2004 Information Technology Scholarship Winners

Phung "Phoebe" Nguyen
Boston Region
Edison Job Corps Center

Phoebe is an exceptionally gifted and hard-working student whose dreams to achieve "the impossible" started just 2 years after she arrived in America from Vietnam. With her mind set on a career in the world of technology, she enrolled in Job Corps, taking advanced technology courses at both the Gerald Ford Grand Rapids and Edison Job Corps Centers.

Phoebe has obtained a host of certifications for leading IT service professional groups, including Microsoft (Certified Systems Engineer), Computer Technology Industry Association (Certified Professional Certification), and Cisco (Certified Network Associate).

As she continues to upgrade her professional certifications, she plans to enter a career as a wireless networking professional and take undergraduate courses at Middlesex Community College. Ultimately, she would like to get her doctorate in Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Heather Maines
Philadelphia Region
Pittsburgh Job Corps Center

The importance of making technology accessible to all members of the community is a belief that Heather has been making a reality. As a student at the Pittsburgh Job Corps Center, she dedicated her time and skills to setting up a small DSL network and taught cabling and networking skills at a local non-profit organization, Operation Nehemiah, which strives to rebuild the community by ministering to the spiritual, physical, educational, and economic needs of families. In addition, she served as a teacher's aide in the center's day care facility.

In the future, she wants to create a technological curriculum for preschool classes so they can learn about computers. She plans to attend the Allegheny County Community College and major in the Computer Information Technology Program.

Crystal Manning
Atlanta Region
Homestead Job Corps Center

Crystal credits the Homestead Job Corps Center and her valuable experiences in computer repair class with helping her redirect her life and realize her potential. According to Crystal, the Job Corps experience has given her clarity about her future and the drive to excel in the IT field.

She is currently studying to obtain her A+ certification in computer repair, and she hopes to include advanced training in Boston to become certified by Sun Microsystems. After that, she would like to attend Barry University, a Miami, Florida-based international Catholic University.

Trevion Howard
Chicago Region
Detroit Job Corps Center

While some people cringe at the idea of dealing with broken electronic equipment, Trevion has been intrigued by the challenge of repairing computers, stereos, and televisions since he was young. Before attending Job Corps, he took computer repair classes while attending Pueblo High School in Arizona. He has a clear career goal as a Network Administrator and has acquired the Microsoft Certified System Administration Engineering certification.

Trevion also assisted the system administrator at the Detroit Job Corps Center by repairing and installing computers in the new learning resource center. His dedication, skills, and motivation will help him go far in the IT field.

P. Stephen Cannon
Dallas Region
Quentin Burdick Job Corps Center

Stephen has been fascinated by the intricate fabric of personal computers since the age of five. By the age of seven, he was able to take apart and rebuild computer systems. At nine years of age, he fully understood the internal workings of computer hardware.

Through Job Corps, Stephen has been able to pursue his passion and take computer programming courses at Minot State University. Stephen is currently fluent in Visual Basic and intends to expand his horizons into other programming languages. He plans to increase his computer knowledge in college and someday design software and revolutionize the computer industry with his own concept.

Kali Meeks
San Francisco Region
Treasure Island Job Corps Center

While at the Treasure Island Job Corps Center, Kali earned advanced certifications at the Cisco Networking Academy. He also performed duties as a help desk assistant that dealt with network and desktop/personal computer problems and issues. He also led group orientations for new students at the Cisco Networking Academy. In addition, he served as a basic skills computer instructor at the Women's Economic Agenda Project Computer Telecom Skills Center, an Oakland civil rights group that assists underprivileged women by helping them achieve a livable wage with technical training, resources, and support.

Kali is planning to take classes at Laney Community College in Oakland, California. He hopes to combine his knowledge of computer networking with advanced media broadcast engineering, eventually starting his own business in the field.