



South Carolina Student and Graduate Profile

After graduating high school in Texas, Scott Lewis embarked on a journey that led him to South Carolina. With few financial resources but plenty of determination, Scott was able to find success through the Cisco® Networking Academy® at Piedmont Technical College, earning straight A's and eventually becoming technical support engineer at Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina. "I now have a clear direction in life. I am proud of who I am and where I am going, and I know that with the right choices and hard work, I can be successful at whatever I do."

Scott originally enrolled at Piedmont Technical College in 1997 to pursue a degree in business administration. To earn enough money for college, Scott worked nearly 60 hours each week as a bartender and waiter and lived in a friend's garage.

"Those first years were tough," Scott recalls, "So I took a break from school so I could earn some money." To help out, his manager at the restaurant where Scott worked offered Scott a room in his home and even let Scott borrow his car. "I was blown away. You don't meet people like that every day."

Through those difficult times, Scott never lost his desire to pursue his education. Even though he had never been on the Internet and considered himself "PC illiterate," when he came across a flyer promoting the Networking Academy at Piedmont Tech, Scott decided to enroll in the Networking Academy's Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA®) course.

"I didn't even know what Cisco was, but I knew I didn't want to wait tables forever, so I decided to take charge of my life." Soon he was taking classes full time while working part time at the college as a network technician troubleshooting networks and repairing computers.

Scott's academy instructor Norm Wiseman was a source of inspiration for Scott. "He was always there for me. I knew nothing about computers and networking before I started his class. Norm and the Networking Academy gave me the confidence to pursue my career goals."



"Networking Academy changed my life. It gave me a career path and the direction I needed to succeed."

Scott was able to take advantage of a National Science Foundation scholarship while at Piedmont Tech and graduated in 2006 with an associate's degree in computer technology. Scott's instructor wasn't surprised by Scott's success, "Scott was one of my best students and received top grades."

Scott continued working for the college until 2006 when he interviewed at Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina as a desktop support technician. "I was hired the day of my interview. I believe having gone through the CCNA course gave them an idea of my capabilities."

Scott has since been promoted within the company to third level network technical support engineer. He attended a rigorous six month entry-level training program offered by his company to advance his technology skills.

Scott plans to earn his CCNA certification within the next few months. "The Networking Academy changed my life. It gave me a career path and the direction I needed to succeed. Over the three years I have been in the IT field, I have learned to seek out challenges and to never stop trying. You don't really know what you're capable of until you push yourself."

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To learn more about the Networking Academy at Piedmont Technical College visit: <http://www.ptc.edu/>



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