



Louisiana Student and Graduate Profile

During the middle of her Cisco® Certified Network Associate (CCNA®) training at Louisiana Technical College (LTC) Teche Area Campus in New Iberia, Louisiana, Christen Tauzin's father suddenly passed away. "He was my biggest cheerleader, always inspiring me to be my best. He told me he was proud of me every day, and when he was gone, my desire to go on with my studies was gone too." Faced with the challenge of continuing her studies and dealing with her grief, Christen reached out to family, friends, and peers in the Cisco Networking Academy® to get her through her difficult time. Through their encouragement, Christen was able to move forward and has since enjoyed a high level of satisfaction through her career achievements.

When Christen was only three, she began to amaze her parents with her ability and desire to learn about computers. Although she was still in diapers, Christen would play games and "tinker" with her father's computer. Her interest grew over the years and eventually led her to the Networking Academy at LTC. "I decided to enroll in technical college because I knew I wanted to go into the IT field. I was inspired by my aunt who worked for NASA and now Hewlett Packard. It was encouraging to see a successful woman in an environment usually surrounded by men."

Since 2006, Christen has worked at Noah's Christian Preschool where in addition to accounting and office work, she is responsible for creating ways to incorporate fun ways for children to learn technology. When she arrived at the preschool they didn't have computers, but she has since created opportunities for the children to learn about the parts of the computers and play games. "The parents are amazed at what the kids know. Even the two-year-olds can turn on the computers and use them!"

Since attending the Networking Academy, Christen has helped recruit other females into the program. She was recently featured on a local television program called "Check into the LTC" where she encouraged girls to enroll in the Networking Academy and pursue a career in technology.

When Christen first began at the Networking Academy at LTC, she was one of the only females in class. "The guys got used to me and saw my dedication. It was nice to have them come to me with questions. I quickly earned everyone's respect." Since attending the Networking Academy, Christen has helped recruit other females into the program. She was recently featured on a local television program called "Check into the LTC" where she encouraged girls to enroll in the Networking Academy and pursue a career in technology.

Christen completed the CCNA course in 2005 and the Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP®) course in 2007. In addition to her studies, she participated in an internship at the local SkillsUSA chapter and competed in the internetworking competition for two years, winning the silver medal the first year and the gold medal the second year. She went on to compete at the national level, where she was one of only two females competing, and placed ninth.

Christen recently graduated from LTC with an associate of applied science degree in computer network specialist, making her the first in her family to graduate from college. She plans to earn her A+ and CCNA certifications before January 2008 and will attend Louisiana State University to pursue a bachelor's of science degree in information technology. Her future education goals include obtaining a master's degree in information technology, a doctorate in the science of technology, and obtaining a Cisco Certified Internet Expert (CCIE®) certification.



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“I would ultimately like to have a career developing the technology of the future which utilizes my skills and knowledge. I am thankful for the Cisco Networking Academy because it has influenced my education and career plans by giving me a jump start to where I want to be. I know my father is proud of me.”

For more information on the Cisco Networking Academy at Louisiana Technical College Teche Area Campus, visit:
<http://www.ltc.edu/greateracadianaregion/techearea/index.htm>



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