2003 Information Technology Scholarship Winners

Yvonne
Boston Region
Shriver Job Corps Center

Yvonne entered Delaware Valley Job Corps Center in 2001, where she dedicated herself to the IT field. Within a year she could put together personal computers, configure hard drives, and troubleshoot networks—while she also attained her GED. She says: "Even though I had completed the computer tech training, I felt my quest for knowledge had just begun, and I wanted to go further, because to me knowledge is the key to success." She transferred to the Shriver Job Corps Center for advanced training in Sun Microsystems.

Yvonne is currently working toward her certification in Solaris 9 System Administration. In the future, she plans to become a computer engineer. She started at TCI, a technical school in New York City, in May 2004. There she will work toward an associate's degree and industry certifications that will help her reach her career goals.

Karl
Boston Region
Edison Job Corps Center

Karl is an exceptionally goal-oriented student. He completed his Business Technology coursework in 2 months, then went on to become a Microsoft Office Specialist and earn his A+/Microsoft certification. Karl also served as the president of the Student Government Association.

During his training, Karl qualified for an internship at AT&T. As a part of this internship, he was selected to work with a special team to perform software testing and debugging for the entire East Coast region of AT&T. On that assignment, he learned how to test software for incompatibilities, deploy software for testing, and learn basic scripting for making software packages.

Karl is currently attending Middlesex County College, where he is a semester away from graduating with his associate's degree. He is also working at a CompUSA computer superstore assisting customers with products. He will soon be repairing and configuring customers' computers.

His ultimate goal is to specialize in computer communications, at a college such as Rutgers University or Kean University. He says, "I want to be a part of helping others receive such information across the world without having to spend a lot of money to do it."

Jonathan
Philadelphia Region
Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center

Originally, Jonathan went to college to be a history teacher. When he discovered he didn't like his chosen profession, he spent 2 years deciding where he could make the best use of his talents. After seeing an ad, he decided to build a new career at Job Corps.

At Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center, he shadowed a computer technology class and realized that his future lay in computers. He gained his CompTIA A+ certification at the center and graduated in 2003.

Jonathan also credits Job Corps with helping him to mature and live on his own. From washing his own clothes to paying his own bills, he learned the skills he will need to have a successful life. "Going to Job Corps has changed my life in many different ways, and now I think that I will have a very good life and career ahead of me."

He is continuing his IT studies and has built and tested his own computer. He plans to use his scholarship at Indiana Business College. "I am very excited to be a part of this career field that keeps growing and changing everyday," he says. He would like to work toward his Cisco Certification and eventually to earn a Cisco Security Professional Certification. His long-range dream is to put his IT knowledge and business acumen to use by opening a chain of cyber coffee shops.

Ivonne
Atlanta Region
Homestead Job Corps Center

Before coming into Job Corps, Ivonne had completed some coursework at Miami-Dade College and discovered her talent for computers, but she never found a job that used those skills. She decided Job Corps could help her put her talent to work.

Ivonne has completed coursework in computer repair, and she received a perfect score of 900 on her CompTIA A+ exam. She troubleshoots computers and acts as a peer mentor for other students at the center. With minimal supervision, she reinstalled operating systems on all computers in two classrooms and configured the instructors' computers to remotely control the students' workstations.

Ivonne is pursuing Network + certification and plans to return to Miami-Dade College to earn a bachelor's degree in computer science. Her ultimate goal is to

pursue a master's degree in Information Technology from Florida International University.

"With the lessons I have learned in Job Corps—life skills, employability skills, social skills, the setting of short and long term goals and the focus necessary to achieve them—I know that I will continue to advance and have a satisfying, productive career in the Information Technology field."

David
Chicago Region
Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center

David is an exceptional student in business technologies at Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center. Among his many certifications, he is Master Certified in Office 2000 and Computer Service Professional Certified.

In addition to being an award-winning student, David has volunteered as a classroom aide and tutor, which included repairing computers, and he received a Community Service Award for assisting the American Cancer Society's annual fundraiser. According to his Job Corps instructor: "He has the interest, the determination, and the work ethic needed to succeed in the IT field. Of all the students I have had in the past 10 years here at Job Corps, David is the most deserving of receiving a scholarship to continue his education."

Still at Job Corps, David is also enrolled at St. Paul College as a microcomputer support technology student. He has earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.24. He graduated in the spring of 2004 and will apply his scholarship to college education after leaving Job Corps.

David says: "I am prepared, committed, and enthusiastic about the time it will take for me to become proficiently trained in the IT field. You see, working in the IT field will not just be a job for me, it will be my career."

John
Chicago Region
Denison Job Corps Center

"Most would ask why work with computers? Why get into something that constantly changes? Why learn something that is very complex and stressing? Those are the reasons I want a career in the Information Technologies field. I want a challenge."

When John started Job Corps, he thought he wanted to fix computers. Now he wants to fix, rebuild, and improve on computer technology. His hard work has

paid off with an CompTIA A+ certification and a Master Certificate in Microsoft Office.

While at the center, he performed Work-Based Learning at the Little Priest Tribal College in Winnebago, NE. That experience involved troubleshooting network problems, wiring a building for phone, data, and patch panel, and setting up servers and routers. John was also Vice President of the center's Executive Council and an excellent role model on the center.

John has been accepted by and plans to attend the American Institute of Business, in Des Moines, Iowa. He plans to work toward his system administrator degree and beyond, including a bachelor's, master's, and—"I know this will take until I'm in my 60s"—a doctorate.

"I came into Job Corps knowing very little about how computers work," John says. "Now I want to change how they work. I understand more now about this changing field and I want to never quit learning about it."

David
Dallas Region
Gary Job Corps Center

David graduated in the top 10 percent of his high school class but did not attend college immediately because he felt he needed time to develop his work skills. He has done that—and more—at Job Corps.

David always wanted to work in computers and enjoyed IT classes in high school. At Job Corps, he was able to benefit from more advanced courses. He has received his CompTIA A+ Certification, has studied HTML and JavaScript, and has built a personal Web page.   Through a Work-Based Learning assignment at the center MIS department, he has learned how to troubleshoot networks. "I love the fact that technology is always changing, because it means there will always be something new to learn," David says. "I am prepared to make a lifelong commitment to Information Technology."

David hopes to become a programmer or a network administrator. To that end, he plans to go to college and work toward a number of advanced certifications.

He adds: "I have planned to obtain a part-time job to pay my way through college, but this scholarship would mean a lot to me. It would mean that I would be a help to my family rather than be a burden. It would also give me breathing room financially so I can focus more on my schoolwork."

Shane
Dallas Region
Collbran Job Corps Center

As he puts it, before Shane came to Collbran Job Corps Center, he lacked direction and settled for low-paying, low-opportunity jobs. "But on August 27, 2003, things started to change. I arrived at Job Corps with an open mind and a willingness to make my life different." While at Job Corps, he has passed the first half of his Cisco-Certified Network Associate/A+ certification with flying colors. He has worked on web page design using Macromedia Flash and 3d Studio Max. He also has gained experience using Visual Studios.

Shane has held the leadership positions of Dormitory President, Dorm Coordinator, Dormitory Sergeant at Arms, Bay Leader, and Student Government President. He was a foreman in the vocational area and a peer counselor. He has served well over a hundred hours of community service in projects for Special Olympics, the MS Walk-a-thon, and Make a Difference Day, to name a few. He even represented the center at the Colorado State Legislature.

Today, Shane is planning his future. He intends to enroll at I.T.T. Technical Institute in Tucson while working for a company in the IT field. "I believe I am prepared to go on with my life and start again," he says, "but this time I do not have the feeling of failure, I have found a new feeling…success, and it feels great."

Dmitriy
San Francisco Region
Los Angeles Job Corps Center

Dmitriy had never used a computer until he took a keyboarding class in 10th grade. In 3 months, he raised his typing speed from 12 to 43 words per minute, and he never looked back. In a year's time, he was setting up a Web site, writing his first programs, and fixing computer problems.

Dmitriy wanted to make a career in the IT field, and Job Corps proved the perfect place for the training he needed. First things first: he earned his high school diploma in less than 4 months in Job Corps' accelerated program. While at Job Corps, he has completed Microsoft Certification and courses in Windows 2000 Server and professional platforms. Still at Job Corps, he enrolled in Los Angeles City College and plans to get an associate degree in computer science while also earning his programming languages certificate. On a parallel track, Dmitriy is taking Cisco Certified Network Associate classes.

Looking over the long term, Dmitriy plans to study Storage Area Networks, optical networks, artificial intelligence, and other future technologies. "I believe that I will successfully complete all of the work required to get the skills and knowledge I need for an exciting career in IT."

Steven
San Francisco Region
Tongue Point Job Corps Center

Thirteen years ago, with the help of his grandfather, Steve opened his first computer and started upgrading a RAM bank. Soon, he was helping people with problems on all types of computers—but the day came when his own ambition and good computer sense weren't enough. It was time to learn from the professionals. That's one reason he decided to enroll in Job Corps.

At Tongue Point Job Corps Center, Steve is getting hands-on experience upgrading CPUs, installing bigger hard drives, building a computer, and learning new software. He is studying for his CompTIA A+ and CompTIA Network + exams and is turning his computing hobby into a career. He has already begun taking courses at Clatsop Community College and plans to use the scholarship in higher education. "With my stick-to-it attitude and my persistence to complete any task I start, I truly believe that I have chosen the perfect career path."