

High school program prepares students for IT careers

Teenagers of the 21st century have grown up in a wired world where computers as small as your hand are as common as telephones and TV sets. These high-tech devices have created a demand for skilled technicians who can keep them running and serviced.

That is why the Cisco Academy at Daniel Webster High School in Tulsa is important to several local firms who have partnered with the program.

The Cisco Academy is a two-year *CareerTech* program designed to prepare students for careers or further studies in the information technology field. The business and information technology education program at Daniel Webster teaches *CareerTech* courses such as Desktop Publishing and Graphic Design, e-Commerce, Advanced e-Commerce, Information Technology and Accounting Systems I and II.

Students can also graduate from the Academy with a high school diploma and Cisco certification. Many Tulsa businesses partner with the Academy, which is part of the Technology 20/20 program, providing supplies and equipment in addition to internship and mentoring services. The Technology 20/20 program introduces students to careers such as telecommunications, multimedia design, video editing and e-commerce.

Those partners include MCIWorldCom, Southwestern Bell, Sabre, Williams, American Airlines, Cox Communications, York Electronics, Sunco, Tulsa Technology Center, Tulsa Community College, Oklahoma State University, PSO,

CareerTech programs," said Benson.

Business and information technology instructor Mitchell Ober said the Cisco Academy currently has 15 students in the class and eight more on the waiting list.

"The Tulsa area has a big demand for workers with technical skills such as networking, telecommunications and computer repair," Ober said.

Carol McGowen, senior manager for Workforce Development with the Tulsa Chamber, said the businesses see partnering with Daniel Webster as a long-term commitment.

"Businesses see this as an opportunity to develop a future workforce," McGowen said. "Being directly involved in the education process, businesses increase the likelihood of high school stu-

dents having a better insight into the world of work."

Business partners serve on an advisory board, which meets with students monthly to design and evaluate project-based activities. The interaction between business people and students benefits both parties, Ober said.

Also, cooperative agreements between Daniel Webster and Tulsa Community College allow students taking Business and Information Technology Education classes to transfer up to 24 credit hours toward an associate degree.



Pictured from left are Sherri Bozone, a student at Daniel Webster High School, Tulsa, and mentor Steve Morris of Sabre. Sabre, which provides information technology, distribution and marketing services to the travel industry, is one of several companies partnering with Daniel Webster High School's Cisco Academy.

TV Guide, Bluebell, EDS, AFN Communications, Avis, Lucent, the Tulsa World, Video Revolution, CC Digital, Bank of Oklahoma, the Tulsa Metropolitan Chamber and Tulsa television stations KTUL, KOTV and KJRH. These companies are being recognized as Oklahoma *CareerTech* Business Champions, according to Dr. Ann Benson, state *CareerTech* director.

"*CareerTech* Business Champions are those businesses that attribute much of their economic success to the partnerships they have formed with the local technology center or high school

Altus Air Force Base donates plane to SWTC aviation technology program

The sight of a C-141 Wingless Wonder being towed across Altus Air Force Base and the city of Altus brought plenty of stares from bystanders and drivers alike.

Measuring 155 feet long, 24 feet wide and almost 20 feet high, the aircraft was recently towed to Southwest Technology Center from the base as part of "Planes for Partnership" for the Grow Your Own Mechanic program.

This program trains high school students and young adults for careers as aircraft technicians, making employment at the base a strong possibility.

"The purpose of moving the C-141 is so that students at the technology center can work with an aircraft similar to what they will be working with here at Altus Air Force Base," said Sam Kinnamon, training management superintendent with the base Civilian Maintenance Unit. "It's a whole different story working on an old C-141 than it is on a Cessna 150."

The transfer was originally scheduled to take place a week or so earlier.

"At first we intended to tow the aircraft out the north end of the runway, but because of wet ground it was feared the C-141 might sink,"

Kinnamon said. "The 97th Civil Engineer Squadron made this assessment and advised that the best option would be to tow the aircraft through the front gate."

Preparations for the move began several days in advance as maintenance workers replaced the aircraft brakes and wheels, which were filled with concrete, along with additional moving parts ordered through the 97th Supply Squadron.

Overall, towing the C-141 went well, according to Kinnamon.

"There weren't any surprises," he said, "and we conducted a survey of all the overhead obstacles beforehand. It took about two-thirds of the duty day to make the three-mile trek to the technology center with spotters and members of the 97th Security Forces Squadron positioned in front, to the side and to the rear, escorting the aircraft."

Security forces also helped with traffic flow and with moving the cement barriers around the main gate.

Altus police monitored traffic, while city workers disconnected



Altus Air Force Base recently donated a C-141 Wingless Wonder to Southwest Technology Center's Aviation and Aerospace Technology program.

traffic lights at intersections to clear the way for the C-141 entourage.

Now, only one C-141 cargo trainer remains at Altus AFB, since the training mission transferred to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, in July 2001. "The base flight safety office has the rights to that wingless wonder, which will eventually be chopped up for scrap metal," Kinnamon said.

"The technology center's wingless wonder will go on to assist the base and Altus for awhile," he said. "Benefiting the community is what it's all about. This C-141 is a statement to the next generation of the Grow Your Own Mechanic program, who will go on to work at Altus Air Force Base. They will inherit a program built by their parents."

The Grow Your Own Mechanic program is currently in its fourth year. It's a partnership with local high schools, Southwest Technology Center, Western Oklahoma State College and the civilian maintenance unit at the base.

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Oklahoma Department of
Career and Technology Education
1500 West Seventh Avenue
Stillwater, OK 74074-4364
Ann Benson, State Director
Ron Wilkerson, Chief Communications Officer
Ann Houston, Community Relations Specialist
Manny Otiko, Media Relations Specialist
Tom Fields, Photojournalist

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Students, instructor partner on networking project

Time between tests and competitive events at *CareerTech* student organization spring conferences can get long—both boring and nerve-racking. What better way to spend those stretches in time than by staying in touch with friends “back home” while attending a conference for three days—and maybe learning a thing or two about networking at the same time.

Thanks to a brainstorm from a business and computer instructor at Gordon Cooper Technology Center, Shawnee, and the enthusiasm of two high school students, e-mail and basic web service were provided for the 2,100 conference attendees at the first annual Business Professionals of America (BPA) Spring Conference held at OSU-Okmulgee and Tulsa.

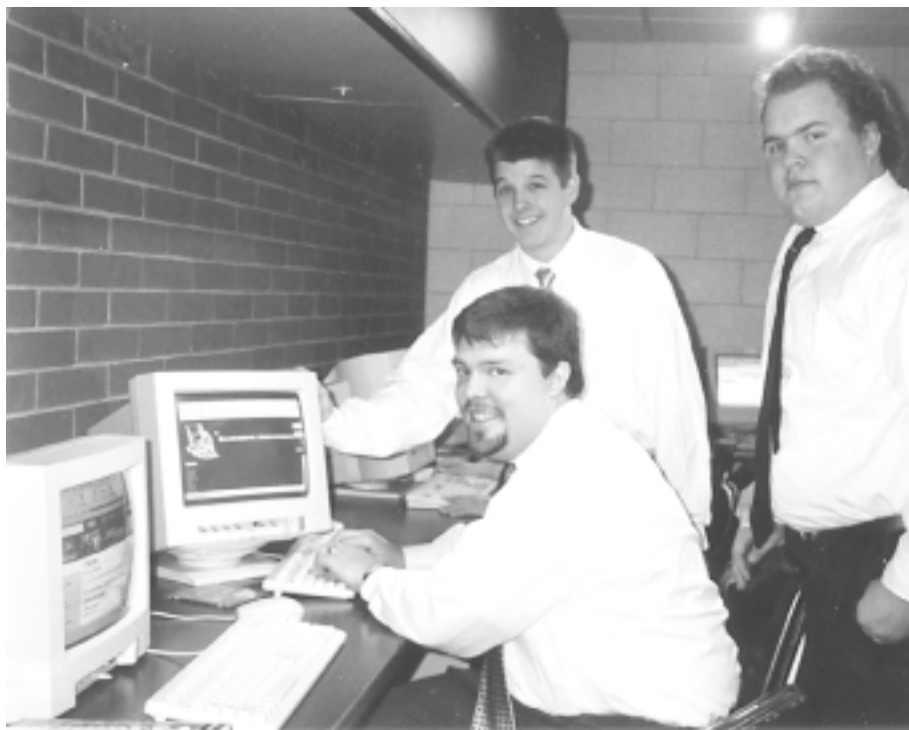
BPA is the *CareerTech* student organization supporting business and information technology education at high schools and technology centers in 170 chapters across Oklahoma.

Business and Information Technology Education Instructor Phillip Jackson, and seniors Brad Davison, Bethel High School, and Daniel Cadaret, Shawnee High School, decided to put that downtime to good use by providing an Internet Lab.

“Last year, I really was bored waiting around for everyone else after taking the tests,” Davison said.

“I had a laptop computer and checked e-mail to pass the time. We thought other people might like to do that, too. So, this year, we brought 20 computers, a server to network them and linked to Linux Redhat 6.0 that’s offered free over the Internet.”

These two students, friends since third grade, have experience in networking that started in the seventh grade when they networked the computer system at Bethel High School.



Pictured from left are Gordon Cooper Technology Center’s Business and Information Technology Education Instructor Phillip Jackson (seated), Brad Davison (left), Bethel High School, and Daniel Cadaret, Shawnee High School.

“I first taught myself how to fix trashed computers in the seventh grade so I could play games,” Davison said. “Then, Daniel and I figured out how to network them, so more than one person could play games. After sophomore tours of Gordon Cooper, though, I wanted to know more. They had the computers, so I enrolled.”

Today, these two have a business called Basement Industries, and design networks, repair computers and handle anything else related to computer systems. They offer their expertise both as a community service and as contract work for churches, teachers and businesses in the area.

Jackson, a former management information systems director for an Oklahoma City commercial real estate firm, said his students’ boundless energy and interest remind him of his high school career.

“I used to teach my teachers about the computer,” he said. “Now, they’re teaching me.”

Jackson likes his students to learn by doing, so on-the-job-training is encouraged. Davison and Cadaret work with their contractors during class time. Also, in that spirit, the Internet Lab came to be a reality.

“The lab was built by networking 20 outdated computers that we brought out of Gordon Cooper’s storage closet,” Jackson said. “Only the server came out of a classroom. All the machines we brought were ready to go to the auction.”

The student network administrators admit they exchanged last year’s boredom for stress.

“We’re now responsible for keeping the computers working, helping people when they need it, and training other members from our chapter on how to help out, especially if we have to be gone for a while,” Davison said.

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Five CTSO conferences slated for April

Five career and technology student organizations will have their spring leadership conferences in April, according to state officials. Dr. Ann Benson, state director, said that more than 68,000 secondary and postsecondary students are members of the seven student organizations sponsored by the state *CareerTech* agency.

"These organizations provide thousands of Oklahoma students with public speaking skills, leadership training and valuable workplace experience preparing them for life after graduation," she said.

Upcoming CTSO state conferences are:

- **Technology Student Association (TSA)**, the student organization associated with technology education, will host its conference from **April 2-4** at the State Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City. The conference will feature more than 2,400 students competing in events such as flight endurance, transportation modeling, inventions and innovations, and computer construction and troubleshooting.

- **Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)** is the student organization associated with family and consumer sciences education. FCCLA will host its state convention on **April 11** at the Cox/Myriad Convention Center in Oklahoma City. The conference will feature Kansas Kids: Leaders of the Pack, a student leadership group, who will perform a dramatic presentation on social problems facing today's youth.

- **Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)** will hold its conference from **April 11-13** at the Clarion Meridian Convention Center in Oklahoma City. HOSA is the student organization associated with health occupations education. The conference will feature a tour of the Oklahoma City National Memorial. Rebecca Anderson, a nurse and former HOSA state officer, was the only rescuer killed in the Oklahoma City bombing.

- **SkillsUSA-VICA**, the student organization associated with trade and industrial education, will host its state skills championships at the State Fairgrounds and Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City, from **April 25-27**. The event will feature students competing in categories such as 3D visualization and animation, robotics and automation technology, architectural drafting and automated manufacturing.

- **FFA**, the student organization associated with agricultural education, will host its 76th spring convention from **April 30-May 1** at the Cox/Myriad Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

Two student organizations have already hosted their spring conference.

- **BPA**, the student organization associated with business and information technology education, held its conference from Feb. 28-March 2, and **DECA**, the student organization associated with marketing education, held its conference from March 3-5.