



SUCCESS STORY

C I S C O A C K N O W L E D G E S S U C C E S S A N D A C C O M P L I S H M E N T S

Cisco Systems, Inc.
170 West Tasman Drive
San Jose, CA
95134-1706

Support for Cisco Networking Academy Program: Kentucky Leads the Way in Technology Training

Cisco Networking Academy Program is a Success

The United States government funds academic and social programs for the children of migrant agriculture workers. The slogan for the program is "Harvest of Hope." To qualify for the program, parents of these children must have moved at least once in the last three years in search of agriculture work. When parents come to work at the local tomato processing plant they will often bring their families. Work age members of the family work at the plant, while the younger students attend school. During the time the children are in the area schools, the Migrant Program, funded by a government grant, provides migrant students with tutoring and mentoring.

This year, with the cooperation of Susana Amstutz, Migrant Program Coordinator, and Jody Walker, Academy Instructor at South Adams High School in Berne, Indiana, the migrant program has had the opportunity to offer the Cisco Networking Academy Program to migrant students. One of the students that has taken advantage of this opportunity has found a foundation for her future career plans. The Cisco Networking class offers students the skills and education needed to prepare them for the future and the technology they will work with, regardless of their chosen professions.

Maria De La Luz Cisneros, a junior, spends a majority of her year in Brownsville, Texas where she attends Lopez High School. "In the school that I go to back home in Brownsville you have to take a computer class in order to graduate from high school. When Susana, my teacher told me about the computer class called Cisco and asked if I would be interested in taking it, I told her well, if it's a computer class, and I have to take one, I'll go for it. And I did." Maria is able to transfer the Networking Academy credits from South Adams High School to her home high school in Brownsville, Texas to meet her computer class requirement for graduation. Maria's father works part of the time in agriculture and the rest of the year in a family-owned restaurant in Matamoros, Mexico. Neither of Maria's parents have more than an eighth grade education. The family travels together for the agricultural work season, then will return to Brownsville at season's end. While working at the local processing plant, the family of six lives in the Red-Gold migrant camp in Geneva, Indiana. This is a grouping of mobile homes that are on the property of the tomato cannery.

This year during the two months that Maria has been in Indiana, she has been able to complete the first two semesters of the four-semester CCNA curriculum. Maria has had to dedicate extra hours and work very diligently to complete the two semesters in the six weeks she has been here.



<http://www.cisco.com>



Cisco Systems, Inc.
170 West Tasman Drive
San Jose, CA
95134-1706

"It is a pleasure to have Maria in class. She is a very intelligent young lady who has an internal drive to succeed in this program. She seems to enjoy the lab activities, such as terminating copper and fiber cables," says Mrs. Walker. "As her teacher, I will truly miss her. I feel a bond with Maria after spending quality time with her. I feel very proud to be the instructor that helped provide her with the knowledge and skills from this program."

Maria likes to travel and hopes to work with U.S. Customs when she begins her career. Maria feels that having the Cisco background and the resulting skills will be beneficial to her future. "In the Cisco program, I've learned a lot of different kinds of things that I didn't know about computers and networking systems. Thanks to Mrs. Walker's help I've been able to learn many things that I didn't imagine I would be able to know. I've learned about the OSI model's seven layers, hex, binary, RAM, IP protocol, routers, routing, and many other things."

When South Adams High School started this school year, the migrant students enrolled in PASS courses, which are independent study courses directed by the Migrant Program Coordinator. A typical migrant student takes two courses during their stay at South Adams. Maria took two courses and added the Cisco course as a third. Maria not only accepted the challenge of this curriculum, she is the top student in the Cisco class. "I have learned a lot about the Cisco courses myself from listening to Maria," says Susana Amstutz. "She is so excited about the materials and labs, that it is impossible not to be excited for her."

The Cisco Networking Academy Program works well for students who start their coursework in one school and then move to another. In the school district that Maria will be returning to in Texas, there are two high schools that offer the curriculum.



<http://www.cisco.com>