsoft Certified Professional, A+, and Network+ accreditations. He then did the IST course and took his Cisco CCNA exams. In the same year he graduated (2002), Travis won both the **Skills PEI** and **Skills Canada** competitions, which would have been no small feat for any technician twice his age. Travis was only 20.

“Before the Networking Academy program, I had no idea how to work a router,” Travis says. I knew the logic behind it, but I had no idea how to make it work. Honing those skills really set me up to succeed.”

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- **Rob Blanchard, Instructor**

At the Skills Canada competition, Travis was called on to troubleshoot, install software and drivers, configure a Cisco 2600 Series router, fabricate network cabling, and set up Webpages. His coach was his Holland College teacher, Rob Blanchard, a former World Skills judge. “There’s a striking pattern to those who take the Networking Academy Program and go on to write the CCNA. All do fantastic, every single last one of them. With his high motivation and strong work ethic, Travis took it from there.”

Travis next took his skills to St. Galen, Switzerland. After representing Canada proudly at **World Skills**, he returned to PEI and quickly landed a job. He is now the network administrator, responsible for maintaining critical applications and hardware, for the **Cogsdale Corporation**, an IT company providing software solutions for local governments and utilities. “It’s a good job,” says Travis, “and Holland College and the Networking Academy program got me here. The skills they gave me took my training to the next level and that all-round knowledge makes a huge difference.” When he was first on the road as a tech consultant, Travis says he always felt a great sense of achievement after the completion of a major upgrade for a customer. Today, as administrator for the company’s network, he says, “I still use that knowledge every day, even though I’m not in a Cisco environment. It’s challenging but I’m confident. I’ll figure it out and handle it even if I know nothing about a situation.” Travis’s manager, Cogsdale’s COO, Kelly Dawson, agrees. “The day-to-day management of our critical applications can be challenging and that’s the biggest thing Travis addresses for us. He is always willing and able to research and adopt new technology, appropriate to our environment.” Asked about long-term goals, Travis would only say that his personal philosophy is not to look ahead—because he just enjoys rolling with the punches.