



Colorado Student and Graduate Profile

For the past ten years, Jami Everett of Colorado Springs has been making a difference in the lives of students and administrators at Pikes Peak Community College. Her work in Cisco® Networking Academy® prepared Jami for an entry level job at Pikes Peak Community College (PPCC) in Colorado Springs and the beginning of a rewarding information technology (IT) career. “The Networking Academy has helped me in so many ways,” says Jami.

She is proud to be able to say, “To this day, what I learned in the Networking Academy has allowed me to over-deliver and produce quality results. My involvement with technology has led to the advancement of teaching techniques and expanded computerized programs and degree studies.”

Jami learned of the Networking Academy in her freshman year at college at PPCC. Her work-study job in the computer lab was being eliminated and, to prepare herself for her next job, Jami changed majors and started taking Networking Academy courses.

Networking Academy was a factor not only in Jami being hired by PPCC as a full-time IT Technician but also being able to make an immediate contribution. “The college was converting its technology,” says Jami “and I was able to apply my knowledge of design to assist with implementation of the network infrastructure. Nearly ten years later, I am still using the knowledge learned through the Networking Academy in my daily responsibilities.”

“I think the Cisco program was a lot like hiking to the top of a mountain where some days you couldn’t see the top. I won’t deny that it was hard work, but receiving the certification was one of those times I was very proud of myself and I knew I gave it my all to come out on top. I wouldn’t trade it for the world.”

As an IT professional at Pikes Peak Community College, Jami’s responsibilities include LAN support, IP Telephony, and IP-based video conferencing. Jami is currently on the Communication and Distribution team for IT Support Services at PPCC and has used her Cisco training on a wide variety of Cisco switches and routers.

She and her team are currently designing a campus-wide Wi-Fi network and implementing a Cisco IP Telephony solution. Jami asserts that, “The education from the Networking Academy continues to be pertinent in my everyday tasks.” She finds working in the college environment highly rewarding and appreciates being able to see the results of her work immediately. “I love going to work knowing that what I do helps someone else: people pursuing their education and their futures.”

Richard Reynolds, Jami’s academy instructor, says, “Jami is a forward-looking individual who saw the market opportunity along with employment and a program that would enable her to achieve her goals. Through dedication to her classroom and Web-enabled studies, Jami changed her life and found a career.

Jami has continued to advance her position through on-the-job training and self-learning. She has set a very high standard for IT technicians at PPCC and throughout the Networking Academy.”

Jami is currently taking classes to finish her associate’s degree. She has already earned her Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA®) certification and is considering additional certifications as well as bachelor’s degree options.

When asked what advice she would give others considering enrolling in the Networking Academy, Jami says she can’t stress enough the dedication it takes to complete all the requirements: “I think the Cisco program was a lot like hiking to the top of a

mountain where some days you couldn't see the top. I won't deny that it was hard work, but receiving the certification was one of those times I was very proud of myself and I knew I gave it my all to come out on top. I wouldn't trade it for the world."

For additional information on the Networking Academy at Pikes Peak Community College, visit: <http://www.ppcc.edu/>



Americas Headquarters
Cisco Systems, Inc.
170 West Tasman Drive
San Jose, CA 95134-1706
USA
www.cisco.com
Tel: 408 526-4000
800 553-NETS (6387)
Fax: 408 527-0883

Asia Pacific Headquarters
Cisco Systems (USA) Pte. Ltd.
168 Robinson Road
#28-01 Capital Tower
Singapore 068912
www.cisco.com
Tel: +65 6317 7777
Fax: +65 6317 7799

Europe Headquarters
Cisco Systems International BV
Haarlerbergpark
Haarlerbergweg 13-19
1101 CH Amsterdam
The Netherlands
www-europe.cisco.com
Tel: +31 0 800 020 0791
Fax: +31 0 20 357 1100

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