



# 2010 NetRiders Challenge: Ontario

## School Impact Story: Algonquin College and Carleton University

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### **Student Skills Competition: Post-Secondary NetRiders Challenge**

Cisco Networking Academy students at Algonquin College and Carleton University (Ottawa) win 1st place in U.S./Canada post-secondary level competition.

Carl Verge and Brian Wilson, students in the Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) Collaborative degree program offered by Algonquin College and Carleton University, won first place in a field of the best from Canada and the United States at the 2010 Cisco NetRiders Skills Challenge.

Kudos also go to Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), with the seventh place team of Michael Antonette and Feng Yang.

More than 1,000 college and university students participated in the Cisco competition, which consisted of three rounds culminating in a live virtual event, providing an opportunity for students and alumni to showcase their skills and gain visibility among recruiters in the growing ICT and networking field.

Forty-two states and 5 provinces were represented this year.

“The BIT program gave us the necessary skills to do well in the competition,” says Brian. “The program is really well-rounded, as it covers topics from computer animation and gaming to networking. The collaboration between Carleton and Algonquin helps us excel in the fast-paced ICT industry because it provides practical experience.”

Brian got his start early with Cisco Networking Academy courses at Sir Robert Borden High School in Ottawa. His instructor there, Ross Morrison, developed clubs for lunch time and after school to encourage his students. Ross says, “Brian was one of my students and we are very proud of him.”

As top-prize winners, Brian and Carl won an all-expenses-paid trip to the Cisco world headquarters in San Jose, California to meet ICT executives.

Other teams won prizes as well, including Cisco Flip™ video cameras and Linksys wireless routers.

In anticipation of the trip, Carl says, "I'm hoping to get some networking contacts, learn how Cisco works internally, and start plotting a course for my future," adding he has had a long love affair with computers and computer networks.

"I am extremely proud of both Carl and Brian for this well-deserved international recognition," says David Bray, professor and coordinator of the BIT program, and curriculum lead for the Cisco program at Algonquin College. "This award has huge

implications for their careers, as it gives them a third-party, objective measure of their excellence in computer networking, relative to the best throughout the USA and Canada; and in case there's any confusion, they stand at the top!"

"These two students have reached this pinnacle of success not only because of the knowledge and skills gained through hard work within the program, but also the extremely high standards they set for themselves, driving them to achieve beyond the boundaries of their coursework."

The BIT program centers around a combination of practical experience and theory. The multidisciplinary program covers a very broad range of computer science topics, combined with courses in mathematics, business and social science. The

networking focus, which includes the Cisco Networking Academy courses, is aimed at students interested in designing and maintaining network infrastructures.

Joni Blakeslee, senior manager for Cisco Networking Academy U.S./Canada Field Operations, has this to say:

"Congratulations to all of the students who competed in this exciting event. We are delighted to provide this opportunity for students to showcase their skills and compete with their peers in an immersive hands-on competition. We look forward to seeing these talented young people continue to pursue technical education in the growing ICT field."