



## Delaware Student and Graduate Profile

When Bakary Kamateh emigrated from Gambia in Western Africa to the United States, he knew there would be many opportunities awaiting him, but he never expected to be working as a technical engineer for a major telecommunications provider so soon. Determined to take advantage of every opportunity, Bakary enrolled in Cisco® Networking Academy® at Delaware Technical & Community College (DTCC) in Wilmington, where he wanted to live and attend school.

While completing his studies, Bakary worked as a network support specialist at a major telecommunications provider and when a telecom engineer position opened up at the company, he applied for and was offered his current job. “The CCNA certification helped me secure this position,” asserts Bakary. He graduated from DTCC with his Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA®) certification and an associate’s degree in computer network engineering (magna cum laude). Bakary intends to earn his Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP®) certification this summer.

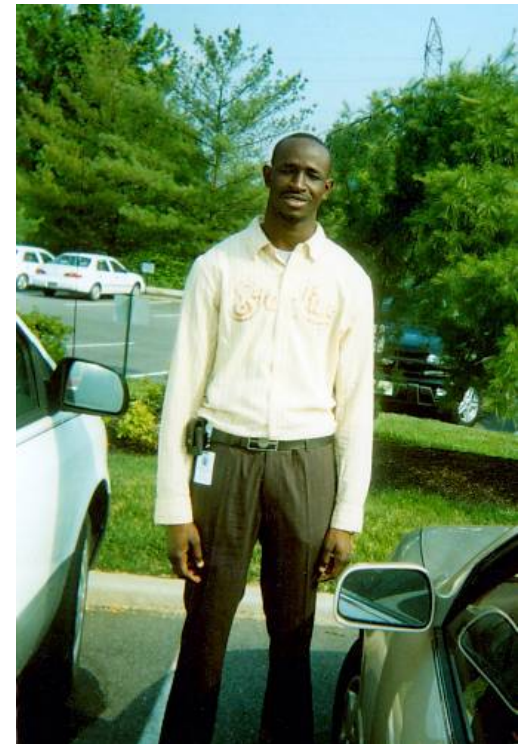
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Although Bakary found the entire Networking Academy experience valuable, he especially enjoyed the labs. With free access to the labs, Bakary easily spent half a day learning and practicing the material and often woke up at 2 a.m. to study. “There was lots of hands-on training, you could study at home, and the professors were always available to help.” When asked about his Networking Academy experience, Bakary says the Networking Academy is a “very wonderful program – if you’re interested in technology, this is the best.” Bakary attributes his success at the academy to hard work and studies. It was challenging to keep his grade point average up while working full-time, but Bakary saw the Networking Academy as a stepping stone towards a degree in telecommunications, his true passion.

In his current position as a provisioning technical engineer, Bakary designs customers’ networks including technical assessments, building the network, and ordering and configuring routers and other equipment. He is also working toward a bachelor’s degree in telecommunications and information technology at Kean University in New Jersey and expects to graduate in December 2008. Bakary plans to enroll in a master’s degree program in the next two years and says, “the Networking Academy influenced my decision to follow this educational and career path.”



Bakary feels certain that he can make a difference. He has a strong desire to “bring people closer through technology, and bridge the gap in technology between the developed and developing countries.” He plans to someday return to Gambia and have his own business. First, he would like to establish an academy in Gambia to help train others in his homeland in technology and networking; then, he would like to create a telecom company to provide cable and communication services.

Bakary's advice to others who are interested in technology is simple and straightforward: "Get into the Cisco Networking Academy. The certifications are in high demand, and they will easily get you a job."

For information on the Networking Academy at Delaware Technical & Community College, go to:

<http://www.dtcc.edu/wilmington/cis/cisco.htm>



**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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