Cisco Networking Academy

Experiences of Value

Experiences that Propel Your Career Webinar Series

Speaker: Jesal Gandhi - Cisco
Hostess: Kara Sullivan

8 June 2016

Welcome to the 1st session of the *Experiences that Propel Your Career* webinar series!

- Use the Q and A panel to ask questions.
- Use the Chat panel to communicate with attendees and panelists.
- A link to a recording of the session will be sent to all registered attendees.
- Please take the feedback survey at the end of the webinar.

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Career Advantage **Webinars**

Experiences that Propel Your Career Series

NEXT SESSION:

Certifications as Experience

7 July, 2016 – 9:00 A.M. PST

Register at: bit.ly/EPYCwebinar

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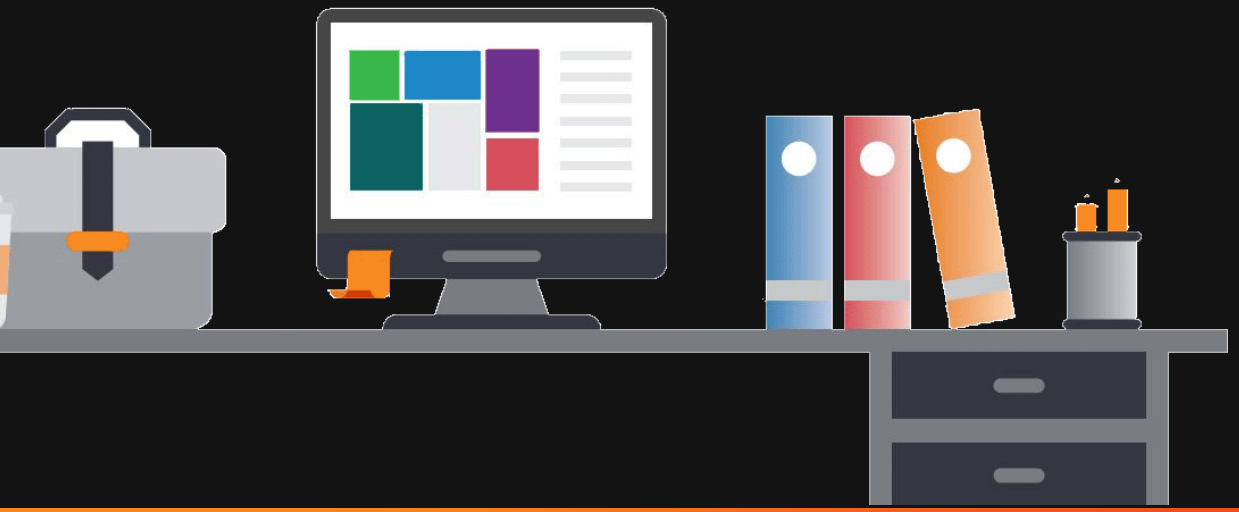
Overview of Session 1

Experiences

- Let's define them and understand what they are.
- What do employers really want out of your experiences?
- How do you explain these experiences?



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Defining Experiences

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Internships

Certifying

Volunteering

Mentorships

Demonstrating Leadership

Using personal experiences as professional experiences

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Internships

A position that consists of an exchange of services for experiences between a student and an organization for a finite amount of time.

- These positions may be paid or unpaid
- Involves practical application of skills learned
- Interns are usually college or university students, high school students, or post-graduates

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Certifying

Obtaining an official confirmation of skills learned by means of an exam, external review, education, assessment, audit, or combination of the aforementioned.

Cisco Certifications are globally recognized and widely in-demand by employers.

Popular Cisco Certifications include:

- CCENT
- CCNA
- CCDA
- CCNP
- CCIE
- CCAr

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Volunteering

Offering your services, knowledge, and/or abilities freely to help an organization or individual(s) for either a finite timeframe or undefined timeline.

Can be gained either by:

- Searching for opportunities
- Proposing a project to a local organization

To use volunteering as experience for getting a job:

- You need to make sure there is practical application of your skills
- Project description and explanation that is agreed upon by organization receiving your assistance

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Be Mentored or Mentor Another

A relationship where a more experienced or more knowledgeable person guides a novice. The mentor will have a specific area of expertise that the mentee can benefit from learning more about.

- Mentorships can be formed formally through a program at a university, company, or other organization
- They can also be created informally through the use of your personal network of connections.
- There should be clearly defined goals, timeline, and expectations from the beginning of the experience.

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Demonstrated Leadership

Displaying the ability to be in charge, taking initiative through action

"A person who is involved in the community and excelling academically–that can be a differentiator." – Cisco HR manager

- Lead and created a volunteer project
- Leadership position in a school or community organization/ club
- Organized a fundraiser
- Mentored and helped a classmate/colleague/member

Leadership Examples

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Personal Experiences for Professional use

Activities that showcase your technical skills' proficiency through practical application

How many networks have you built for friends, family members, or their businesses?

Does coursework showcase your testing or problem solving abilities?

Did you win an award or medal in a competition?

Formalize experiences and explain them as projects

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Non-Technical Job Experiences

Every job you take will positively impact you.

As you will gain some kind of knowledge, improve social skills, and gain experience

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Employer's Perspective on Experiences

Skills employers want to hear you have developed during your experiences in addition to strengthening your technical skills

- communication
- articulation
- teamwork
- collaboration
- professionalism
- problem solving

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Employer's Perspective on Experiences

Being able to prove to an employer that you can apply your skills is the most important

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Explain Your Experiences

Written Format

- Resume
- LinkedIn

Verbally

- Interviews
- Casual conversations

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Q&A

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Resources to Learn More

- Career Advice: NetAcadAdvantage.com
- Pathways for Cisco Certifications
- Advice on Mentorships

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- Go to netacad.com
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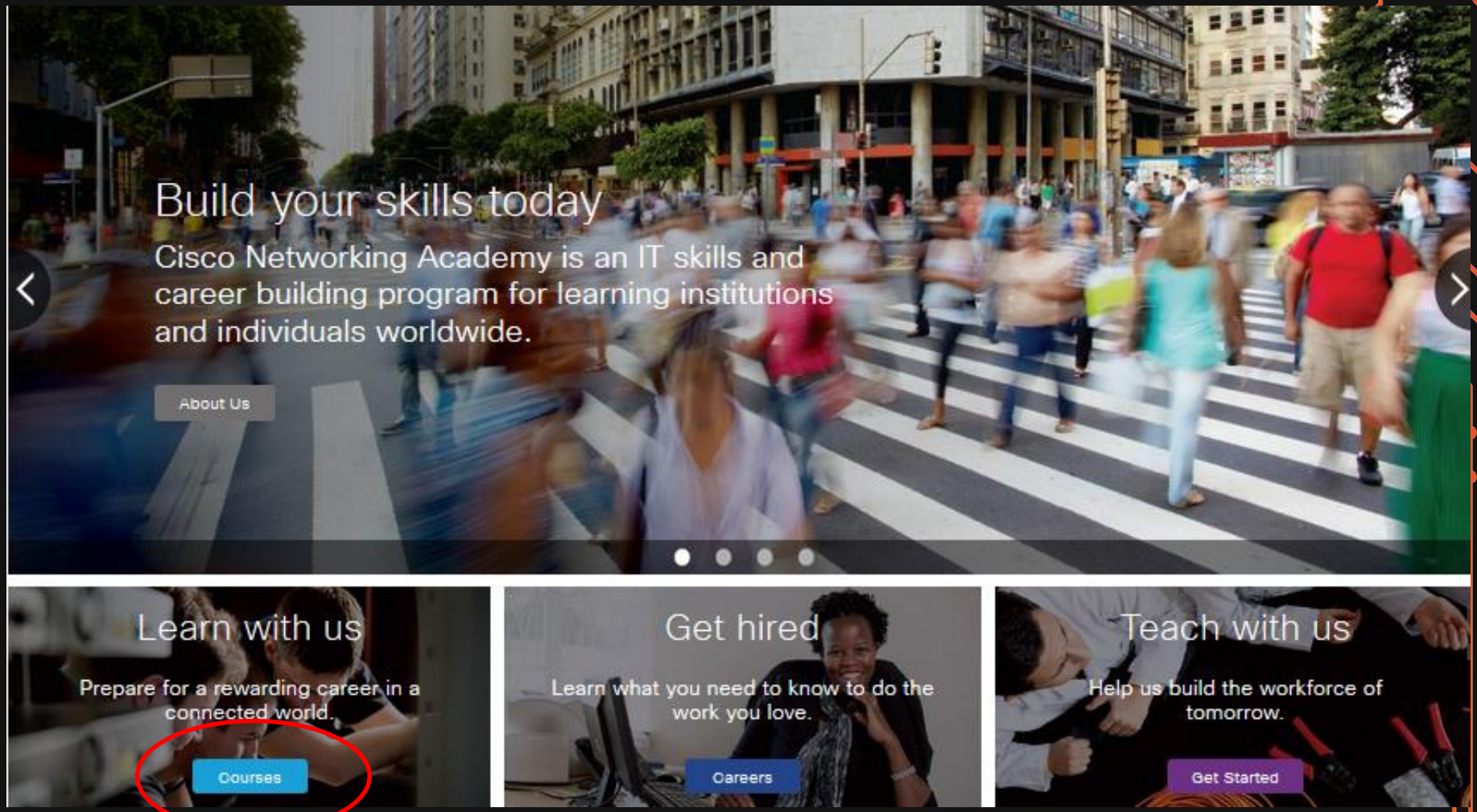

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