



Wyoming Student and Graduate Profile

Richard Rohde has achieved a level of success that would have eluded most people given the extraordinary difficulties and setbacks he has experienced. At 25 years of age, Richard has battled Hodgkin's Lymphoma, skin cancer, the death of his father, the loss of his family home, the resulting separation from surviving members of his family, and brief periods of homelessness. Despite all these challenges, Richard received his undergraduate degree, earned a number of industry certifications, and is closing in on earning his Cisco® Certified Network Associate (CCNA®) certification passing three out of the four Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP®) exams.

When Richard was a senior at Dubois High School, a counselor told him about the new Cisco Networking Academy® that was starting up at the school. Richard had been interested in computer technology for quite some time, playing video games and helping teachers after school with their computer needs, so he decided to give it a shot. "Doing these things really spiked my interest in technology" says Richard. But around the same time, he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Because of his weakened immune system and the chemotherapy he was undergoing, Richard was home-schooled for much of the year and could not attend school with his fellow classmates. With the help of his instructors who would carefully disinfect the equipment, Richard was able to complete the labs after school hours when there were fewer students around.

Because of his weakened immune system and the chemotherapy he was undergoing, Richard was home-schooled for much of the year and could not attend school with his fellow classmates. He did, however, go to school after hours, when there were fewer students around, to complete the labs. His instructors would disinfect the equipment to make it as safe and sterile an environment for Richard as possible.

After high school, Richard took a few Networking Academy classes at the Central Wyoming College and worked as an academy lab tech, tutoring academy students in lower grade levels, and serving as an academy teacher's aide.. When he transferred to the Montana Tech of the University of Montana in Butte, he continued taking Networking Academy classes. In May 2007, Richard graduated with a bachelor of science degree in information technology and design. Richard attributes his past accomplishments to his good attitude, work ethic, and easy-going personality. He is a hard worker who once he sets his mind on doing something, tries his best to carry it out.

When asked what he enjoyed most about the Networking Academy, Richard replies: "The labs, instructors, and fellow classmates. They all contributed to a great learning experience" he says. "The labs were hands-on and I think they gave me skills that will make me marketable in the job market" says Richard. His instructors, in particular, were a great help: "They were interested in me as a person and wanted me to excel in my education." In fact, it was his academy instructor, Martha Davey, who referred Richard to an internship that eventually led to full-time employment. It was also Martha who told Richard about a position that was vacant at Central Wyoming College.

As a result of both of these referrals, Richard is now an IT onsite analyst with Brunton, Inc., with responsibilities related to help desk, desktop support, and hardware maintenance. In addition, Richard serves as a Cisco adjunct instructor at Central Wyoming College, where he teaches the CCNA curriculum. "The Cisco Networking Academy has given me opportunities I would not otherwise have had," says Richard.



When asked what he would say to others who may be interested in the Cisco Networking Academy, Richard replies "I think that it's a very good program. ... It gives you skills that today's employers want to see in their new hires. The Networking

Academy has given me the foundation in technology that I need for today's world." Richard's goal is to become an IT manager and is now working toward obtaining his CCNA certification and has plans to take the CCNP exam as well.

When Richard is not working, he enjoys playing video games, Frisbee golf, fishing, boating, hunting, watching the Green Bay Packers.

For more information on the Networking Academy at Central Wyoming College, visit: www.cwc.edu

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