



St. Charles Community College: Cottleville, MO

Model of Practice: SCCC

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St. Charles Community College Strengthened by Cisco Networking Academy

Since 2000, St. Charles Community College (SCCC) has been training students in the field of IT in partnership with Cisco Networking Academy.

“The fact that Cisco sponsors Networking Academy makes it special,” says Mike Fuszner, an associate professor at SCCC who is a certified Networking Academy faculty member. “It is targeted toward the skills students will need.”

“It was a natural progression for us to move from the programs we offered, such as Microsoft and A+, into Networking Academy courses,” he said.

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Of the 100 students currently enrolled in the program, Fuszner estimated half of them already have jobs in the field.

Ted Davis began taking classes through Networking Academy when his supervisor at the telecommunications company Alcatel-Lucent encouraged him to pursue his CCNA certification.

“You will find professionals from the entire metro-St. Louis area, along with various corporations, utilizing this program at St. Charles,” Davis said.

SCCC students participated in the NetSpace Skills Pursuit, a two-month long competition hosted by Cisco. Anyone—including current



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www.cisco.com/go/netacad/us-can

students, alumni and instructors—can participate. Three Cisco students from SCCC placed in the top ten in their respective categories.

Although all class work is done on Cisco equipment, Fuszner stressed that students will not be limited to using this equipment after completing the classes. He said it is easy to adapt the knowledge of Cisco products to equipment made by other companies.

“In the long run, students who are Cisco-trained will be well ready for the real world,” said Barbara Keim, vice president of technology, research and planning at SCCC.

“As business continues to increase its use of technology to remain competitive in a global marketplace, technology-related job opportunities will continue to be available to people who are well-trained, up to date on the latest technology and have good work skills,” Keim said.

“We incorporate opportunities to develop these skills, along with technical knowledge, in our Cisco program activities.”

To learn more about Cisco Networking Academy courses at St. Charles Community College, visit: www.stchas.edu