

Spotlight on Student Success

Steve McMaster

Networking Program Provided Solid Footing

“The Cisco networking program gave me a unique opportunity to hit the ground running out of high school,” states Steve McMasters, a 2007 graduate of LHS & West Shore Career-Tech. He took the knowledge he learned in the Networking /Cisco program and within a few short weeks after graduation, was employed by Hurricane Labs, a leader in information security. He’s been with the Independence-based firm ever since.



Steve passed the CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) right after graduation and was able to show that credential to a leader in the local IT security industry to help secure a job. “It never would have happened without the networking program teaching me the fundamentals. I came in here with a DEPTH of knowledge far beyond what some of the multi-year veteran employees had,” says Steve.

He is currently a Lead Network Architect managing the “Internal Operations” team. He and his team support all the desktop/end-users, phone system, network, and servers – everything top to bottom. Steve attests, “The networking program not only gave me a solid footing, but a few extra layers of knowledge that six years later is still relevant and I’m applying it daily.”

Steve’s advice to students: “Pay attention, put in the effort, and get something out of it. Don’t just take it to take it. It’s only useful if you are willing to put in the work.”