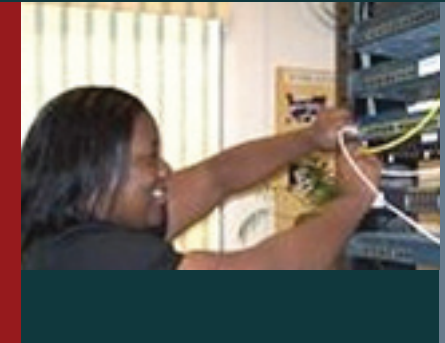




# Darnita Holmes, U.S. Department of Labor, Job Corps

## Student Success Story: Pittsburgh Job Corps Center, Pennsylvania

“Everything I learned in academy courses is applicable and a benefit to my career. I found that having all four semesters of the CCNA course is much more of an asset that I could have ever imagined.”



In the summer of 2007, Darnita Holmes was balancing work, school, and home life. She was busy working part-time for United States Steel Corporation, while attending Cisco® Networking Academy® courses at the Pittsburgh Job Corps Center.

Darnita’s passion for technology began at an early age. She remembers wondering as a child what new invention would replace CDs, since records and tapes had already come and gone.

“I began to see many of the technologies I imagined as a child become reality as a teenager. This made me anxious to join the IT field, an area filled

with people who shared many of the same ideas I had, plus a passion to make life easier and more enjoyable through technology.”

Back in 2006, when Darnita found Networking Academy courses at the Pittsburgh Job Corps, she felt it was the answer she was looking for. It also came at the perfect time—she was unemployed and in need of a career.

One month later, however, her mother was diagnosed with cancer. Dealing with

college, work, and her Networking Academy courses, plus her mother’s diagnosis, was quite difficult. Although her mother passed away in June 2008, she was able to see Darnita win the Networking Academy 4R Award for Results.

“I was excited to win the award, and my mother was extremely proud of my accomplishments.”

Darnita completed the Cisco CCNA® courses, and obtained her AS degree in computer information systems.



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[www.cisco.com/go/netacad/us-can](http://www.cisco.com/go/netacad/us-can)

Today, Darnita continues her education at the College of Allegheny County, as well as her work at U.S. Steel. She plans to obtain her CCNA certification and continue her education at a 4-year university.

Her next goal is to receive the prestigious Cisco CCIE® certification.

**“I assumed that once I was in the work force, I would need vigorous training to compliment my CCNA knowledge.”**

Yet she has been able to keep up with colleagues who have years of networking knowledge and experience. Networking Academy provided the fundamental protocols and best practices needed for her to make a real contribution from the start.

**“Everything I learned in academy courses is applicable and a benefit to my career. I found that having all four semesters of the CCNA course is much more of an asset that I could have ever imagined.”**

For more information about Cisco Networking Academy courses at the Pittsburgh Job Corps Center, visit:  
<http://pittsburgh.jobcorps.gov/html/home/>