



## North Dakota Student and Graduate Profile

In 1998, Cole Arndt was enrolled in pre-med courses at Williston State College in North Dakota when the school began offering the Cisco® Networking Academy®.

His plans on becoming a medical doctor changed after taking a computer class with instructor Ken Quamme. “Ken has a way of enticing you enough to lure you in and make you want to learn more.”

Cole became one of the first students at the school to take the Networking Academy’s Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA®) course and receive his CCNA certification. He currently works full time at HealthNet LLC as a technical analyst.

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As part of his degree program, Cole was required to complete an internship each semester.

He assisted in teaching Semester 2 of the CCNA class and also helped managed the technology lab. “Cole was instrumental in assisting in the lab and Cisco class at a time that was very critical to the college,” says Ken. “The program was new to our college, and the only other instructor trained in the curricula was called for military duty in between semesters. I didn’t panic... I just went to Cole, who was an excellent student, and I asked if he would be willing to assist with the CCNA course and labs. His involvement benefited the students, the college, myself, and I believe it gave Cole a great experience in presenting to a group and helping one-on-one.”

During his third semester, Cole’s academy class was given the opportunity to design and wire a new training facility that was added to the college campus.

He says these experiences helped to reinforce his learning and provided plenty of hands-on learning. By 2000, Cole had completed his courses at the Networking Academy, obtained his CCNA certification, and graduated from Williston State College with an associate’s degree in applied science.

In 2001, Cole decided to pursue a bachelor’s degree in applied science at Minot State. Soon after beginning classes, he was hired at HealthNet, LLC, where he is currently employed.

Due to his work schedule and the responsibilities that come with a growing family, Cole decided to complete his courses online. “My experience in Internet-based coursework offered by the Networking Academy classes helped me settle right into my classes at Minot State.” Cole graduated from Minot State with a bachelor’s degree in management information systems in 2006.

As a technical analyst with HealthNet, Cole is responsible for managing the installation of an electronic medical record project into three of the four clinics the company services.

In addition, he oversees the data center and associated hardware that is used to connect the three remote sites to the center. “The knowledge of Cisco hardware has helped me greatly since our core routers and switches are Cisco products. The



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