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**CompTIA Events & Meetings**

- [Managed IT Services Online Meeting](#)  
May 19
- [US Services & Support Forum](#)  
May 20-21, Dallas
- [CompTIA Breakaway 2009](#)  
August 3-6, Las Vegas
- [2009 Managed IT Services Summit](#)  
Oct. 7-9, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

**CompTIA University Events**

- [Teaching Techies to Sell](#)  
May 7, 11 a.m. (CDT)
- [CompTIA Index Managed Services](#)  
May 28, noon (CDT)

**Where to See CompTIA**

- [SecureWorld Expo](#)  
May 6, Philadelphia
- [Tech Data Partner Conference](#)  
May 14-17, San Diego
- [2009 DoD/IS Worldwide Conference](#)  
May 17-21, Orlando
- [Catalyst Telecom Partner Event](#)  
May 20-22, Myrtle Beach, SC

**Dunbar High School Students Have IT**

Juan Navarro never thought he could be good with computers. However, technology was something that had always interested him, so he enrolled in the Dunbar High School Academy for Technology in Ft. Myers, FL. Juan has since earned CompTIA A+, the industry standard for IT technicians and now plans to enter the Coast Guard and work in an IT role.

The Academy for Technology is a Dunbar High School curriculum track that offers ninth through twelfth-grade students hands-on IT experience and the opportunity to earn CompTIA's vendor-neutral certifications. Through the curriculum, students can earn up to 14 industry-recognized certifications. In addition to their technology courses, students enrolled in the Academy for Technology complete the standard required high school courses.

Dunbar High School is a member of CompTIA's Education to Careers (E2C) program. The E2C program provides IT educators and trainers the information, tools and resources necessary to help students enter the IT industry. For more information about the program benefits, visit [www.comptia.org/e2c](http://www.comptia.org/e2c).

Ninth-grader Lisandra Ibarra has already earned CompTIA A+ and plans to earn all 14 certifications before graduating high school.

"I want to take advantage of job opportunities after I get my certifications," Lisandra said. "I can find a full-time job after high school – certifications open a lot of doors." Lisandra is considering getting an IT-related job help to pay for college and law school. She also knows that the certifications will open up other career opportunities for her, if law school does not work out or she changes her mind.

"To hear from a freshman who is thinking about what he or she is going to do in the future is a great thing," said Academy instructor Matt Miller. "I think this program gives them that insight to start thinking about that a lot earlier than they would if they were in a traditional high school doing the normal subjects."

Tenth-grader Diego Mendez already has 10 certifications, including **CompTIA A+**, **CompTIA Network+** and several Microsoft Office product certifications. Diego has recommended the Technology Academy to younger students he knows, and appreciates all the career opportunities it has afforded him. He plans to go to college and enter a career in the military after graduation.

"From what I have seen so far, all our classes and tests give us a lot of experience when we are applying for jobs," Diego said.

"Future job prospects are always increased by getting certifications," added Miller. "It is one of the main reasons we are able to sell the program."

**Teaching Tips**

Miller attributes the success to a combination of factors, but one of them is certainly the rapport he's built with his students.

"You really have to break down the barrier of fear," he said. "I know if I was a high school kid and I was asked to take something that some adults don't pass, I would be apprehensive and scared. One of my main responsibilities is to make them not fearful, and lately so many kids are successful that all I have to do to convince others is point to the proven track record."

Students work with practice test software and in small groups to make sure they are ready for the test. Miller said they don't let the students use the practice test software to excess, because otherwise they might just be memorizing answers to certain questions, rather than actually learning material. He also quizzes them in small groups, asking them to state all they know about specific test objectives.

"We can't just let someone go in and take a test," Miller said. "We have to really make sure they are ready because the vouchers are so valuable."

The on-site testing center allows the students to take the certification exams right at the school. Miller said in his experience, the on-site testing center makes for a much higher train-to-test ratio, because the students are comfortable and it's convenient for them.

"I really think this program is a great opportunity. Getting all these adult courses for free saves money and allows us to almost get a career for free," said Juan.

For more information about the program, visit [www.leeschools.net](http://www.leeschools.net). For more information about CompTIA E2C membership, visit [www.comptia.org/e2c](http://www.comptia.org/e2c).



Matthew Miller, A+ instructor at Dunbar High School, shares his knowledge and expertise with computer hardware with students (left to right) Euria Boston, Patrick Lantrip, Grant McNulty and Dezaray Montero.