



## South Dakota Student and Graduate Profile

With an appetite for knowledge and a passion for technology, Houston King excelled in his academic pursuits at an early age. He earned an associate of science degree and early acceptance to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) before his high school graduation.

At the same time, while he was attending Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI) in Watertown, South Dakota, Houston completed the Cisco® Certified Network Associate (CCNA) curriculum and passed his CCNA certification. “The Cisco Networking Academy® has given me the jumpstart needed to pursue a higher degree in education and has opened the door for obtaining a rewarding career in the information technology industry.”

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Having completing the majority of his required high school courses by his junior year, in May 2007 Houston earned an associate of science degree from LATI and his CCNA and CCNP certifications just two weeks before he received his high school diploma.

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Houston has been on the technology track since the seventh grade when he dual-enrolled in his first course at LATI in the computer information services program. “Investigating the workings of technology has always intrigued me. Computers and networking technologies are areas where I was able to focus my interest,” says Houston.

Having completed the majority of his required high school courses by his junior year, in May 2007 Houston earned an associate of science degree from LATI and his CCNA and Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP®) certifications just two weeks before he received his high school diploma. “I enjoyed the mix of both the practical hands-on experience and higher level theory that the Networking Academy introduced. I am excited to use my skills to obtain a job and excel at my studies at MIT.”

Along with his academic studies, Houston served as Vice President of LATI’s tech club and placed second at the national 2007 SkillsUSA internetworking competition. Houston has also given back to his community, working as a Website collaborator and serving as the multimedia technician for his local church, all the while maintaining a 3.95 GPA.

In the spring of 2007, Houston was a recipient of a Cisco Networking Academy 4R Recognition Award in the Results category, which recognizes students and graduates who demonstrate the impact of the Networking Academy in creating opportunities for career, educational, or personal development.

“Houston has several interests and very lofty goals. He does not do anything halfheartedly,” says his academy instructor at LATI, Mark Wayt. “Knowing Houston as I do, I expect him to continue to achieve the goals he sets for himself.”



Currently, Houston is enrolled at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he earned early acceptance in December 2006.

He is pursuing a degree in computer science and hopes to graduate in 2011. His ultimate goal is to obtain a job in information technology and earn Cisco Certified Internet Expert (CCIE®) certification by age 20.

For more information on the Networking Academy at Lake Area Technical Institute, visit: <http://lati.tec.sd.us/>

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