



Washington Student and Graduate Profile

When Laura Lewkowski was 13, she was intrigued by Web design and when she was older she began studying for her Certified Internet Webmaster (CIW) exam. During this time, Laura realized her weakest area was networking, so she decided to enroll in Cisco® Networking Academy® at New Market Skills Center in Tumwater.

While there, she successfully completed all four Networking Academy courses and passed her Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA®) certification exam in June 2006.

Upon graduation, Laura enrolled in Northwest University's school of Business Administration and, because of her abilities, was awarded a \$4000 scholarship per semester. In addition, she has been offered a job with the university upon graduation. Laura contributes much of her success to her participation in Networking Academy.

Laura recalls always planning for the future while attending New Market Skills Center. While in school, she developed a student portfolio and attended several job fairs and lectures on interviewing skills. As a Networking Academy student, she participated in a six-day, 15-hour job-shadowing internship at the Olympia Auto Mall. There, she learned the dynamics of an office environment and the importance of interpersonal and technology skills in the workplace.

To foster her interest in technology while earning her degree, Laura applied to be a volunteer in the Northwest University's information technology (IT) department. Impressed with her abilities and certification credentials, the director of the department not only gave Laura the position, but also offered her a \$4,000 scholarship per semester to be used toward tuition.

Laura enjoys her current intern position at Northwest as it allows her to both utilize her networking skills and offset the cost of tuition. "The fact that I have already been offered a full-time job with the college once I graduate has really made all my work in the Networking Academy worth the hours of time and effort."



"The fact that I have already been offered a full-time job with the college once I graduate has really made all my work in the Networking Academy worth the hours of time and effort."

Laura Lewkowski

In addition to her studies and work, Laura has also been active in SkillsUSA, a national student leadership organization. In her first year of participation, she took home third place in the state Internetworking competition. The following year she won the gold medal and subsequently attended the National Skills USA competition.

Laura has earned an associate in arts and sciences degree as well as received nine scholarships and awards. In 2007, she was the recipient of a Cisco Networking Academy 4R Award for her achievements in the program. In addition, Laura has earned seven industry certifications which include CCNA and CIW as well as Microsoft Office Specialist in Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, Access, and PowerPoint.

Laura finds time to give back to her community by volunteering network assistance at the Boys and Girls Club of America, Wenatchee Skills Center, and Timberland Regional Library. She aspires to earn a degree in business administration, pursue Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP®) coursework, and eventually open her own nonprofit IT consulting business.

Laura has earned an associate in arts and sciences degree as well as received nine scholarships and awards. In 2007, she was the recipient of a Cisco Networking Academy 4R Award for her achievements in the program.

“If it hadn't been for the people in my life willing to take an interest and helping me, I wouldn't have tapped into the self-confidence that I have today. I am really thankful for my teachers, classmates, mentors and coworkers.” For more information on the Networking Academy at New Market Skills Center, visit: <http://www.nmvs.com/>



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)