



NEWS RELEASE – for immediate release

Contact: Bryan Armstrong, (606) 246-3146, ext. 1208

KCTCS, Cisco partner to educate computer network specialists

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (June 7, 2000) – The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) and Cisco Systems Inc. today announced a partnership to educate Kentuckians to fill high-paying jobs in the information technology industry.

With the assistance of other education partners, KCTCS is establishing Cisco Networking Academies across the Commonwealth to teach students to design, build and maintain computer networks.

“Through our community and technical colleges, KCTCS will provide the education and training that students need to secure jobs in the fast-growing field of information technology,” said Dr. Michael B. McCall, KCTCS president. “The KCTCS partnership with Cisco fits well with our broader agenda to support the knowledge-based economy in Kentucky.

“Across the United States, 1.6 million jobs will be created in the next year in information technology, but half of those jobs will go unfilled,” McCall said. “KCTCS and Cisco are stepping forward to teach people the skills to serve as computer network administrators who can earn \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year or even more.”

McCall announced the Cisco/KCTCS partnership today in Louisville alongside John P. Morgridge, chairman of the board of Cisco Systems Inc. Under the leadership of Morgridge, Cisco has become the fastest-growing company in the history of the computer industry.

“Network administrators are essential to the success of almost all businesses, yet most companies simply can’t find people with the right skills to meet the demand,” Morgridge said. “The Cisco Networking Academy program is targeted to address this shortage.”

The Cisco curriculum offers state-of-the-art, web-based training in computer networks. Cisco, one of the most valuable companies in the world, is the leading manufacturer and distributor of computer network equipment.

The Cisco Networking Academy Program is a complete, 280-hour program that covers designing, building and maintaining networks capable of supporting national and global organizations. The program is localized to meet needs of high schools and two-year colleges, and features hands-on, project-driven training in high-demand job skills.

Graduates of the first four semesters are prepared to take an exam to earn Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certification. Graduates have the design, implementation and troubleshooting skills to manage approximately 70 percent of the computer networks in the world.

The Cisco Networking Academy Program consists of two levels of academies. Regional Academies teach the Cisco curriculum to instructors as well as providing support and mentoring to Local Academies, which teach students.

The KCTCS/Cisco partnership includes 10 Regional Academies: Ashland Community College, Central Kentucky Technical College, Elizabethtown Technical College, Hazard Community College/Hazard Technical College, Henderson Community College, Jefferson

(MORE)



2624 Research Park Drive ♦ P.O. Box 14092 ♦ Lexington, KY 40512-4092 ♦ 606/246-3146 ♦ Fax: 606-246-3153

KCTCS is an equal opportunity employer and education institution.

Community College, Bowling Green Technical College-KATI Campus, Laurel Technical College, Northern Kentucky Technical College and Paducah Community College. Bell County High School also is a Regional Academy and works closely with KCTCS.

The Regional Academies have signed contracts to support 31 Local Academies. Southeast Community College, Owensboro Technical College, Ashland Technical College and Somerset Community College are KCTCS institutions that are Local Academies. Additional Local Academies are being added to reach a goal of 100 Cisco Networking Academies in Kentucky.

Students in the academies can work toward an associate's degree in network information systems, and can continue their education at four-year universities.

The academies in Kentucky currently teach about 250 students, and the number is expected to grow rapidly as academies open and become better-known, McCall said.

"The sky is the limit," McCall said. "Our partnership with Cisco matches our goals of delivering education and training that changes the lives of our students and serving communities across Kentucky."



KCTCS, which was formed by the Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997, includes 15 technical colleges and 13 community colleges. KCTCS colleges provide accessible and affordable education and training through academic and technical associate degrees; diploma and certificate programs in occupational fields; pre-baccalaureate education; adult, continuing and developmental education; customized training for business and industry; and distance learning.

For more information on KCTCS, visit our web site at www.ketcs.net.



The Cisco Networking Academy Program has been established in more than 3,900 academies across the United States and in 71 countries.

For more information on the Cisco Networking Academy Program, or to locate the Networking Academy nearest you, visit this web site: www.cisco.com/edu/academy.

Cisco Systems Inc. (NASDAQ: CSCO) is the worldwide leader in networking for the Internet. News and information are available at www.cisco.com.

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