



# Countdown Evolution

## So what exactly is *Academy Evolution*?

Volume 1, Issue 2, 12-9-11

The *Academy Evolution* is a process being implemented to improve the quality of the Cisco Networking Academy program and better meet the changing needs of instructors, programs and students. *Academy Evolution* will focus on improving the processes and products of the Academy Program.



Starting in 2011 and continuing into 2012 the first set of changes will take effect. The first change will include all Cisco Academies having a closer relationship with Cisco Systems, Inc. and for you to have the opportunity to choose whom you get your support (Academy Support Center) and training (Instructor Training Center) from. Later on, the *Academy Evolution* initiative will add new technological tools for your use (new Academy Management System or Course Management System) to improve the education you provide to the students. New curriculum may be added over time. Overall, the Academy Evolution will bring more options and opportunities to all academies worldwide

### Did you know...

Many different materials for certification can be found at [ciscopress.com](http://ciscopress.com). This includes:

- Books
- Video podcasts

## What does this mean to me?

The Academy Evolution does involve some changes for the better. It means all Academies involved in the Cisco Networking Program are obligated to a number of steps:

- You must, as a Cisco Academy, sign an agreement with Cisco Systems to be part of the program. Your old CATC, or your new ASC, will help you understand and sign the agreement. The agreement will be a simple "click-to-accept" agreement but some of the participants will require the agreement to be physically delivered to the administration and possibly the Board of Education (or trustees) for review before approval.
- You must select an Academy Support Center (ASC) to assist you in implementing the Cisco Academy program. Most ASCs will also provide a "letter of agreement" that you will also have to sign, which delineates the services provided and the cost for those services.
- If you need training, for new or current teachers, you may select ANY ITC (Instructor Training Center) for these services. [The Academy Support Center Partnership](#), a partnership between Ball State University (BSU) and Moraine Valley Community College (MVCC) full of experience and leadership includes an ITC. We would like your participation to partner with our organization.
- Excluding the above mentioned items everything else in the Academy Program will stay the same. You will still be provided with current and innovative curriculum and the 24/7 help desk services that you are accustomed to. Other benefits of the Cisco Networking Academy program include
  - Industry Certification Based Curriculum
  - On line Assessments
  - Packet Tracer Networking Simulation tools
  - Learning Management Systems
  - Online Resource Library
  - Student Learning Aids

## How will this benefit my students?

The *Academy Evolution* promises to improve program and instructor quality and therefore better student learning and program growth. This will be a result of improved instructor quality and closer monitoring of analytics for the programs and students. We all desire better quality in our educational programs and increased student learning. *Academy Evolution* hopes to provide this.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

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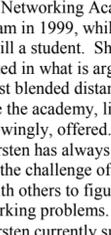
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### Staff Feature:



**Kirsten Smith**

Kirsten Smith is the Associate Director, Lab Manager and Technology Officer for the Center for Information and Communication Sciences at Ball State University. Kirsten Smith started with the Cisco Networking Academy Program in 1999, while she was still a student. She participated in what is arguably the first blended distance course the academy, likely unknowingly, offered.

Kirsten has always enjoyed the challenge of working with others to figure out networking problems.

Kirsten currently supports the Indiana CATC and is the conference chair for a yearly Women Working in Technology conference. In 2012 the conference will focus on getting more high school girls to consider careers in technology.

