

How WASTC Training Helps ICT Educators Stay Current

ICT Educator Webinar Series

April 26, 2019

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[00:00:00]

Introduction

[00:00:00]

STEVE WRIGHT: This is the ICT Educator Webinar Series, which is a new effort from the ICT sector team to provide weekly webinars to our faculty, primarily in the community college system, but any educator in the ICT space in California is certainly welcome.

The idea is to do them every Friday morning at 10 o'clock and to have a series of presentations and speakers like you would run into if you went to one of the many conferences that are out there, but for this one, you don't have to travel. With the consistency of Friday morning, we're hoping that's a little gimmick that will help you remember when to tune in.



UPCOMING WEBINARS

Our weekly live webinar series helps ICT educators stay up-to-date on the latest technologies and related community college efforts, all without leaving the office. Join us on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time for special guest speakers and presentations with colleagues across the state.

MAY 3 Cybersecurity Competitions: The CA Mayors Cyber Cup	MAY 10 Using LinkedIn to Enhance Business Engagement	MAY 17 NETLAB+ User Group Meeting
MAY 24 Job Market Update: Skills In Demand for Creative Digital Professionals	MAY 31 Noted Futurist Provides ICT Summer Reading List	

As you can see on your screen right now, today is April 26th, so we've got coming up, after today's one on the WASTC support...

- We're going to have a Cybersecurity competition call next Friday, where we wrap up how that whole Mayors Cup went and talk about the future work supporting Cybersecurity teams.
- The following week, LinkedIn will show us how to enhance your business engagement using their alumni feature and other capabilities.
- We'll be taking a look on the 17th at NETLAB+ user group and how using that technology can help you with your classwork.
- On May 24th and May 31st, the last two in the series for this spring (we're going to take a break in summer)... The 24th will be a job market update from the folks at Robert Half/The Creative Group because we're always asked the question, "What the heck do people do in Digital Media, and what kind of jobs are there?" So, they're going to talk about that because they recruit for that.
- The following week, we're going to have Peter Coffee, who has done a keynote at the ICT Winter and the former Digital Media Educator Conference. He's going to talk about the future of technology, we're kind of calling that "getting our reading list for the summer."

We've got a lot of good things coming up. We look forward to that.

Webinar Presenters

[00:02:03]

STEVE WRIGHT: Today, though, we're going to talk about WASTC, and on the call today are Karen Stanton and Richard Grotegut, who have been pretty much the thinkers, drivers, leaders. I mean, if there was a wagon train west, they're the ones who are telling us which way to go.

I know from my experience in talking to both of them over the years... And from my experience with Cisco because I was once with GTE Verizon and helped respond to Cisco's desire to put in an academy at Oxnard College, so I was one of the employers saying, "Yes, we'll hire those people if you train them." So, it's nice to be on the community college side now and seeing how all that works. I know that none of that would have been possible without the WASTC training effort, which trains faculty. Even in the role that I have right now, which is to try to find effective

ways to help with faculty development, among other things, I delegate all of that to WASTC. Not that I've actively delegated—they just were doing it, so I said, "Thank you so much! How can we help?"

But I just want to take a quick note to say that we have a unique opportunity in California. We know there's a huge need to Cybersecurity and IT professionals. Depending on who you talk to, the number of open jobs right now is anywhere from 40,000 to 140,000, depending on various qualifications you might put on what that job is.

And the certification route... Cisco certification academy is one of the strongest pathways to get there, including many others as well, and I've always thought that the Cisco Academy and the folks at WASTC have been very open and interdenominational, if you will, about helping understand all the technologies related to this field and not being so product driven for Cisco that they would appear to be inappropriate—they're not. It's very open, and it's a wonderful gift to the educational system.

I just want to note that currently we have about 27,000 students currently taking an IT course at our 114 campuses. We also engage in helping the CyberPatriot effort in afterschool programs with 205 different teams with those. I believe the last count was 64 Cisco academies on community college campuses (but Karen will correct me).

Most of our colleges now, over 50% (closer to 70%) have purchased or have access to some sort of virtual online 24/7 computer lab, which supports IT functions. We recently did a survey and identified 333 IT faculty in need of ongoing faculty training. 71% of them have master's degrees, and we are quite the thing. When you look at the community college structure in California, we are poised to be the most preeminent IT training facility in the country, and a lot of the credit for that is due to Cisco, Cisco Academy, and these two people [00:05:00] here, Karen Stanton and Richard Grotegut, who have made that happen over the last few years.

So, hopefully, I haven't treated your background too modestly. At this point in time, today, we're going to hear from Karen and Richard about WASTC and what they do, and then we're going to have comments from instructors that have agreed to join us today, Mark Smith of Oak Hills High

School, Curt Sharon of Cuyamaca, and Robert Yorgason of Venice Skills Center. I look forward to today's event. We're recording it, so you can share it with your friends later.

I'm going to let us go to the slide deck now, I suppose, with Karen and Richard.

[00:05:41]

WASTC Professional Development

[00:05:41]

RICHARD: Hi, everybody, and thanks, Steve—that’s a great introduction. Yeah, Karen and I have probably together easily over 40 years of involvement in the Cisco Academy program and with WASTC. For me, it actually started in 1997 with the very first pilot program with Cisco. As a faculty member, particularly in this field, with all the changes, we relied on heavily for support by our industry partners and with curriculum and labs to be able to deliver timely training to our students.

So, the Cisco Academy, by far, has been the best academy relationship we’ve had with industry over the years, and they’re going into their 23rd year now. I’ve been involved with them since the very beginning, first as an instructor at an academy, supporting our local students and replying to a regional academy in the area that closed their doors. Then we were looking at having to support ourselves locally, becoming a regional, and I was so happy to have Karen involved at that time early on with what really became WASTC, but in the early days (I’m sure she’ll talk about her involvement at College of the Canyons, their grant there, and their CATC as well)...

Yeah, I think we’ve been involved now since 2011 with WASTC, and originally, we were there to support the Cisco academies in the state of California. At the time when we took over, there were about 130, and now, Karen, I think we’re close to 280 academies that we’re supporting.

And I’ll correct you, Steve—there actually are 66 community colleges of the 114 that are Cisco Network Academies right now as well.

I’m thrilled to be involved. We owe a lot, actually, to MPICT as well—Karen will talk about that and some of the things that they started that we have been able to try to carry on and to do it, really on what’s a shoestring budget, quite frankly. I’m happy to be part of this. I rely on it a lot. I’m actually back in the classroom again, teaching part time and teaching academy courses, and

I'm going to be going to the faculty development, learning AWS computing as well, and I'm just happy to be a part of WASTC and the things that we do.

I want to turn it over to Karen—she does all the heavy lifting for us and really deserves top billing.

Where Did WASTC Come from and What Does a WASTC Do?

[00:08:42]

KAREN STANTON: Oh, thank you, Richard. It's been a pleasure. Like Richard, I started way back in the very beginning, but instead of starting as faculty, I started as a student. I went back to school late in life, wanted to learn something. I liked science and math, and I wondered what was inside of the computer.

While I was taking a basic computer course, I got roped into this thing called Cisco Network Academy, and I had to ask them what a network is. "What do you mean a computer network?" So, they described it to me.

I jumped into the program. I found it very interesting and challenging. I ended up with some very nice certifications, and the program that I was in was at College of the Canyons, down here in southern California.

The CREATE Grant group (Kathy L. Fauno managed that) is the grant group that actually funded these types of educational programs for 12 community colleges down here in southern California. So, I was actually in her program. She was keeping a close eye on the students there. I was doing very, very well. [00:10:00]

Cisco got in touch with Kathy and said, "Hey, we need a new CATC." That's just an acronym—it's very similar to what we're doing now with the Academy Support Center, so I'll just call it 'Academy Support Center.' It was a little bit different that way.

She said, "Well, I don't mind doing this. We'll support the academies in this area," the area being California and Nevada, "as long as I have someone who understands the technology and can

basically run it.” She brought me into her office and asked me if I wanted the job, and I was like, “Really? Wow! OK.” And that’s where I got started, and it’s been just a really wonderful adventure from that point on.

I continued my education. I worked, getting to know the Cisco academies in California and Nevada. It gave me a really nice close touch with the community colleges that were engaged with Cisco academies. I got to travel to go see them beyond their premises, got to know who they were and what we were able to offer them in the way of resources and things like that.

All the time, that was hosted at the CREATE Grant at College of the Canyons. During that time, MPICT was looking to expand what they were doing. MPICT was the Mid-Pacific Information Communication/Technology Grant, run out of the City College of San Francisco. You probably remember them—maybe Pierre Therie, James Jones, Olivia Herriford. They asked me to join them. They were working in northern California and the Pacific Islands. They needed someone who knew the colleges in southern California, so they asked me to join them and work with them on their grant.

Both the CREATE and MPICT Grants were working to encourage ICT education, especially at the community college level. I was working with Cisco Academy and knew those academies. It was a very nice joint venture.

As part of that, I worked with the community college ICT collaborative out of the Chancellor’s Office up in Sacramento, so I was starting to get more and more engaged in what was going on in ICT education at the community college level, all the time maintaining that close connection with Cisco Academy and what they were doing, which gave me such a wonderful platform to work from and such a wonderful voice. I was able to speak into a lot of different places. That was great!

Now, Cisco Academy... They have morphed a little bit, and at one point in time, we needed a new regional academy, and I snagged Richard at Ohlone College. They became a regional academy, and I started working with him. Then, when things started to morph even more and went from that CATC model that I mentioned to the Academy Support Center model, Richard

joined us. He became the Director for what's now called Western Academy Support and Training Center.

I'm the Coordinator, and that title fits me quite well because I'm sort of the glue that holds things together. Richard is an amazing educator and does incredible work, but he kind of needs somebody that can hold all the pieces together, so that's my job. I communicate with everyone. I get the information out there. I put events together. But all the time, Richard is working tirelessly to make this stuff happen.

So, we worked out of Ohlone College for a while as Western Academy Support and Training Center, and then we ended up moving over to our home now, which is Diablo Valley College. So, you can see we're very well connected to the community colleges in California.

At this point, we support... Richard, sorry—we're not quite up to 280. We're at 167 academies that we support. We are supporting 66 community college academies. We are in over ten states. We do a lot with high schools, a lot of other community colleges in other states, and even some four-year schools. Cisco Academy is really going great guns these days, so it's kind of busy keeping our hands on everything.

The CREATE group ended up changing. [00:15:00] Their emphasis now is renewable energy—that doesn't exactly fit what I do, so I ended up moving out of their grant, fully working for the Academy Support Center and also working part time for MPICT during that time.

MPICT was in the process of sunsetting. Their grant was ending. They hosted a couple of very cool events each year. One was the Winter Conference, and the other was the Summer Development Faculty Weeks. I helped them produce those, work on those, and develop them, so I had sort of an idea of what they were. You'll see that because we've modeled what we do after the work that they had initiated—on a much different budget, mind you.

They were able to invite everyone, pay their registration, pay their travel and all of that, so when we took over, it was kind of like, "Oh, will this work?" I remember Steve was definitely scratching his head, saying, "Oh, I don't know if we can do this..." But we were willing to give it a

try. “Hey, if we offer these, are these events important enough for ICT educators to come on their own dime? We will make it as inexpensive as possible. We’ll do everything we can for them to get there, but we cannot bring them.”

That experiment actually worked. This last little bullet point here, Cisco Academy, we are the Western Academy Support and Training Center. We are an Academy Support Center, which means we provide support and help to any Cisco Academy that is aligned with us. If they need something, we’re their **first line of defense**. We are also an **instructor training center**, which means we’re qualified to train instructors to teach the Cisco Academy content for their core courses. We have a fabulous team of instructor trainers. We have seven of them that work a lot with us, and we’re really one of the best in the nation. Sorry, I’m just bragging here, but it’s true!

All right, does anyone have any questions about who we are? Or maybe we should wait until later for that? Otherwise, we can go to the next slide.

[00:17:28]

STEVE WRIGHT: Yeah, just one, Karen. *So, can any college that currently has an interest in hosting an academy just contact you and see about how to do that? If so, what do they normally have to go through to do that?*

KAREN STANTON: Oh, yeah, absolutely—they can always contact me. Any college, any high school, any four-year school, even any nonprofit that’s interested in education can contact me. It’s not a difficult process. There are basically three high-level steps: there’s a very short Cisco Academy application that you fill out, you agree to a very easy Cisco agreement, and then you set up your Cisco Academy. You need to find and figure out who will be teaching the courses at your school, who will be the Academy admins. It’s all very, very easy. It’s really not expensive at all, and I can help with any step along the way. So, yeah, I’m a good contact person for all of that. Thank you, Steve.

STEVE WRIGHT: Thank you.

[00:18:34]

Professional Development Opportunities

[00:18:34]

KAREN STANTON: So, professional development opportunities... Like I said, I'm going to show you three of our professional development opportunities. Occasionally, we offer something else, but generally, it falls into just these three, and the first two were definitely instigated by MPICT.

Winter ICT Educators Conference

So, the Winter Conferences... I like the conferences—I can't help it. I mean, they're a lot of work on the front end, but they're wonderful. I love attending there. The Winter Conference is a two-day/day-and-a-half conference. It used to be usually up in San Francisco. It's just so expensive to do something in San Francisco!

Cisco has given us their buildings down in San José for free. The rent on the building is about \$14,000 for the two days, and they give it to us. They also give me a tech team to provide all the tech support that we need to run the Winter Conference. It's just this huge, wonderful gift from Cisco Academy. They don't require that we only do Cisco Academy IT stuff, so we just go broad, and we offer as many different IT/ITC opportunities as possible.

This is what we did last year, so you can see a little bit about what the flavor of the conference is...

- It was the **4th year that Western Academy supported it [00:20:00]** without help from MPICT, so we've got four years under our belt here.
- We always have some **keynotes**. We look hard and wide, and I think we usually come up with some pretty excellent keynotes.

- Last year, we had Peter Coffee, who Steve mentioned this morning a little bit earlier, from Salesforce, who did a keynote—he's a bit of a futurist.
- And we always have a favorite, Laura Chapel, from Wireshark U (she's a favorite).
- Cisco—I liked having Cisco, seeing what they're doing and where they're involved.
- We also did a Work Ethic keynote, which was pretty cool.
- For the **breakout sessions**, we ask for involvement from everyone. We offer the opportunity for anyone involved in ICT education to submit a presentation proposal. The sessions are usually 50 minutes long. Especially over the last few years, we've definitely had more proposals than we can fit into our 50 breakout session workshops, which is a wonderful problem to have, but I always hate it when I have to turn down a session.

One of the things I learned from Kathy Alfonso way back in the CREATE days was that really the magic comes from the collaboration between all the educators that attend these events. Educators need time to rub shoulders. They need time to chat. They need time to share their pain points. They need time to share the wonderful things that they do, that they've learned how to do, and all of that happens during these events.

We make sure that we have really good food because it's more fun to be at an event when there's good food. It inspires conversation, and it keeps everyone happy. Then they're more likely to share both their pain points and the wonderful things that they're able to do. So, we do that.

We also definitely make sure that we have industry reps there. You can see some of the few that are usually there: Cisco, Salesforce, Red Hat, NetApp, AWS. Unfortunately to this conference, I cannot invite Palo Alto—I'm sorry. They're just too much of a competitor with Cisco, and being that we're on the Cisco campus, we have to be nice, so we don't. Not that don't appreciate what they do, but I just can't invite them to this event.

So, that's what we do here at the Winter Conference. This year, the upcoming conference, the dates are January 6th and 7th. It's a Monday and a Tuesday. It's a little different, but it's because of where the New Year falls in and trying to avoid everyone's social schedules and things like that.

Questions? Steve, do you have any questions about the Winter Conference? Is there something I missed here that—

[00:23:03]

STEVE WRIGHT: I would like to comment. I've said this many times before, but having been employed at GTE Verizon in a market product development role, I went to Interop and all the major conferences for years, always on the company dime. Even when I took on this job, I would continue to go to Interop and some of these others, and you end up paying. You pay for your hotel, and the flight there is no big deal in Vegas, but by the time you end up paying for the hotel, the conference fee, and all the speakers and everything, you're out \$4,000 or \$5,000. Usually, it comes down to two or three panels that you went to that were especially meaningful, or this, that, or the other.

What's always amazed me is I get as much or more value out of the two-day ICT Educators Conference. I've forgotten how much you've been charging attendees.

[00:23:56]

KAREN STANTON: It's a hundred bucks.

STEVE WRIGHT: A hundred bucks?

KAREN STANTON: We charge a hundred bucks. Like I said, we try to keep it inexpensive so that as many people can come as absolutely possible.

STEVE WRIGHT: And you get a good deal on a hotel and everything else. So, total out-of-pocket roundtrip is going to be maybe \$400, worst case. I mean, it's an incredible deal, and I'm very glad you do this. The values and the people that you bring and the spirit of sharing and talking... It's nice to meet our high school counterparts as well as our community college folks. It's a terrific conference, and I think you've done a wonderful job for years, and I hope you continue to do it.

KAREN STANTON: Thank you. Yeah! I hope to, too. I'm planning on it. One other thing that I do want to mention, because Steve said something about the community colleges and the high schools. Those relationships are so, so important. There have been a number of articulation

arrangements that have been started at these conferences, just simply because high schools have a chance to sit down with their community colleges and start working out some of these things [00:25:00] and then find out, “Oh, yeah, we’re doing the same kind of classes!” “Oh, yeah! Sure, we can put this together. We can put that together. Let’s make this work!”

So, it’s amazing how many of those types of conversations take place during these conferences—that’s just part of the magic.

Faculty Development Weeks

[00:25:17]

KAREN STANTON: So, the faculty development weeks... These are a bit different. They’re **full week-long events**, which means that an educator can go to a very in-depth **4 ½ days of study on one topic**. We’re offering two of them this year. You can only attend one workshop each week because each workshop is 4 ½ or 5 days long.

We try to find the best workshops that we can offer. I always have polls out to try to figure out what educators want and what they need. Richard and I go through that, and we brainstorm with other large grant groups, and we say, “Hey, what’s important this year? What’s going to be the most important? What do our educators need right now?” So, we use all sorts of different types of feelers to figure out what workshops we can offer and where we can find the very best instructor trainers that we can get.

That’s kind of how we go about it each year, and this is what we’ve come up with for this year...

Anyone can attend our events, both the Winter Conference and the Faculty Development Weeks. They’re open to any ICT Educator. Cisco Academy or not—does not matter. Everyone is invited. In fact, for some of these, you can even invite your tech team from your college. It doesn’t have to be the educators. Occasionally, we have those tech team folks who want to come and beef up some of their skills at a week-long event, so we’re open to that.

Once again, we think that the interaction between the attendees is incredibly important. At lunch, we have the presenters from each one of the sessions do a short 5- or 10-minute presentation on what they're doing in their workshops so that the whole big group gets a little feel for what's going on.

We try to have really good food, and we try to make sure that there's time for all the educators attending to rub shoulders. It's not a real high-class out-of-the-park social event. We always have a social event, and they really are pretty fun! That just gives the educators another chance just to sit down over dinner and share with each other, so that's usually on a Tuesday evening. Lunch is usually really good. It's a noisy group, which is the best thing in the world because everyone is chatting and talking, and I love that.

Then, at the end of each of these events, **we always have a raffle!** And that's fun. Everybody gets to take something home.



Steve, do you have anything that you would want to add? Richard, do you have anything that you want to add about the Faculty Development Weeks? I could go over these individual workshops, but you can see them—they're on the screen, and we have them posted on our website.

RICHARD: Karen, this is Richard. You're doing a great job describing it. These bootcamps are just so important to do a deep dive and, really, to be ready to teach these courses in the next coming semester. I've taken advantage of these myself over the years, and it's a necessity for faculty to be able to get a jump start on what they're going to be teaching.

[00:28:37]

STEVE WRIGHT: I was wondering, Karen, if you could estimate the total cost for someone to attend

by the time they consider their hotel, registration, and everything else. I'm not so worried about travel. I mean, people can figure that out themselves.

KAREN STANTON: Right. I'll guess. Depending on where you're coming from... Well, the hotels are going to run... This is very high, but let's just round it up to \$200 a night. The registration cost is \$100—again, we try to keep it very, very inexpensive. We provide a light breakfast. We provide a very solid lunch and snacks, but if you want to go out to dinner that night, you can. No problem. I mean, that's up to you, and it's on your dime, but if you don't want to, you could just get a light little something because we're going to provide a very nice lunch.

So, I think you could probably get away with \$1,000, depending on travel, and it's a full week. Where are you going to get a full week of in-depth instructor training for a registration cost of \$100?

STEVE WRIGHT: No, this is an incredible deal.

KAREN STANTON: Really incredible, yeah. And I have another slide that shows this, but in the past years, we've had a lot of support from some different grants that help us out. We don't do this completely on our own. [00:30:00] Western Academy is self-supporting. We have to come up with our own funding. We are not grant funded by any means. We have to do that all ourselves, but we do have different grants that will sometimes help us foot the bill for these because we have to pay these instructor trainers, and we like to pay them well. I don't want to cheap out on our instructor trainers. We like to have good food, and we like to have a nice venue. So, those things are all pricey.

We have had a lot of wonderful support from a lot of different areas, and we're always saying, "Hey, you want to come help support this? Be our guest. We'd love to have you work with us." Western Academy is very collaborative. I like to work with all sorts of different folks.

[00:30:45]

RICHARD: Yeah, Karen, the industry folks come in and help, too. In fact, for this summer, we've got

Amazon, Palo Alto, CompTIA, Oracle. They're all footing the bill for that workshop and bringing in their trainer as well.

KAREN STANTON: Yeah, CompTIA. Yeah, you're right. That's what we do—we just kind of open the door. I will put my hat in my hand and say, "Hey, would you do this? Would you provide a workshop?" The CASIA grant group is providing a couple of workshops for us, and then industries are providing workshops for us.

RICHARD: Yeah, and I forgot to mention NDG, which is actually providing workshops for both weeks, and they're footing the bill for their trainer, to bring him out. Those are always extremely useful. My issue, probably like many of the attendees, is you have to pick one, and you can't go to more than one.

KAREN STANTON: Yep.

RICHARD: But that's the way it is.

KAREN STANTON: Yeah, and that's always a comment on our surveys: "We want to go to more than one." That's kind of a good comment and a bad comment. It means this is valuable. On the other hand, I'm not exactly sure what I can do about that. I mean, I don't think we can split them in half and put them in two different workshops.

RICHARD: Yeah, people can attend one at each, so they could go for two weeks, and we have a week in between Cabrillo and Coastline as well this year

KAREN STANTON: This year, we do, yeah.

AUDIENCE MEMBER 1: Richard, my solution to that is to send multiple faculty.

KAREN STANTON: There you go, yeah.

RICHARD: Absolutely.

KAREN STANTON: Absolutely, we can do that.

Cisco Academy Instructor Training

[00:32:32]

KAREN STANTON: OK, then the other part of our professional development is what we do for Cisco Academy. We're a Cisco Academy Training Center, and we do a lot, a lot, a lot of Cisco Academy instructor training.

Pretty much, this is all online. We do some **in-person classes** during the Faculty Development Week, like you would have seen the IoT classes—those are Cisco Academy, and so is the CCNA class—but then we do a whole lot of online instructor training for Cisco.



So, you can see what we've got going on—this is just for the summer session. **We have five sessions.** We do two sessions in the fall, two sessions in the spring, one summer session, and then there will be a list of courses that instructors may take. They'll have to pick and choose which ones they want to do.

We a Premier+ instructor training center—that's the highest level you can get—which means **we train over 100 new instructors each year.** For us, that's really easy. We do a lot more than that!

The thing that I was scratching my head about was the requirement to become Premier+. Those new instructors that we train that year must open classes and enroll over 4,000 new students in a year. I was like, "Really?" But it turns out that those folks that we have trained have far outstretched. These are the minimum qualifications to become Premier+.

We have seven different instructor trainers. They teach different classes. They're all really excellent instructor trainers. I was just on a call with Cisco earlier in the week, and they mentioned that our instructor trainers were really pretty incredible—we have excellent ones.

Also, **if someone needs something that's not set in our schedule, I can frequently make it work for them by putting together an ad-hoc class,** finding an instructor trainer that's willing to do it. I like to be flexible.

One of the things that's kind of a philosophy of mine—and I'm sure Richard will agree with this also—is I think ICT Educators work really hard (and Richard is one of the ones that works really incredibly hard), but I think they work very, very hard, and anything that I can do to make life even a little bit easier for them **[00:35:00]** is worth doing. That's just my own philosophy, and that's the way I like to approach the work that I do and what we do here at Western Academy.

Anyway, you can see this is our instructor training schedule for the summer, just one part of it. You can find all the rest of it on our website.

Steve, did you have any questions about this now? This is strictly Cisco Academy, but anybody can jump into Cisco Academy any time they want, and I can help them through any of it.

[00:35:28]

STEVE WRIGHT: No, I guess... Great! Like I said before, Cisco has basically brought IT to the community college system in a big way with support and what you guys do.

KAREN STANTON: Yep. I agree. They have one of the most beautiful learning management platforms around, and they have made this very easy. They do not put a lot of requirements on their Cisco Academies. Academies can run their classes basically the way they want, and they can even input their own modules into the curriculum if they like. It's very, very flexible.

And one cool thing is this curriculum is being taught in 180 different countries worldwide. If a student takes a CCNA Introduction to Networks in Japan, it's the same class that he would have taken here (or she). If they take CCNA Introduction to Networks in high school, it's the same class they would take at the community college. Maybe it would take a little bit longer, like a full year

instead of a semester or something like that, but the content is the same. It keeps it so nice and consistent, and Cisco is determined to keep their curriculum mapping directly to the industry certification test. That's also, I think, very, very important. OK, we can go to the next slide. Thank you, Nicole.

Impact

[00:36:47]

KAREN STANTON: So, our impact... I think I talked a little bit about this. We have been just keeping track since 2014. We have hosted over 180 instructor training classes. We've trained bunches of instructors. All the other ICT Educator events you can see for the Faculty Development Weeks—not all of them, just the ones that we've hosted. There have been close to **900 educators attending the Winter Conferences**. We're getting really close to 1,000!

So, just for this small entity that's definitely hosted at Diablo Valley College, they provide such an infrastructure for us! We're definitely a small entity, nestled in with the community colleges, and I think it's just pretty cool that, because of this public/private partnership with Cisco Academy, with other grants, with numerous other community colleges, we're making this type of an impact. I'm pretty excited about that. I think that's pretty cool.

One of the things I do want to mention, too—because I didn't and I should have—those Faculty Development Weeks, **we're hosting them at Coastline College and at Cabrillo College, and they are giving us their campus space for free**. That's huge. Generally, that campus space would cost an awful lot, and that helps us keep all the costs low. They're dedicated, these guys—thank you. OK, we can go to the next slide.

Lots of Help

[00:38:20]

KAREN STANTON: Like I said, we can do this because we get lots of help—all sorts of entities. **Diablo Valley College**, they're the host for Western Academy. They're wonderful. **Cisco**—wow, they provide such an infrastructure, such a wonderful platform. All these different **grant groups**

and the **colleges** and the **Sector Navigators** and **industry**... Without any one of these, we wouldn't be able to make this happen, so I just want to say a thank-you for all of those who help support what we do. Yeah, huge thank-you.

I also want everyone to know that it's not just Western Academy, not just our ideas. **It's a group huge collaborative effort.**

[00:39:06]

STEVE WRIGHT: Well, yes, and I think you definitely defined collaboration by the activity that you have done—and for a good purpose.

Now, my understanding today... We also have on our call today three instructors, who have benefited from your WASTC training, and I know you want to take questions, but looking at time, I'd like to give Mark, Curt, and Robert each a few minutes to discuss their experience with the WASTC training. Does that seem like the next best step, Karen?

KAREN STANTON: Yeah, that sounds great.

STEVE WRIGHT: OK, Mark, would you like to go ahead and share?

[00:38:41]

Instructor Experiences

Mark's Story

[00:38:41]

MARK SMITH: Yeah, sounds great. First of all, good morning. Thank you so much for having me. Karen and Richard have been absolutely instrumental in forming the IT pathway here. This is high school, so this is Oak Hills High School, and I was given a task about five years ago. [00:40:00] They said, "Go start a Cisco Academy!" and I said, "OK..." because we had been doing some business with Cisco because we went one to one and everything.

I was a little lost with how to do that, and frankly, between their help, it's been... We have a thriving program right now it's been doing very well. The conferences... I can't emphasize how much the conferences are instrumental for me and for the program. The Winter Conference is absolutely amazing. It helps me to keep a pulse on what's happening in the industry, too, because I'm trying to get my kids to be ready to actually go out and get a job and continue their education stuff through college or just end up going cert out into the field.

It's critical that I know what's happening. It helps validate what I'm doing, and it also helps to show my deficiencies and say, "OK, I need to end up doing this." And Steve, what you said, too, about the nondenominational—I think that's so critically important. We are a Cisco Academy, but as a subset, because of these conferences, we are also a Red Hat academy and a CompTIA academy, and all of that is from these conferences, going, "OK, we do IT essentials on a high school campus." We are gearing for A+, IT essentials, CCNA 1, CCNA 2, and we are also now feeding into the Red Hat—so Red Hat system administration as a capstone experience—and then we just rolled out Introduction to Comp Sci, which now we're working with Amazon, doing something with that, but also Python, and the Python is from a summer training.

The Winter Conference is amazing to meet people. The articulation, actually, with Curt... We've been articulating, helping with the Red Hat training at NDG—thank you—and there's also the summer training has been amazing as well. It helps me with articulation. I'm already articulated with all my classes with our local community college, but now I'm actually looking at expanding out, and it's been absolutely amazing.

I can't stress enough that I hope, if there's any interest for people in the IT pathway, they have... Really, the WASTC has been an amazing asset, and the conferences are wonderful.

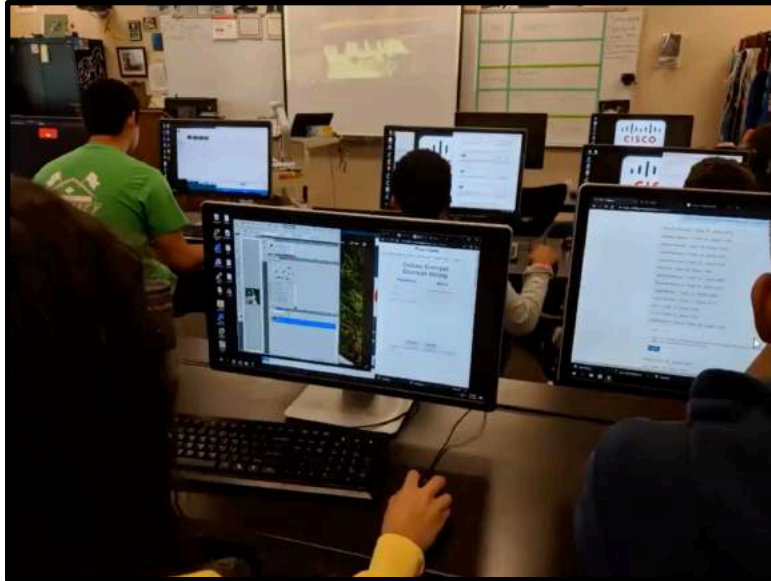
[00:42:40]

STEVE WRIGHT: Well, could you comment a little bit... I mean, I'm curious about a high school academy. Your students get the Cisco certifications? Do they go on then and articulate to IT programs in community colleges or CSUs?

MARK SMITH: Absolutely. So, we just rolled out the full pathway, as it were, and I'm still tweaking it continuously, so we have four years. The freshmen, actually, we are right now looking at getting them certified in ITF Fundamentals, and that's working with, actually, the Deputy Sector Navigator of the local region for a lot of grants for that, which is awesome—thank you. We're looking at getting freshmen with ITF Fundamentals+ cert, and then the software is A+ certification and IT Essentials, then CCNA 1, CCNA 2, and going for the Cisco CCENT, then also an option to go off for Red Hat system administration, and it's from there...

So, theoretically, as we're putting this out, coming out of high school, they can have three certifications. To me, that's absolutely amazing. From there, they're moving on to community college, finishing up. If they're doing the networking pathway, they're finishing that up. I have many going down to Cal State San Bernardino. I'm a Program Advisor there for the graduate program for instructional technology, but a lot of them are going to Cybersecurity.

Again, the conferences pushed me towards this. Because of these conferences, I'm like, "I need to start teaching Cybersecurity," so as a club, we're actually doing Cybersecurity CyberPatriot. We just did the Mayors Cup. I don't know if I can share my screen... Here, let's see if this is sharing.



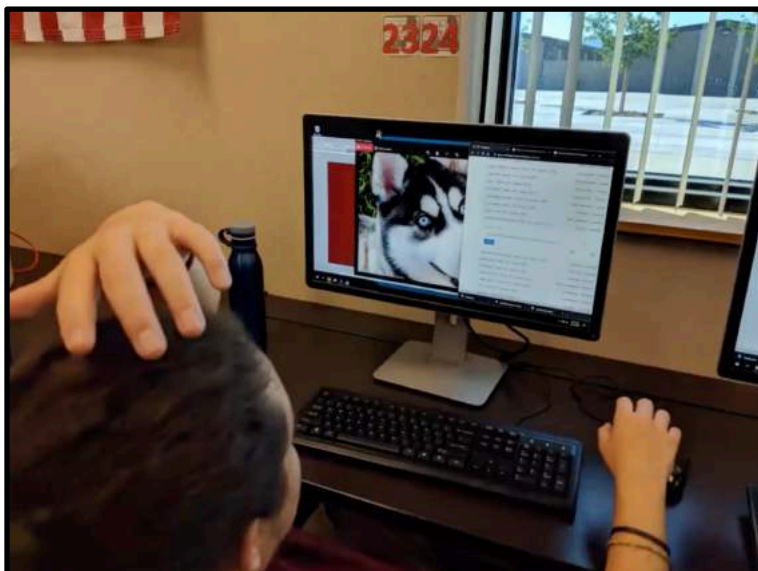
This is picoCTF Carnegie Mellon—some of my students are working on this. Again, I think that was picoCTF.



This is my gold CyberPatriot team. They made it to the semifinals. We also got one team in platinum.



This is our Mayors Cup—we won 3rd for the Inland Empire/Desert Region. Yay!



This was a particular security question that they were having trouble with.



IT Essentials students working, doing some of the cleaning.



This is, again, IT Essentials.



This is CCNA happening right here. That's actually our first CCNA 2 student—yay! It's the first year rolling out, and then next year, we'll have quite a few more in CCNA 2. [00:45:00]



And even right here, you're looking at a couple of... So, two of those are freshmen, and they're in Introduction to Computer Science, and the one standing is in CCNA 1. So, it's this great thing, and they ended up teaming up for the Cybersecurity and Cyber Cup, which I'm very excited that that's actually happening there, too.

So, yeah, they're rolling out to the community colleges. They're rolling out to the Cal State. I've got students off at the UC system. It's been amazing.

[00:45:47]

STEVE WRIGHT: This is a goosebumps moment, listening to you talk about those kids. I mean, that's pushing it down—eventually to middle schools, depending on skill sets, but I think capturing students' imaginations before they vary off on some other track, and empowering them to learn that they can do it, it's great work that you're doing. It's good to hear from you Mark.

MARK SMITH: Thank you.

STEVE WRIGHT: I want to ask Curt to share some of his experience with WASTC from Cuyamaca College.

Curt's Story

[00:46:16]

CURT SHARON: I'll get you to pronounce that correctly one of these days, Steve. It's Cuyamaca. I'll have to phonetically spell it for you. It confused me for the first five years, which isn't that hard to do.

I am an evangelist for this. I am out here beating the bushes for it. This has made such an impact for my faculty that, over the last five years, I have quadrupled our budget, just simply so I can send multiple faculty members to these meetings, specifically for the purpose of getting this training, getting connected to what's going on in the industry, what the trends are going to, and bringing that back into the classroom.

It's made a dramatic difference in our classroom. We've changed our program considerably. I mentioned briefly I had just gone to my curriculum committee meeting approval for teaching the Palo Alto series, so we're going to have three courses for that, the three levels of certification for that. We're going to be offering the IoT, connecting an IoT security. We have a number of companies here in the San Diego region that are producing products for IoT and are

looking for skilled workers, so we are now actually in a position to be the pipeline, supplying their workers—they can't find them any place else for IoT!

One of the biggest benefits (at least in my mind) is the ability to talk with other instructors, the chance to meet and find out what's going on. It's a big benefit to me to share and find out everybody has got the same problems that I do, and there are places and techniques that I've learned that solved some of my problems.

Just a perfect example... It was the Winter Conference that Mark and I met. We spent about 15 minutes, and I found out he needed access to NETLAB+. I have a NETLAB+ installed, and when I got home, I set him up, and his school now uses my NETLAB+. My ability to be able to do that allows us to expand what's happening just in the community college into the high school. So, we get a lot of dedicated high school teachers who would love to be able to teach this stuff but don't have the budget for it. We can share our resources, and now it's in the high schools and middle schools.

Frankly, if we could have this five times a year, I would be at every one of these events, absolutely.

[00:48:58]

STEVE WRIGHT: Well, with the right funding, who knows? Maybe we could expand, but I think we would wear Karen out, that's for sure.

CURT SHARON: Well, yeah. I do that anyway. If you have not attended one of these, you really do need to attend. If you've attended one of these, I'm preaching to the choir at this point. It's funding/budget time again—double your budget and send more of your instructors. I send instructors who aren't even part of my Cisco Academy, and they come out of there saying, "Here's some new coursework we need to develop. We need to replace some of these older courses that really aren't relevant anymore and bring to our student body what is new and interesting and needed."

[00:49:42]

STEVE WRIGHT: Well, thank you, Curt, for sharing that information. I understand that also on the call today, I believe, Robert Yorgason couldn't make it, but Linda Fischer is on the call. Linda, would you like to share your thoughts and comments about the WASTC?

Linda's Story

[00:49:56]

LINDA FISCHER: Oh, sure. Can you hear me OK?

STEVE WRIGHT: Sure. [00:50:00]

LINDA FISCHER: So, I was a Cisco Academy student back in 2001, and that developed into my teaching career. I've seen so many certification iterations and technology changes throughout the years. I just can't thank you, Karen and Richard, enough. Oh, my gosh! The WASTC team is amazing. They give us the information that we need, when we need it. The technology changes so rapidly, and WASTC provides the ICT faculty development and training courses on their effective and efficient ways to keep up to date on this dynamic industry.

You can't teach what you don't know, and as far as the online courses, when I completed Bob's or Sharon's online courses, I felt confident in teaching them. Their passion for their subject matter shone through, their approach from a teacher's perspective, how they addressed best practices and developed and shared their resources. Bob's Packet Tracers activities are just amazing.

With Richard and Karen together, they put together high-quality Winter Conferences and classes with amazing speakers. Just to have the opportunity to learn about the latest trends in security and NDG and IoT and Python and just everything... And networking with the other instructors throughout the region is crucial to our success.

For Faculty Development Week in the summer, last week, I went to Irvin Lemus's CyberPatriot training, and I hosted my first camp. Since then, with the help of my DSN, Wendy

Porter, we had 11 teams in the far north area sign for the California Mayors Cup. We had five far north Cyber Camps this summer, and hopefully, these are going to be my future students. So, I can't thank you guys enough for the amazing work that you do.

[00:52:07]

STEVE WRIGHT: Linda, I'm glad to hear from you because you are from what we call the far north region, I suppose.

LINDA FISCHER: Yeah, we're out in the sticks!

STEVE WRIGHT: Yeah, and bringing technology to those underserved students out there is an incredibly important thing to do.

LINDA FISCHER: It is, and we're not just an ag community, and to be able to spread this into the high schools and have them... We are articulating with other high schools now, which is amazing. It helps keep our numbers up, and it keeps this ball rolling beautifully.

STEVE WRIGHT: So nice to hear from you. Thank you very much for your comments.

LINDA FISCHER: By the way, Steve, thank you for all the hard work that you do as well. Herding cats.

STEVE WRIGHT: Happy to help. We found a treasure in Wendy Porter.

LINDA FISCHER: Oh, my gosh. Amen!

[00:53:02]

Wrap Up

[00:53:02]

STEVE WRIGHT: So, anyhow, thank you for your comments, Mark, Curt, and Linda. I want to turn it back to open questions now and to Karen to see if she has any final comments she'd like to say, or Richard, if he's still here—I think he had to leave. Karen, are you ready to take any questions? Did anybody want to ask Karen the difficult questions of WASTC?

LINDA FISCHER: Sure, I'll take questions. Richard did have to leave—he's on his way up to a meeting in Santa Rosa, so he stopped off in a parking lot to talk to us for a while. If there are any questions, let me know. Nothing? Did we cover everything?

STEVE WRIGHT: It sounds to me like everybody just in your fan club. I appreciate what you do, Karen, and we're going to wrap it up now because I think we've done a pretty good job of presenting WASTC and what you do, and I hope everybody here is also interested in some of the other ICT Educator Series of webinars that we're going to have in the next few weeks. So, tune in at 10 o'clock on Friday morning. Same number, same station. Thank you very much.

KAREN STANTON: Thank you so much, everyone. Thank you, Steve.

Additional Resources

- [Learn more about WASTC](#) and the work they do
- Start a conversation with [Karen Stanton](#) about hosting a Cisco Academy
- [Find out about upcoming Faculty Development Weeks](#)