



Ohio Student and Graduate Profile

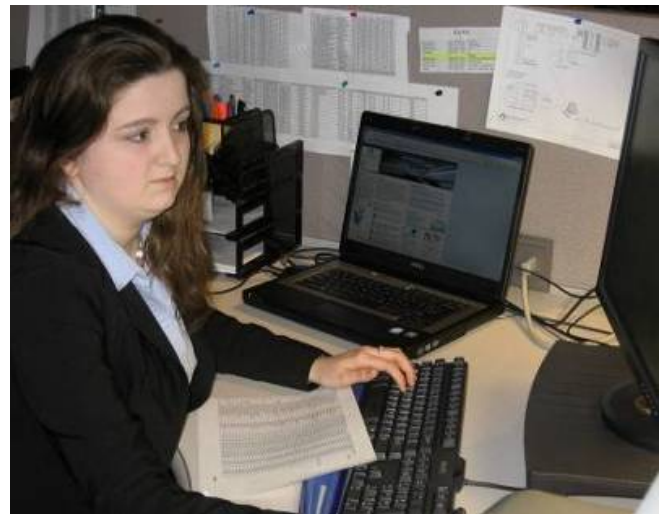
When Terezia Matejovic enrolled in the Cisco® Networking Academy® during her last two years at Briggs High School in Columbus, Ohio, she had little knowledge of information technologies. “I just jumped in,” says Terezia, who completed all four Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA®) courses within the program and received her CCNA certification prior to graduation. At the end of the school year, she was chosen to represent her school and the Networking Academy at a regional Cisco conference.

“While enrolled in the CCNA course, I was able to work hands-on with actual routers, setting up a simulated wide-area network (WAN) environment,” Terezia recalls. “Some of the Cisco labs were difficult to complete, but they gave me the opportunity to apply what I had learned, develop new methods of problem solving, and enhance my critical-thinking skills. The group discussions we had in class helped me gain confidence in my ideas, and I was able to develop my thoughts well enough to explain them to the other students. My goal was to become Cisco certified before I graduated, and I was very proud to accomplish that goal.”

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Terezia Matejovic

The program also helped Terezia develop her teaching skills. “Teamwork and communication are important when working on large-scale projects like WANs,” says Terezia. “I was able to share my skills with other students so that we could achieve our common goals by working together. These skills will be of great value in my career.” Academy instructor James Martiny notes that Terezia worked daily to assist a student who had difficulties focusing on class activities. “With Terezia’s help, the student became increasingly engaged in the lab projects, and was able to absorb the knowledge that the labs had to offer,” James recalls.



Terezia is especially proud to be the first in her family to obtain a college degree. She graduated from Xavier University in May 2007 with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. Shortly after graduation, Terezia was hired as a customer care agent with Contingent Network Services. Within three months, she was promoted to project coordinator and is now the team lead for her department.

When asked how her education factors into her work, Terezia says, “The skills that I obtained through the Networking Academy have been beneficial in starting my career. My technical comprehension of networks, routers, and configurations has been critical in my ability to execute projects and gain credibility with my field technicians. The Networking Academy helped me develop and enhance personal skills that I use to communicate with coworkers. These skills have established a firm foundation from which to build my career.”

Shortly after graduation, Terezia was hired as a customer care agent with Contingent Network Services. Within three months, she was promoted to project coordinator and is now the team lead for her department.

To learn more about the Networking Academy at Briggs High School, visit www.columbus.k12.oh.us/briggs



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