

Community college, Cisco Systems join to educate students

MORGANTON — The Computer Engineering Technology department at Western Piedmont Community College has teamed with Cisco Systems, Inc., the worldwide leader in networking for the Internet, to become the site of a Local Cisco Networking Academy. Upon successful completion of the program and final examination, students are certified as a Cisco Certified Network Associate and/or Cisco Certified Network Professional. These students are prepared to continue into higher education programs in Computer Science or Computer Engineering, or to enter the IT workforce.

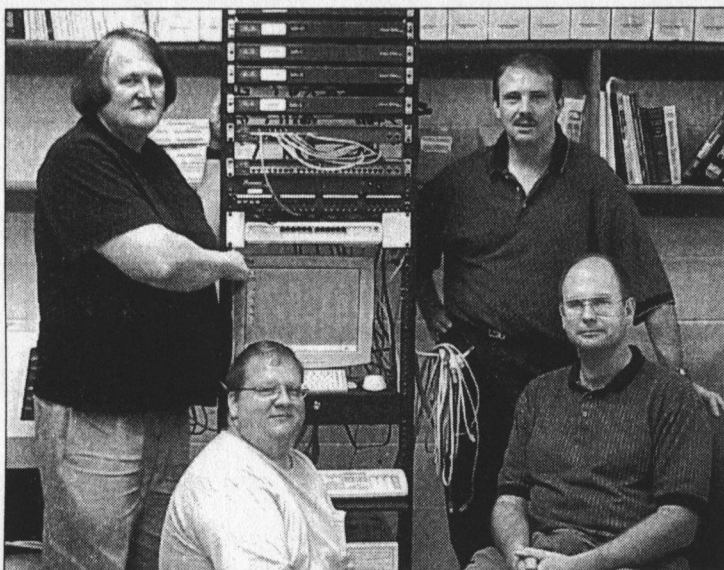
The Networking Academy program employs an e-learning model, using a combination of web-based, instructor-led learning and hands-on labs to teach high school, college and adult students how to design, build and maintain computer networks of local, national and global businesses.

Gary Suddreth, coordinator of the Computer Engineering Technology Program and Western Piedmont Community College's first certified Cisco Academy instructor said, "We are excited to offer Cisco training as a part of our expanding program. This could give our students an extra edge when competing for career positions."

The Computer Engineering Technology Department was instrumental in the community college's campus network design and implementation when the college connected to the Internet in 1993.

The department still maintains the academic Internet servers and the campus backbone. The network academy students will be used to design future network facilities for the college and other local organizations.

The community college currently has five instructors for Cisco Academy training. The four-course sequence is: NET 125, NET 126, NET 225, and NET 226 which correspond to Cisco semesters 1-4. The next sequence starts with the Spring semester on Jan. 9, with pre-registration Nov. 18 - 22 and regular registration on Jan. 8. There are two sections each of NET 125 -Routing and Switching I and NET 126- Routing and Switching II, meet-



Cisco Academy instructors are pictured with the mobile network trainer. Clockwise, from top left, are Gary Suddreth, Joel Swanson, Jim deFriess and David Grose. Academy instructors not shown are Teri deFriess and Rob Young. Cisco Systems and Western Piedmont Community College have joined to form the Cisco Networking Academy.

ing Tuesday/Thursday at 11 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. or 3 - 4:20 p.m. Both courses are three credits and are partially completed via the Internet.

Since its inception in October 1997, the Cisco Networking Academy Program has matured to educate more than 156,000 students in all 50 U.S. states and in more than 96 countries worldwide. More than 5,700 Networking Academies now exist around the world.

Western Piedmont Community College is one of a growing number of schools to bring this high-tech training program to this service area. Students who complete the first 280 hours of instruction are prepared to take a standardized test to qualify as a Cisco Certified Network Associate.

Students who complete semesters five through eight are prepared to take the Cisco Certified Network Professional exam and become a Cisco Certified Network Professional. Academy graduates are also prepared to build upon their networking skills by pursuing advanced education in science and engineering fields at colleges and universities.

The Networking Academy program

provides course work for a complete range of basic through advanced networking concepts - from pulling cable, through such complex concepts as subnet masking rules and strategies to troubleshooting. Additional modules in the Academy program will provide Unix, Java and web development skills to students wanting to specialize in those areas.

Through the Academy program, students learn fundamental networking concepts and have a chance to apply their new skills in the "real world" workplace via Cisco's Work-Based Learning program.

This program matches Cisco partners and customers with Academy graduates for internship and mentoring opportunities.

More information about programs, events and activities at Western Piedmont Community College is available by visiting the website www.wpcc.edu.

Cisco Systems, Inc., is the worldwide leader in networking for the Internet. More information on the Cisco Networking Academy program can be found at www.cisco.com/edu or by contacting Debbie Bruce at 408-527-1732.