



U.S. Academy Newsletter



Table of Contents

- [Expanded Table of Contents](#)
- [About the Academy Program](#)
- [Welcome to the Human Network by Gene Longo](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Models of Practice](#)
- [Promoting IT Careers](#)
- [Success](#)
- [In the News](#)
- [Who Do I Contact with Questions or Concerns?](#)
- [Newsletter Feedback](#)

Links

- [Newsletter in pdf format](#) 
- [Academy Connection](#)

About the Cisco Networking Academy Program

The [Cisco® Networking Academy® Program](#) is a comprehensive e-learning program that provides students with the Internet technology skills essential in a global economy. The Networking Academy program delivers Web-based content, online assessment, student performance tracking, hands-on labs, instructor training and support, and preparation for industry-standard certifications.

Launched in October 1997 with 64 educational institutions in seven states, the Networking Academy program has spread to more than 160 countries. Since its inception, over 2 million students have enrolled at more than 10,000 Academies located in high schools, technical schools, colleges, universities, and community-based organizations.

[Read more.](#)

Expanded Table of Contents

- [About the Networking Academy Program](#)
- [Welcome to the Human Network by Gene Longo](#)
- [Announcements](#)
 - [Introducing the New CCNA Curricula](#)
 - [Certification Magazine: Cisco Networking Academy Program and SCTE Announce Partnership](#)
 - [U.S. Academy Conference 2007—Save the Date](#)
- [Models of Practice](#)
 - [Best Practices in Offering Networking Academy Curricula for Honors Credit](#)
 - [Increasing Cisco Networking Academy Program Integration into Four-Year Degree Programs at Colleges and Universities](#)
 - [Iowa Regional Academy Meeting Reveals Best Practices](#)
- [Promoting IT Careers](#)
 - [Announcing the First Virtual Field Trip Video](#)
 - [Network World IT Careers and Training Newsletter: UMass Amherst Aims to Develop Tech-Savvy Next-Generation Workforce](#)
- [Success](#)
 - [Albany Times Union: This Computer Program Gives Students an Edge](#)
 - [3R-Award-Winner Highlighted in New York Daily News: An Award Winner Worthy of Edison](#)
- [In the News](#)
 - [Technology in Schools: What the Research Says](#)
 - [The Chronicle of Higher Education: More American IT Jobs Than Ever, Study Shows](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

- [Newsletter Feedback](#)

[^Back to top](#)

Welcome to the Human Network by Gene Longo

A welcome from Gene Longo, Senior Manager of U.S. Cisco Networking Academy Program Field Operations

Last month, the Cisco Networking Academy Program kicked off its 10th year in the United States by recognizing some of the first year Academies, or “Pioneers” as we call them, who have been with the program since the very beginning. As we look back over the last decade, it’s hard to believe that in such a short time, we’ve grown into such a diverse, worldwide program. During that time, we’ve invested over \$200 million into the program, helped to educate over 2 million graduates, and are currently enrolling approximately 450,000 students annually.



Like any successful program, we have evolved over these 10 years to address the industry and the needs of our customers. And we will continue to evolve in new and exciting ways over the next 10 years. Right now, we’re shifting our focus from our Academy growth to improving student outcomes. We’re tailoring our courseware to fit individual student situations, moving away from the “one size fits all” approach. And we’re increasing our focus on professional development for instructors. Obviously, we’re thrilled about the direction in which these changes will take us.

Speaking of new directions, in October Cisco Systems® launched a new [national advertising campaign](#) to demonstrate its growing role in a networked world, where technology impacts all aspects of our lives. As the ads for this campaign dramatically depict, all of us are part of a global collaboration that is enabling us to connect with one another like never before. The network is the source for experiencing this change. And it isn’t just a network of computers. It’s a network of people. A network of human connections. This is the power of the human network!

Of course, the human connections made possible through technology extend to the realm of education, where technology is also improving education delivery. According to John Chambers, Cisco president and CEO, “By providing greater access to educational opportunities through the Internet, students are able to learn more; workers have greater access to e-learning opportunities to enhance and increase their skills; and companies and schools can decrease costs by utilizing technology for greater productivity.”

Virtually every job and every career requires some technical skills, no matter what industry. For example, a librarian needs to do detailed searches of books and articles. A doctor needs to view patient X-rays instantly on the computer to make a diagnosis. A designer needs to download images and text files to create communications pieces. Technology literally touches all aspects of our work lives, in addition to our personal lives, which makes the need for Academy courses all the more compelling.

Recently, I visited Schenectady High School in New York and was delighted to learn of Akil Middleton, an Academy alumnus who now attends MIT and has been working on a NASA project to bring communications to the moon. Whether an Academy alumnus is entering the workforce, pursuing higher education, or pushing the deep reaches of outer space, they can leverage the Academy program in so many ways.

And as you’ll read in this newsletter, that’s exactly what’s happening:

- [The Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers \(SCTE\) is now including Networking Academy curricula in its professional development.](#)
- [And Networking Academy curricula is being integrated into more and more four-year degree programs at colleges and universities nationwide.](#)
- [Regional Networking Academies in Iowa are collaborating on best practices as varied as articulation agreements, partnerships with business, and engaging students in IT](#)

For anyone alive today, the networked future is an exciting possibility—and an ever-increasing reality. And we’re thrilled to be able to contribute to it through the Networking Academy. At Cisco, we have said for a long time that the network will change the way we work, live, play and learn. Today we all know the role technology and networking has played in our jobs, and for

many of us in our homes (sometimes I wish I wasn't so connected!). Recently we announced Cisco's involvement in the new Oakland A's ballpark, Cisco Field, which is taking playing to a whole new level. And, near and dear to all our hearts, we can clearly see the network is changing the way we learn. Here's hoping that the next 10 years are as successful—and as promising—as the first 10 years!

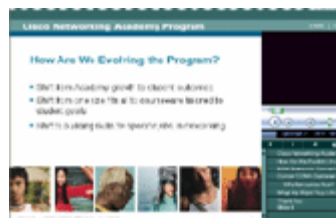
Gene Longo is senior manager of the Cisco Networking Academy Program Field Operations in the United States. Gene has worked in the education technology field for 23 years.

[^Back to top](#)

Announcements

Introducing the New CCNA Curricula

The Cisco Networking Academy Program is pleased to announce the next generation of the CCNA® curricula. These new curricula have been designed to address a changing marketplace and respond to input from administrators, instructors, and students.



To learn more about CCNA-A and CCNA-B, please [watch this informative video](#).

[Read the full story](#).

Certification Magazine: Cisco Networking Academy Program and SCTE Announce Partnership

The Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE) and Cisco Systems have announced that SCTE has become part of the Cisco Networking Academy Program. As a result, SCTE now is authorized to include certain Cisco networking curricula in its professional development offerings.



“The SCTE board of directors and the board’s professional development committee have committed the Society to elevating the level of knowledge in networking technologies,” said SCTE Vice President for Professional Development Marv Nelson. “Being able to offer networking curriculum such as that provided through Cisco’s Networking Academy Program is a huge first step toward achieving that goal.”

[Read the Certification Magazine story](#).

[Read the Cisco press release](#).

U.S. Academy Conference 2007—Save the Date

We are pleased to announce the following dates and locations for U.S. Academy Conference 2007:

- Austin, Texas—June 18 to 20, 2007
- Cleveland, Ohio—July 9 to 11, 2007
- Long Beach, California—July 16 to 18, 2007

The Academy conferences give you the opportunity to get the latest updates on the U.S. Networking Academy program and global strategy. These conferences also provide an opportunity to train on new products and resources, network with colleagues, and share best practices. We hope to see you there!

[^Back to top](#)

Models of Practice

Best Practices in Offering Networking Academy Curricula for Honors Credit

In today's global economy, graduating students have unprecedented access to a full range of high-paying IT jobs, but may not have the skills required by these jobs, as outlined in a report issued by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. One of the solutions, proposed by the Association for Career and Technical Educators (ACTE) in their issue brief, [CTE's Role in American Competitiveness](#), stresses not only the need for more rigor in high school, but also the need for a relevant context for learning.



For the past 10 years, the Cisco Networking Academy Program has provided a learning model for building 21st century success for students. Now, in recognition of the program's academic rigor and relevance, many schools are designating it as a honors credit course. Three case studies share best practices and benefits from integrating Networking Academy curricula in their honors programs.

[Download and read the Honors Credit data sheet.](#)

Increasing Cisco Networking Academy Program Integration into Four-Year Degree Programs at Colleges and Universities

In a recent survey of four-year higher education institutions across the United States, Cisco Networking Academy Program curricula were found to have been integrated into a variety of degree programs.



Of the 31 colleges and universities surveyed, 26 responded that they were now offering Networking Academy courses as part of their degree programs in science, technology, engineering, and business. Some of these programs had also secured accreditation for engineering and technology programs (ABET), information technology programs (NAIT), and business programs (AACSB).

[Download and read the data sheet.](#)

Iowa Regional Academy Meeting Reveals Best Practices

On October 26, 2006, Representatives from all eight of Iowa's regional Networking Academies gathered at the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) in Ankeny, Iowa, for a day-long event held dedicated to sharing best practices, learning from Cisco's systems engineers, and educating the Iowa Department of Education about the Cisco Networking Academy Program.

We encourage you to review and apply some of the successes and best practices that were shared at the event.

Articulation agreements

- Through an articulation agreement with Saint Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, Scott Community College students in Bettendorf, Iowa may receive two years worth of credit toward a networking degree.

Business Partnerships

- The Technical Access Center at Hawkeye Community College in Iowa offers six certifications and is funded by a local employer who has committed to hiring the top 10 percent of the class.

Engaging and Retaining Students

- North Iowa Area Community Colleges (NIACC) received grants from a technical preparation program to engage women and nontraditional students. NIACC personnel revamped the lab and renamed it The Hard Drive Café to attract young people to the computer lab at the Mason City High School Networking Academy. Neon signs, murals on the walls, and



framed PC motherboards and hard drives that can be lifted off the wall for demonstrations during class contribute to an appealing atmosphere.



- Iowa Central Community College hosts networking and computer repair competitions for high school students each year, providing participants with the opportunity to meet students from other schools. Instructors Mark Matthes and Josh Hayes say this is a fun and effective recruiting tool and gets their students excited about IT.
- Northeast Iowa Community College offers a gaming club. Barb Mills reports this is a solid recruitment tool that engages the students and also shows them one more reason to continue in IT.

Hands-On Learning

- In North Iowa Area Community College's Network Administration degree program, CCNA students apply classroom learning to real-life situations, such as rewiring a grade school.
- Northeast Iowa Community College's PC clinic is run by upper-level students and is available to students, faculty, and staff at no charge. Student workers offer information, learn customer relation skills, keep track of ordering and costs, and repair PCs.

[^Back to top](#)

Promoting IT Careers

Announcing the First Virtual Field Trip Video

We are building a library of Virtual Field Trip offerings as part of the [Promoting IT Careers initiative](#), which helps students, parents, guidance counselors, and others explore the landscape of IT and networking careers.

The Virtual Field Trips will encourage students to consider careers in information technology and help them understand the specific skill sets that are required to prepare for and excel at these careers.



Visit the Virtual Field Trip Website at <http://www.cisco.com/go/virtualfieldtrip> to view the first video that has been developed. Additional resources are available on the site to assist instructors in building lessons around the video.

Network World IT Careers and Training Newsletter: [UMass Amherst Aims to Develop Tech-Savvy Next-Generation Workforce](#)

The University of Massachusetts at Amherst is aiming to build a next-generation workforce that is tech-savvy and better able to collaborate with IT pros to use technology in innovative ways. The university offers IT as a minor to students outside of the computer science and engineering field. In the last two years, 85 new UMass Amherst students per year take IT classes as part of their major programs. Interestingly, the technology classes are given by faculty members of the students' major programs, rather than by computer science teachers, so that students learn about technology as it fits into their chosen fields.

[^Back to top](#)

Success

Albany Times Union: This Computer Program Gives Students an Edge

Schenectady High School is recognized for its pioneering role in helping to launch the Cisco Networking Academy Program as a global initiative.

[Read the full story.](#)

3R-Award-Winner Highlighted in New York Daily News: [An Award Winner Worthy of Edison](#)

Some teenagers play soccer or hang out at the mall after school. Charles Chen of Flushing spent his high school afternoons tinkering with the broken computers of teachers, parents, and friends. As a result, Chen is one of a handful of students across the country to be honored with a recognition award from the Silicon Valley-based information technology giant, Cisco Systems.

[Read the full story.](#)

[Read the 3R press release with the full list of award recipients.](#)

[^Back to top](#)

In the News

Technology in Schools: [What the Research Says](#)

Three decades after the first computer was introduced into school classrooms, educational technology remains surprisingly controversial. A report written by the Metiri Group—and commissioned by Cisco Systems— discusses the informed use of technology in the context of emergent research from the learning sciences.



The report includes the following topics:

- Technology in Schools: A Look Back
- From Speculation to Scientific Research
- A Look at Research
- What the Research Says

[Download and read the report.](#)

Chronicle of Higher Education: [More American IT Jobs Than Ever, Study Shows](#)

If the declining enrollments in college computer-science programs are any indication, students are not especially confident in the IT job market. But they need not worry, according to Moshe Y. Vardi, a professor of computational engineering in Rice University's Computer and Information Technology Institute.

[^Back to top](#)

Contact Us

Your Cisco Area Academy Manager (AAM) will gladly share more information about the Academy implementation in your state.

TBH (interim please send inquiries to Alexia Petersen, alexia.petersen@ciscolearning.org)

Western Territory
AK, AZ, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA

Carroll McGillin, cmcgilli@cisco.com, 410 309-5540
National Initiatives, Military, District of Columbia, MD, VA

Judy Roberts, jurobert@cisco.com, 410 309-4818
Accredited Career Colleges

Clydene Stangvik, cstangvi@cisco.com, 952 967-8361
Central and Mountain Territory
AR, CO, IA, IL, ID, IN, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, MT, ND, NE, NM, OK, SD, UT, WI, WY

Susan Weatherly, sweather@cisco.com, 678 352-2990
Southern Territory

AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX

Marie Zwickert, mzwicker@cisco.com, 410 309-4844
Northeast and Ohio Valley Territory
CT, DE, DC, ME, MA, NJ, NH, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WV

[^Back to top](#)

Newsletter Feedback

Please send comments and questions about this newsletter to
US_newsletter_feedback@cisco.com.

[^Back to top](#)

Copyright © 2006 Cisco Systems, Inc. All rights reserved.

Cisco Systems, Inc. 170 West Tasman Dr, San Jose, CA 95134

Read our Important Notices <http://www.cisco.com/public/copyright>
Read our Privacy Statement <http://www.cisco.com/public/privacy>