



SUCCESS STORY

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High School Student Readies for Technical Career

The Sequoia Information Technology program at Sequoia High School in Redwood City, California, provides students with advanced training and industry-recognized certification in the field of information technology. Information Technology is a broad and rapidly growing career field with great opportunities for students who take the challenge to master technical subjects.

Matt Rigdon is a 16-year old student at Sequoia, and is enrolled in the Cisco Networking Academy Program offered at this school. Governor George W. Bush recently visited some of the students at Sequoia High School and Matt was one of the students who had the opportunity to speak with Governor and Mrs. Bush.

Matt first heard of the Networking Academy program through his school counselor. Although Matt has had an interest in computers for quite some time, he wanted to take advantage of the networking program offered at Sequoia High School to further broaden his knowledge of the computer field. Matt first enrolled in the Academy program in February 2000, as a high school sophomore. His favorite aspect of the class is the online curriculum. "I like not having to carry around a book," Matt said.

It's through his curiosity and intellect that Matt is able to teach himself computer basics. However, the Networking Academy program is taking him to the next level in computer learning. In addition to hanging out with his friends and rehearsing for his performance in the school's fall play, Matt enjoys playing computer games. At one point Matt took apart the family's computer, then successfully put it back together. His mom Sandy says, "we're glad Matt has the opportunity to get technology training during high school. The networking class will enable Matt to work part-time, in a field he's interested in, and maybe help fund his college education."

Currently, Matt is half-way through the Networking Academy curriculum and on his way to earn his Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certification. He works part-time at Laurel Technical Services, a publisher of math and science books. And, very shortly, he will move on to a Network Administrators position at Peninsula Covenant Church, where among other things, he will document software on computers, fix cabling and NIC cards and add new users to the network, skills he learned in the Networking Academy course.

Matt plans to attend Stanford University after high school, majoring in Computer Science or Computer Engineering. He recommends the Networking Academy program to all students. Matt says, "even students who are not interested in networking will gain a basic knowledge of computers that will prepare them for future careers."

