



# US Academy Newsletter




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**Promote IT Careers**  
[www.cisco.com/go/promoteitcareers](http://www.cisco.com/go/promoteitcareers) [Learn More](#)

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## Announcements

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## **U.S. Cities and Dates Announced for 2006 Academy Conference**

The locations and dates for the 2006 Academy Conference events have been confirmed and the Website is now live.

The following dates and cities have been confirmed for the three Academy Conference events in 2006:

- St. Paul, Minnesota June 12-14
- Phoenix, Arizona June 26-28
- Nashville, Tennessee July 24-26

For more information, please visit the [Academy Conference 2006 Website](#)

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## **Time to Promote IT Careers in the United States**

Early signs indicate a potential shortage of qualified IT candidates in the near future. Learn how Cisco and Cisco Networking Academy Program Partners are working together to promote IT careers.

- The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 48 percent increase in jobs for computer software engineers and a 55 percent growth in jobs for network system and data communications analysts from 2004 to 2014.  
Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics, "BLS Releases 2004-2014 Employment Projections," December 7, 2005](#)
- In a recent study, 13 percent of 1400 CIOs indicated that they planned to hire additional full-time IT workers in the first quarter of this year – raising the net hiring projections to the highest level in 14 quarters.  
Source: [Robert Half Technology, "CIOs Project Continued Strong Hiring in First Quarter," December 12, 2005](#)
- The share of incoming undergraduates planning to major in computer science dropped 60 percent from 2000 to 2004. IT enrollments continue to decline in the United States as programs are dismantled.  
Sources: [Jay Vegso, "CS Bachelor's Degree Production Grows in 2004; Poised for Decline," Computing Research News, March 2005](#), [Washington Post, January 3, 2006](#)

This year Cisco and Cisco Networking Academy Program Partners are working together to promote IT careers. We are launching our efforts by supporting Groundhog Job Shadow Day events, which kicked off on February 2 and will continue all year long.

For everything you need to host an event and help promote IT careers, visit <http://www.cisco.com/go/promoteitcareers>.

[Learn how to promote IT careers through Groundhog Job Shadow Day.](#)

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## **Opt-in to Receive Information about Special Offers**

We use e-mails to inform students, alumni, instructors, and other Academy members of special offers and events throughout the year. Learn how to update your preferences and receive information about special offers. [More](#)

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## Curriculum

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### CCNA 2 IGRP Lab Update

The following CCNA 2 Module 9 labs are considered core aside from the IGRP content they contain. They are available as e-labs in the zip file **CCNA 2 Ver. 3.1. Practice E-Labs**, which is available for download from the CCNA 2 Tools page:

- Lab 9.1.1 Using **show ip route** to Examine Routing Tables
- Lab 9.1.2 Gateway of Last Resort
- Lab 9.1.8 Last Route Update

For related information about course updates, please read the [Optional IGRP Content in CCNA](#) announcement.

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### Curriculum Errata Lists Available on Academy Connection

Updated curriculum errata lists have been posted on Academy Connection. [More](#)

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### CCNP v3.0 Retirement

CCNP 1-4 v3.0 courses were retired on December 7, 2005. These courses have been replaced with updated versions that are available on Academy Connection. [More](#)

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## Tools for Academies

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## **Standards Alignment Database Now Complete**

After five years of development, the Cisco Networking Academy Program has completed an online U.S. Standards Alignment Database for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.



Even before the No Child Left Behind U.S. federal legislation, Academy instructors recognized the importance of aligning Academy curricula to academic standards. The Database maps learning objectives in CCNA 1-4 to national and state academic standards in math, science, and language arts. External consultants met with teachers in each state to analyze standards and provide data for the Database.

The Database is located at <http://standards.netacad-currdev.net/home/default.asp>, which is a public site. Users can download summaries by state or create customized reports.

Due to the dynamic nature of standards and curricula, the Standards Alignment Database team is creating a process for ongoing updates. For additional information, contact Cathy Neuman at [cathy.neuman@ciscolearning.org](mailto:cathy.neuman@ciscolearning.org).

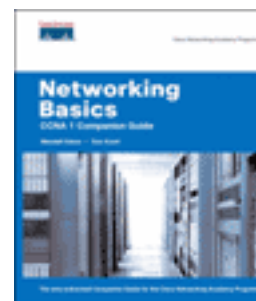
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## **Resources from Cisco Press**

### **New CCNA Titles Coming Soon**

[Cisco Press](#) will publish a new Companion Guide for each Cisco Networking Academy Program CCNA course to provide Instructors with stronger pedagogy, more focused study, and improved usability in the classroom. Here are some of the new features:

- Written by expert instructors and authors, including Wendell Odom and Wayne Lewis



- "How-To" quick references for step-by-step tasks
- Real-world examples and all-new illustrations
- Correlations to the CCNA Certification exam in the chapter objectives and "Check

## Your Understanding" questions

[Networking Basics CCNA 1 Companion Guide](#) will be available March 2006. Companion Guides for CCNA 2, 3, and 4 courses will be available June 2006. Visit the [Instructor Resource Center](#) to learn more and request review copies.

### Help Students Prepare for the CCNP Exam

Cisco Press has self-study resources to help your students succeed on the CCNP exam:



- [CCNP Certification Library, Third Ed.](#)
- [CCNP Flash Cards and Exam Practice Pack](#)

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### Router Promotional Offer for U.S. Academies

Cisco Systems is pleased to announce a special promotion on the Cisco 871 and 871W (wireless) routers for all Networking Academies and instructors in the United States.

Academies may purchase a maximum of ten Cisco 871 and ten Cisco 871W routers at the promotional price through July 29, 2006, or while supplies last. During the promotion, the 871 is available for \$250, and the 871W is available for \$300. This special offer allows Academies to purchase affordable, robust Cisco IOS routers with advanced security features to complement their existing lab bundles.

In addition, instructors may purchase one Cisco 871 and one 871W router at the promotional price through the Academy Marketplace, which is located in the Resource menu on the right side of the Academy Connection Instructor Home page.

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## Tools for Students

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## Student Profile

Learn how one CCNA Networking Academy graduate is putting his IT skills to use in the workforce while still in high school.

**Name:** Stephen Stewart

**Title:** Information Systems Technician at Mobius Communications Company / Hemingford Cooperative Telephone Co.

**Education:** High school senior at Hemingford High School (Hemingford, NE)

**IT coursework:** CCNA 1-4, A+

**Certifications:** CCNA, A+



### **You're a high school student. How did you end up at Mobius?**

When I was in the eighth grade, Mobius was in desperate need of an additional part-time IT employee. They had trouble locating anyone with the necessary IT skills. So, they consulted technology instructors at my high school. These instructors recommended me for the job. After a tour of Mobius's facilities and a meeting with the General Manager, I was hired.

### **You've been at Mobius for 3.5 years – since you were 15. How did that happen?**

Up until my senior year, I went to Mobius after school for a couple hours. Apart from competitive speech, play, and golf, I don't participate in many extra-curricular activities. Mobius was my "after-school" activity.

### **How are you able to attend school full time and still work?**

I have fulfilled graduation requirements at my high school and no classes are offered that would be beneficial to me. So, I have arranged for an internship in the afternoon following the conclusion of my classes.

### **What is your role at Mobius?**

I am one of two technicians responsible for implementing new technology, undertaking research and development, troubleshooting end-user problems, and planning network expansion within our growing organization. Generally, I am considered a sort of technology GOD (Guy on Demand) with Mobius's information technology needs.

### **How do you put your Cisco training to use?**

Utilizing techniques, concepts, and protocols gained from four semesters of CCNA training my sophomore and junior years of high school, Mobius' networks have become more efficient, reliable, and cost-effective—insuring a more enjoyable experience for the end-user. I have found the fundamental knowledge of IP subnetting, TCP/IP, the OSI reference model, routing protocols, and VLANs very helpful in making our cross-platform technology reach its potential.

The training I received in CCNA class has been instrumental in enhancing my skills and the efficiency of Mobius's information technology.

### **What are you currently working on?**

Currently, Mobius Communications is deploying private spectrum wireless Internet service in the Crawford, Chadron, Scottsbluff, Alliance, and Sidney communities in the panhandle of Nebraska. I have been involved in technical network design (IP subnetting, authentication, routing, switching, etc.) and implementation. This project has allowed me to realize the vast wealth of knowledge imparted to me from the CCNA coursework. From PPP encapsulation to IP subnetting, the core Cisco curriculum has proven especially useful in this project.

### **What are your plans for the future?**

In May, I will graduate from Hemingford High School. Tentatively, I plan to study computer engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. However, I have not yet received an admission decision from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Carnegie-Mellon University (CMU). Eventually, I would like to be a network engineer or system administrator for a Fortune 500 corporation.

### **What advice would you offer students who are interested in technology?**

Don't hesitate to take a class and see if technology is for you, but don't let the challenge of technology deter you from your passion. Science, technology, and engineering degrees are the most sought-after in corporate America today. Although constant negative publicity of outsourcing and "bangaloring" pervade the news media, technology jobs will continue to be abundant in the United States and abroad. Workers with IT skills will always be valuable employees in any industry.

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## **Success Stories**

### **CATC Director Receives FACC Excellence in Technology Award**

[North Florida Community College \(NFCC\)](#) CATC director Tom Moffses, Jr. received the Florida Association of Community Colleges Excellence in Technology Award for 2005. FACC recognized Tom at the annual FACC conference November 16-18 in Tampa.

NFCC's CATC trains 50 Cisco Regional Academies in five southern states, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Tobago in the Caribbean. The sites are located at universities, community colleges, and technical centers with 1500 instructors teaching CCNA courses to students. Tom retooled the delivery of the networking curriculum that trains and certifies instructors. In the past, training was held in person, on site, and required extensive travel for all parties. By using new technology, Tom developed an online training



*John Simmons, Cisco CEO  
John Chambers, and Tom  
Moffses at Networkers 2005*

tool that saves instructors travel time and money, and increases access and convenience. A recent study showed that 85% of eligible instructors completed training in the new distance-learning setting—resulting in savings of \$120,000 in travel expenses for schools.

President Morris G. Steen, Jr. used the following statement to describe Tom, “[He] represents the best and brightest of North Florida’s faculty and staff, and his ‘can do’ approach is evident in all he does.” John Sirmon, Networking Technology instructor, who nominated Tom for the award, wrote, “Working with Tom is always exciting as he continually finds new opportunities for NFCC to expand its scope of influence as well as provide new options for learning to the people of our six-county service area.”

The NFCC model is being replicated at other Academies in the United States for distance learning students in networking classes.

Outside the classroom, Tom and NFCC networking instructor John Sirmons have shared their expertise with schools and agencies throughout the NFCC service district. They set up a wired classroom at the NFCC Center of Hamilton County High School, assisted a local senior center with computer stations, and helped reestablish the network of a local school district after a major electrical storm damaged its infrastructure. Tom has traveled extensively in the Caribbean to establish training programs for computer educators. Recently, he has been working with the University of the West Indies in Trinidad.

Congratulations Tom!

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## Workforce Development

### Groundhog Job Shadow Day Is Here!

Groundhog Job Shadow Day kicked off on February 2 and we’d like you and your Academies to be a part of the festivities. Although the National Groundhog Job Shadow Day initiative is limited to February 2, Academy events are planned to continue throughout the spring.

Groundhog Job Shadow Day is a great way to get students excited about the opportunities in IT. Academy-hosted events also support the recruitment of new students and the retention of current students.

Last year, Cisco volunteers hosted 3000 students at 84 events, which were mostly held on Cisco campuses. We hope to reach even more students this year by recruiting Academies to host events.

We have a Website that is dedicated to Groundhog Job Shadow Day initiatives. This site provides all the resources you need to host or promote an event including a customizable invitation. Visit the Website at <http://www.cisco.com/go/promoteitcareers> and click **Resources**. The site also includes important tips for getting started, sample agendas, ways to link up with industry representatives, flyers, videos, and slide presentations.

You can also participate in an Ask the Expert discussion about best practices for Groundhog

Job Shadow Day events by logging in at <http://academy-community.net/webx?50@@.1adf6bf6>.

Remember, your event can be as small as simply scheduling a guest speaker for your classroom or as large as partnering with a local technology company to offer your students on-site job shadowing experiences.

Please let us know if you or one of your Academies plans to host an event. We will provide giveaways for the student attendees and any general support required for a successful event.

The best time to get involved is now. If you have any questions, please contact Peter Joyce at 703-484-5791 or [pjoyce@cisco.com](mailto:pjoyce@cisco.com).

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## Highlights from Groundhog Job Shadow Day Kickoff Events

Cisco campuses across the United States hosted approximately 500 students at Groundhog Job Shadow Day kickoff events. Here are some highlights from the events.

### **Students Visit with Networked Robot in Research Triangle Park**

A team of 17 Cisco volunteers, including interns, hosted students from local high schools at Cisco's RTP Campus. The students watched presentations about the latest trends in technology and co-op and internship programs, and toured the customer-proof lab. During lunch, the Robotic Engineering Team introduced the students to a networked robot.

### **Over 30 Cisco Mentors Host 125 Students from Chicago Public Schools**

A team of Cisco engineers and sales managers hosted 125 students from Chicago high schools and community colleges. In addition to group presentations, the team held breakout sessions in which students could ask more specific questions about career opportunities in IT. The event also featured a discussion group for all of the girls entitled, "Try IT, You'll like IT." The girls actively participated and after the discussion, 90 percent indicated plans to stay in the technology industry.

### **Cisco Herndon Office Hosts Students from More than a Dozen Cisco Academies**

Over 30 volunteers hosted 116 students from approximately 14 Cisco Networking Academies at the Cisco office in Herndon, Virginia. The agenda included five lab breakouts and a discussion led by a female systems engineer from the ASE program. The press was present and a former Academy student who attended the event last year returned to participate this year. A few Cisco employees also invited their kids to the event.

### **NYC Students Learn about Advanced Technologies**

The Cisco office in New York City hosted 70 attendees from local public schools. The event included presentations on wireless technologies, IP telephony, and security. A keynote speech was delivered by an NYC school CIO.

### **Cisco Hosts 33 Students in Atlanta**

The kickoff Groundhog Job Shadow Day event at the Cisco Atlanta office included 33 attendees and 8 volunteers. The participants were shown an audio-visual presentation about IT careers and participated in a panel discussion with Cisco employees.

## **More than 160 Students Visit Cisco Campus in San Jose**

The Cisco San Jose Campus hosted more than 160 students from seven Academies. The agenda included a panel discussion and seven breakout sessions, including a session for girls.

It's not too late to host your own Job Shadow Day event. Visit <http://www.cisco.com/go/promoteitcareers> to learn more.

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**[Learn what Business Week had to say about Groundhog Job Shadow Day](#)**

**[Learn about Certification Magazine's visit to Groundhog Job Shadow Day](#)**

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## **Gender Initiative**

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### **Girls in Technology Event Planning Portal Available on Academy Connection**

[The Girls in Technology event planning portal](#) is now available on the Academy Connection pre-login site.

This site makes it easy to organize Girls in Technology events by providing sample activities, agendas, templates for volunteer outreach, suggestions for student recruitment, handouts, presentations, and summaries of events from FY05.

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## **Market Research**

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[Download the market research](#) which is compiled for the Academy program by a public relations firm. Information is broken down by category: job market / technology trends, gender, Cisco news, theater-specific information.

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## **Who Do I Contact with Questions or Concerns?**

## FIRST TIER OF SUPPORT

### [Look Online](#)

Search the intelligent knowledgebase to find immediate answers to questions regarding the Academy Program. Simply log in to Academy Connection and click **Help** at the very top of the page > **Program Support in English** > **Find Answers**.

## SECOND TIER OF SUPPORT

If you are a Local Academy, contact your Regional Academy. For Regional Academies, the next resource is your CATC.

## THIRD TIER OF SUPPORT

### Help Desk

The Help Desk is available 24/7 and can answer all questions related to the Academy Program as well as the assessment server:

- Online: Log in to Academy Connection and select **Help** > **Program Support in English** > **Contact the Support Desk**.
- Phone: 888-327-1116
- Email: [webmaster@cisco.netacad.net](mailto:webmaster@cisco.netacad.net)
- Live Chat (replaces AOL Instant Messenger): Log in to Academy Connection and select **Help** > **Program Support in English** > **Live Chat in English**.

### Technical Assistance Center (TAC)

Also available 24/7, TAC provides support on technical issues and hardware and software-related problems:

- Web: <http://www.cisco.com/public/support/tac/home.shtml>
- Email: [tac@cisco.com](mailto:tac@cisco.com)
- Phone: 1-800-553-2447

### SMARTnet

- For information and renewals on existing SMARTnet accounts, contact Cisco at 800-213-1542.
- Renewals and new SMARTnet agreements are also available from SIGMAnet at 866- 554-5535 or [AcademyOrders@SIGMAnet.com](mailto:AcademyOrders@SIGMAnet.com).

### Sales Support for Equipment

As of January 17, 2005, US Academy lab equipment orders will be processed and fulfilled by Cisco's Reseller Partner, SIGMAnet.

- Phone: 1-866-554-5535

- Email: [AcademyOrders@SIGMAnet.com](mailto:AcademyOrders@SIGMAnet.com)

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## Newsletter Feedback

For comments and questions about the newsletter, please email  
[US\\_newsletter\\_feedback@cisco.com](mailto:US_newsletter_feedback@cisco.com).

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