



## Maryland Student and Graduate Profile

At age 23, Suzanne Jones has accomplished more than some adults twice her age. When talking about her accomplishments, Suzanne credits her experiences in the Cisco® Networking Academy® as well as her drive to achieve the very best in a career in technology.

In 2001, as a senior in high school, Suzanne had already earned her Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA®) certification and was enrolled in the Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP®) coursework at Charles County Career and Technology Center (now North Point High School). During that time she also completed an internship at Comcast, a leading cable and Internet provider. After graduating high school, Suzanne joined the United States Air Force Reserves while working in the information technology (IT) field as a network engineer. “The Networking Academy helped me get a head start in my career and I’ve applied the skills I learned on a regular basis,” says Suzanne.

Suzanne’s passion for technology began at an early age. Her father, an electrician, first introduced her to the field of technology and would give her various materials and challenge her to use her imagination to make something functional. In high school she continued to pursue her interest in technology by enrolling in the academy at Charles County Career and Technology Center, which was the first of only seven high schools in the country to offer both the CCNA and CCNP curriculum. Suzanne became the first female junior at the school to pass the CCNA course and earn her certification.

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**Lee Howard, Director Network Engineering, Stanley Associates**

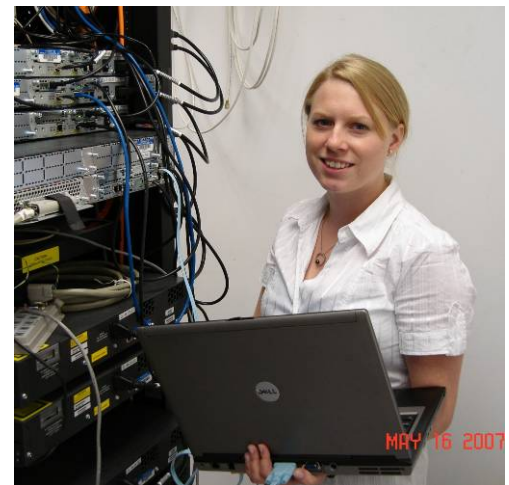
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Suzanne shared about her Networking Academy experience: “My instructors always pushed us to excel in the class. I liked how the course material was written and found that the labs allowed us to put into practice what we had learned. Most importantly, the projects we completed were also a great resource for me to look back on when I started my career.”

Today, Suzanne continues to fulfill her career and education plans. She is a network engineer at Stanley Associates, a fast growing, mid-sized government contractor. Her day-to-day duties include supporting basic network operations and troubleshooting, including adding and updating Cisco voice-over-IP phones, Unity, and VPN accounts.

“Suzie is a sharp and capable engineer. She brought a depth of training and experience to Stanley Associates that enabled her to make an immediate impact on our network and provided a strong foundation for her to develop skills with advanced technologies,” commented Lee Howard, Director of Network Engineering at Stanley Associates. “Because of her focus and dedication, she is an outstanding contributor to the network engineering team.”

Suzanne is currently working to develop an internship program at her company to provide work-based learning opportunities to other Networking Academy students. “I feel I gained so much from my experience that I want to give back,” she says.



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Suzanne intends to continue breaking new ground, this time in a higher education setting. When Suzanne earns her degree in network and communications management from DeVry University she will be the first in her family to have completed college. In addition, Suzanne plans to complete her CCNP studies and earn her CCNP certification.

For additional information on the Networking Academy at North Point High School, visit:

<http://www.ccboe.com/teachers/gstergar/>

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