

# HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CERTIFICATION

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GAINS CCNA CERTIFICATION  
AT AGE 15, CCNP CERTIFICATION AT 16

CISCO NETWORKING ACADEMY PROGRAM

## SUCCESS STORY



**Jon Courtney**  
Cisco Networking Academy  
student

Jon Courtney, a Cisco Systems® Networking Academy® Program graduate, has a unique recollection of his first day of college. Jon was just 13 when he began taking classes at Santa Barbara City College (SBCC). He remembers the somewhat intimidating experience of walking onto a large college campus and getting skeptical reactions to his presence from both teachers and students. The academic success Jon has experienced has allowed those skeptics to become believers in the power of hard work and perseverance to achieve a goal at any age.

Jon was in the eighth grade when he began taking CCNA® classes through the Cisco® Networking Academy at the local high school. The computer technician at the junior high school Jon was attending was also the CCNA high school instructor that had become a mentor to Jon. This instructor found Jon to be a very inquisitive and enthusiastic student and challenged him to continue to improve his IT skills. With encouragement from his instructor, Jon enrolled at the high school to continue his IT education. After completing the CCNA courses the local high school had to offer, Jon went on to SBCC to finish his CCNA classes and start his CCNP® courses. By the time he was 15, he had already completed his CCNA certification, and in 2004, at the age of 16, he completed his CCNP certification. Currently, Jon is taking a full load of security courses with computer network engineering and electronics department chair, Angel Cardenas, at SBCC. Because of his hard work and determination, Jon hopes to complete his associate of science degree in computer network engineering at age 17. Jon achieved all of these accomplishments while still managing his regular high school courses, and he has received a 4.0 GPA in all of his Cisco courses.

In addition, Jon received the CREATE Student Award in April 2004. The California Regional Consortium for Engineering Advances in Technological Education (CREATE) project is a joint effort between seven community colleges and over 30 large high-tech engineering and technology employers. Its purposes are to develop a regional approach to workforce preparation and training to meet emerging needs for innovative, flexible strategies to educate the workforce in new, technological advances in a wide range of high-demand engineering technology fields such as computer servicing, computer networking, electronic technologies, and robotics. Funding for this project is provided by grants from the California Community Colleges Office of the Chancellor and the National Science Foundation.

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When you ask Jon what his plans are for his future, he jokes about it and states, "Sleep." Jon is very ambitious with plenty of future goals to keep him busy. He talks about eventually getting a job in the IT industry, but mentions the difficulty a person his age has in earning the respect and trust of employers. Right now, he is content with his Cisco tutoring job at SBCC and is making plans to start earning his bachelor's degree at California State University, Channel Islands (SUCI).

The CREATE grant is currently working on articulating a program with SUCI to develop a bachelor of science program in IT at the university, and Jon is excited about continuing his education with the help of the CREATE program. In addition, Jon has expressed interest in earning his CCIE® certification in the future. However, the expenses of the lab courses are too great for his 16-year-old budget right now.

For more information on the programs at Santa Barbara City College please visit: <http://www.sbcc.cc.ca.us>.