

## 2004 Information Technology Scholarship Winners

### Phung

Boston Region  
Edison Job Corps Center

*“In the next five years, I will be in college for Computer Science. I want to get my doctorate at MIT. I understand that only the best in the world are able to achieve that goal. The competition is intense and the standards are extremely high. However, only those that dare to dream achieve the impossible.”*

The “dream to achieve the impossible” started only two years after Phung arrived in the United States from Vietnam. She enrolled in the Business Technology program at the Grand Rapids Job Corps Center, and shortly after completing her trade, she decided to enter the A+/Microsoft Certified System Engineer (A+/MCSE) advanced training program at the Edison Job Corps Center, without any idea what A+ and MCSE certification was about.

Since then, Phung has achieved the Computer Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) A+ Certified Professional certification, and the Microsoft Certified System Administrator (MCSA) and MCSE certifications. Obtaining MCSA-Messaging certification motivated Phung to apply for an internship at Arthur McNeil Institute to prepare for the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) exam. Phung passed the exam on her first try. *“Ambition inspired and success achieved, it was just the ‘I’ve made it!’ feeling that could not be fully described.”*

Currently, Phung is working on Windows 2003 Server to upgrade to MCSE 2003. She will then pursue her certificate for Certified Wireless Network Professional.

### Heather

Philadelphia Region  
Pittsburgh Job Corps Center

*“With my current education, work experience and future plans I have what it takes to obtain a career in the technology field that is both professionally and personally satisfying.”*

After graduating from Clearfield Area High School in the top half of her class, and a short stint in college, Heather successfully transitioned into the Pittsburgh Job Corps Center’s Cisco Networking Academy. She has completed 75% of the Cisco curriculum and has also been working toward her future goal of obtaining an entry-level position in the Information Technology (IT) field.

Heather participated in an off-center work-based learning project for a local non-profit organization known as Project Nehemiah, which involved cabling and networking skills. Heather also works after school as a teacher's aide in the day care center at the Pittsburgh Job Corps Center.

*"In the future I want to create a technological curriculum for preschool classes, so they can learn about computers. I feel that it is important to teach children technology in our technology-based environment. The 2004 Information Technology Scholarship will help me to achieve my goals in the technology field."*

## **Crystal**

Atlanta Region  
Homestead Job Corps Center

*"On April 6, 2004, I came to Homestead Job Corps very misdirected; I didn't have a clue or an interest in pursuing a career. I was living a rather reckless lifestyle and needed clarity concerning my future. I feel I have finally found my place and I now strive to excel in a career that interests me. Coming from a background such as mine, with little encouragement I now strive to achieve goals that I have set for myself."*

Crystal is currently a student in the computer repair trade and studying to obtain her A+ certification. She also serves as a peer tutor and mentor for other IT students. She plans to pursue higher education, which includes advanced training in Boston to become certified by Sun Microsystems, and admittance to Barry University in Miami, Florida.

*"There is no doubt in my mind that I am capable of accomplishing these achievements."*

## **Trevion**

Chicago Region  
Detroit Job Corps Center

*"Motivation, dedication, and ambition – those are the three aspects I base my entire attitude on, which are very important in the Information Technology field."*

Trevion tried to fix computers, stereos, and televisions as a child. Since then he has been intrigued with the technology field. Before attending the Detroit Job Corps Center Trevion took computer repair classes while attending Pueblo High School in Arizona.

His plan of action to achieve his career goal as a Network Administrator is clear: by enrolling in Job Corps, Trevion plans to obtain not only the basic

understanding of computers, but also acquire the Microsoft Certified System Administration (MCSA) Engineering certification through the advanced A+/Microsoft training program. Trevion also has assisted the system administrator at the center by repairing and installing computers in the new learning resource center.

*“ . . . My dedication, motivation, and ambition to accomplish all goals I set as well as my attitude won't allow me to quit or allow anyone to get in the way of my future. I will stay focused and motivated to take the IT field head on.”*

## **Stephen**

Dallas Region

Quentin Burdick Job Corps Center

*“At the age of five, my parents bought a computer, first I had ever seen. I was completely amazed at what this machine could do.....I would sit for hours learning about the workings of our new Packard Bell. I started with what little information my parents had....and I worked my way through the Internet....In about a week, I knew more about the machine than my parents did.”*

Stephen's interests went beyond that of the computer screen. His focus shifted to what he could not see; the intricate fabric of the internal hardware. By the age of nine, he fully understood the concept of hardware and its operating system.

Stephen transferred to the Quentin Burdick Job Corps Center from the Trapper Creek Job Corps Center for the express purpose of going to Minot State University for computer programming. Stephen received his GED high school diploma, completed coursework in Business Technology, and is working towards Cisco CCNA, Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP), and A+ certification while in Job Corps.

Stephen is currently fluent in Visual Basic and intends to expand his horizons into other programming languages. He hopes to be able to design software and revolutionize the computer industry with a concept all his own.

## **Kali**

San Francisco Region

Treasure Island Job Corps Center

*“As a basic skills computer instructor at the Women's Economic Agenda Project Computer Telecom Skills center..... and Job Corps' Cisco academy provided me with a vast array of Information Technology and job readiness skills...the foundation for my future endeavors in the IT industry, and taught me many*

*important life skills that I continue to use both within and outside of the workplace.”*

Kali is a student in the Cisco Networking Academy program at the Treasure Island Job Corps Center and is currently working toward his CCNA, Network+ and other advanced certification. He plans to obtain his Bachelor of Science degree in computer science.

Kali shows a genuine interest in IT and wants to further his knowledge of networking and modern computing. He has performed duties as a help desk assistant with Job Corps' Student Helpdesk dealing with network and desktop/personal computer (PC) problems and issues. He also recently has been leading group orientation for new Job Corps students, introducing them to the Cisco Networking Academy.

*“I feel the Job Corps IT scholarship opportunity gives me the boost I need in order to reach my goal as an IT Professional.”*