



New York Student and Graduate Profile

Sara Howe is “living a dream.” After taking the Cisco® Networking Academy® Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA®) course at Erie 1 BOCES in Buffalo, she received a full scholarship to complete her bachelor’s degree in telecommunications at State University of New York (SUNY) Institute of Technology.

She is now pursuing her master’s degree at SUNY while working in Manhattan as an information technology (IT) design engineer at a technical consulting firm. “I love what I do. You never get bored.”

Growing up with two older brothers, one of whom works as an engineer, Sara always wanted to “be like them.” In 2002, while attending high school, she began taking courses in the Networking Academy through a vocational technology program at BOCES where her mother worked.

Sara was one of only a few females to take the course, and she says she formed friendships with her classmates that continue to be strong today. “We were all there for the same reason: we wanted to learn the latest technology.”

Sara says being able to dedicate two and one-half hours each day to a single course helped her absorb the Networking Academy material and laid a foundation of knowledge that has benefited her ever since.

While in high school, Sara participated in the Vocational Industries Club of America (VICA) regional and state competitions and won a gold medal in the Internetworking contest.

In addition, she took on an internship at the BOCES administrative center where she had the opportunity to shadow the IT director in the data center.

Sara graduated high school in 2003 and in that same year accepted a full scholarship to study fiber optics at SUNY.

By 2007 she had completed her bachelor’s degree in telecommunications and, after working as a summer intern at AKF Technologies, was hired by the company full time as a design engineer.



“In my line of work, I often have to design to Cisco standards, which makes my knowledge from the Networking Academy valuable to my employer.”

Sara Howe

“I mostly design IT/security/audiovisual systems for our clients as well as put together the specifications to go with the drawings and proposals,” Sara explains. “This requires coordination with all disciplines within our office and compliance with our clients’ wishes. In addition, I’m involved in the interviewing process for staffing our other five offices.”

Sara says every day she applies what she learned in the Networking Academy to her current role. “In my line of work, I often have to design to Cisco standards, which makes my knowledge from the Networking Academy valuable to my employer.”

Sara’s next goal is to complete her master’s degree in telecommunications. She also hopes to own her own technology consulting firm.

For more information on the Networking Academy at Erie 1 BOCES, visit: www.eboces.wnyric.org



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

Cisco has more than 200 offices worldwide. Addresses, phone numbers, and fax numbers are listed on the Cisco Website at www.cisco.com/go/offices.

CCVP, the Cisco logo, and Welcome to the Human Network are trademarks of Cisco Systems, Inc.; Changing the Way We Work, Live, Play, and Learn is a service mark of Cisco Systems, Inc.; and Access Registrar, Aironet, Catalyst, CCDA, CCDP, CCIE, CCIP, CCNA, CCNP, CCSP, Cisco, the Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert logo, Cisco IOS, Cisco Press, Cisco Systems, Cisco Systems Capital, the Cisco Systems logo, Cisco Unity, Enterprise/Solver, EtherChannel, EtherFast, EtherSwitch, Fast Step, Follow Me Browsing, FormShare, GigaDrive, HomeLink, Internet Quotient, IOS, iPhone, IP/TV, iQ Expertise, the iQ logo, iQ Net Readiness Scorecard, iQuick Study, LightStream, Linksys, MeetingPlace, MGX, Networkers, Networking Academy, Network Registrar, PIX, ProConnect, ScriptShare, SMARTnet, StackWise, The Fastest Way to Increase Your Internet Quotient, and TransPath are registered trademarks of Cisco Systems, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the United States and certain other countries. Mind Wide Open is a trademark of Cisco Networking Academy.

All other trademarks mentioned in this document or Website are the property of their respective owners. The use of the word partner does not imply a partnership relationship between Cisco and any other company. (0711R)