

Cisco Networking Academy Congratulates Winners of 2011 U.S. and Canada NetRiders IT Skills Challenge

Competition Showcases Students' Advanced Technical Skills

SAN JOSE, Calif., May 23, 2011 – Cisco today announced the winners of the Cisco® Networking Academy® NetRiders Skills Challenge, an interactive contest designed by the [Cisco Networking Academy](#) to give technical education students the opportunity to showcase their IT and networking skills and to recognize excellence among Networking Academy students. More than 1500 students representing nearly 150 academies from across the United States and Canada competed in the challenge, which consisted of three rounds culminating with a final, virtual event on May 6, 2011.

NetRiders Skills Competition:

- NetRiders utilizes Cisco's Web 2.0 technologies to create an interactive experience, enhance classroom learning, and motivate young people to further pursue technology education and training.
- Over 10,000 students across more than 80 countries have competed in regional NetRiders competitions over the last several months.
- The U.S. and Canada NetRiders Finale competition involved 38 teams of two (2) Networking Academy students competing in a variety of activities, including a timed theoretical exam, a Cisco [Packet Tracer](#) network simulation activity and exam.
- The U.S. and Canada Theater Winners are:
 - 1st Place: Michael Murphy & William Carroll – Virginia Beach Schools, VIRGINIA (instructor: John Nelson)
 - 2nd Place: Will Showalter & Rory Linehan – Matanuska Susitna Borough, ARKANSAS (instructor: Patricia Zugg)
 - 3rd Place: Pat Brady & Aly Hulen – Newport High School, WASHINGTON (instructor: Rod Thompson)
 - 4th Place: Eric Bright & Kevin Smith – South Technical High School, MISSOURI (instructor: Carla Hegre)
 - 5th Place: Herschel Bhasin & Anthony Herbert – Thomas Edison Vocational & Technical High School, NEW YORK (instructor: John Rullan)
 - 6th Place: Paulo Alcantara & Thomas Evans – Damascus High School, MARYLAND (instructor: Jeffrey Hanson)
 - 7th Place: Andrew McCarthy & Alexander Hazeltine – Ashely High School, NORTH CAROLINA (instructor: Cecil Hobbs)
 - 8th Place: Mallory Hayase & Anthony Kuloloia – Mililani High School, HAWAII (instructor: Kory Takemoto)
 - 9th Place: Cesar Garcia & Andy Cantu – United High School, TEXAS (instructor: Elise Garza)
 - 10th Place: Tyloer Dodge & Thom Lewis – Shasta-Trinity ROP, CALIFORNIA (instructor: Jim Reach)

Cisco Networking Academy:



- The Cisco Networking Academy is a global technology education program that provides students with networking and technical skills to prepare them for careers in the 21st century.
- Committed to delivering the highest standard of information technology education to students of all nationalities, genders and economic brackets, the program is designed to offer students real-world skills that will position them for employment and career growth.

Joni Blakeslee, senior manager, Cisco Networking Academy, U.S. and Canada Field Operations said:

“Congratulations to all of the students who competed in this exciting event. We are delighted that the Cisco Networking Academy has been able to provide this opportunity for students to showcase their skills and compete with their peers in an immersive hands-on competition. We look forward to seeing these talented young people continue to pursue technical education in the growing information technology field.”