

This fall marks the opening of the Center for Information Technology Excellence (CITE) to prepare students for exciting careers in the Information Technology world. The lab located at the Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center in South Hill offers students realistic learning experiences in a simulated data center environment and prepares them to take CompTIA credentials (A+, Server+, Network+, Security+), industry standards.

Made possible through a grant from the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, the lab has been built and furnished to provide a state-of-the-art laboratory in which students will learn and hone the skills for jobs in IT. This field encompasses the application of computers to store, study, retrieve, transmit, and manipulate data or information, often in the context of a business or other enterprise.

Curriculum will be based on a proven program that targets a gap between education supply and occupational demand. The Certificate received upon successful completion is Networking and Computer Support. It is an 18-hour credit program. Classes are  
ITN 106 and ITN 107 = A+ certification. Two exams must be taken.  
ITN 106 = MTA Operating Systems Fundamentals Exam 98-349  
ITN 111 = Server+ and MTA Server Administration Fundamentals Exam 98-365  
ITN 101 = Network+ and MTA Networking Fundamentals Exam 98-366  
ITN 260 = Security+ and MTA Security Fundamentals Exam 98-367

Tommy Wright, Assistant Professor, Information Systems Technology, noted students can take the MTA exams for free.

The IT Academy will initially serve post-secondary students as well as dually enrolled students from area high schools in a lab and classroom seating up to 20 people.

The space is ideally suited for use by training programs designed to enhance workforce readiness. All students completing the program of study will receive industry-recognized credentials. By enriching the education and skill level of the regional labor pool, the IT Academy will assist in the process of attracting, retaining and providing job candidates for employers such as HP and Microsoft; increasing the ability of local citizens to participate in the global economy.

For more information call [434-955-2252](tel:434-955-2252).