

UPCOMING EVENTS:

6/9 and 6/10
Resume workshop
6-8 pm PRC L 212

6/16 and 6/17
LinkedIn workshop
6-8 pm PRC L 212

6/23 and 6/24
Interviewing
workshop
6-8 pm PRC L 243

Coming in July:
7/30 Employer Panel
and Discussion
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Watch for location!

Summer Tutoring
Available:
For the most current
schedule, check our
website at:

[www.nisgtc.org/
tutoring-calendar.html](http://www.nisgtc.org/tutoring-calendar.html)


**COLLIN
COLLEGE**



NISGTC NEWS

The National Information, Security & Geospatial Technologies Consortium

JUNE 2014

From the Executive Director



When I started my own networking consulting firm in the mid 1980's, a networking professional was an expert because he or she claimed to be. The clients

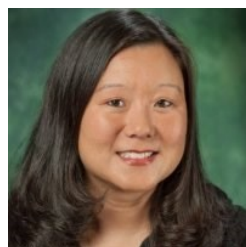
seldom had enough knowledge to judge whether or not the networking professional knew enough to warrant being called an expert; at best, the client might be lucky enough to receive positive references from other satisfied clients.

In an attempt to provide some amount of verification of networking skills, Novell, Inc., based in Provo, UT, created the first networking certification series, the Novel Certified Network Engineer.

This track included a series of seven exams that one could take at a cost at a proctored testing center. And, from this certification series came numerous other certification series including those from Microsoft, Cisco, vmWare, and others.

Certifications are important badges of honor that validate one's technical knowledge; however, certifications are only part of the picture. It is important for a job applicant to be able to prove that he or she knows how to apply networking concepts. This proof comes from graduating from a well-known solid program such as the one at Collin College and from presenting the potential employer with a portfolio of completed projects about which the candidate can talk. The portfolio counts toward experience, especially for the first time seeker of a networking job.

Meet the Newest DOL Career Coach



Meet Amanda Hamm, the DOL program's newest Career Coach. Amanda comes to us from UNT, where she was a transfer advisor. She is currently a PhD candidate at UNT; her research interests include post-secondary access and outreach for under-represented students.

Amanda is from Tulsa, Oklahoma but has resided in several places in the Northeast. Currently, she lives in McKinney with her husband Chris and two dogs, JoePa and Axel. However, they plan to relocate to Frisco this summer. In her free time, Amanda enjoys spending time with family in Oklahoma, walking her dogs, and attending educational research conferences with UNT colleagues.

Amanda is excited to be a Career Coach at Collin College and for the opportunity to work with Information Technology students and professionals. She looks forward to learning more about NISGTC and working with everyone involved to make the DOL grant a huge success.

Amanda may be contacted at ahamm@collin.edu or 469-365-1736.

OUR TUTORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Contact DOL Tutors for assistance with IT coursework:

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The Importance of Certifications in the IT Industry

To be a part of the growing IT industry, it has become essential to keep up with technological changes. These changes demand that IT professionals build their skillsets and acquire topnotch credentials.

Things to remember when you're considering additional training:



- Certifications prove your desire to excel in your career and give your best performance to your organization.
- Employees with entry level certifications may believe that their training does not hold much value. However, these credentials actually help your employers develop faith in your skillset and give you an edge over your peers.
- Advanced level certifications help you create a niche for yourself, making you an expert in a specific technology. This not only improves your chances of working on newer and more challenging projects but also makes you an asset to your organization.
- Surveys indicate that employees with additional certification/s stand a better chance of retaining their jobs.
- Depending on the certification you have achieved, you may have an upgrade path available.
- Certifications add great value to your earning potential.



Source: "Importance of Certifications in the IT Industry" (Rishabh Software, 10/7/13, <http://www.slideshare.net/rishabhsoft/importance-of-certifications-in-the-it-industry-26927006>)

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