

JobLink Offers Network Classes

By **Bill Robinson**

Steelworkers who wish to increase their knowledge of computer networking now have several programs available to them. Two of these programs offered through JobLink are Microsoft Certification and CISCO Router training. Both offer training that can result in professional network certification.

The most recent network training program, which began last September, is the CISCO Router course. Dan Dobosz, one of the CISCO Router students, gives the class a big thumbs up. Dan says, "I am enjoying the class and learning a lot."

The CISCO Router course consists of four ten-week sessions. The first session introduces students to such topics as networking essentials and TCP/IP. Finally, during the fourth session, students design networks using hubs, bridges, routers, and switches. Also during this last session, a CISCO Certification examination is administered. The CISCO Router course is a customized program that does not require the students to use their TAP, Tuition Assistance Program, funds.

ARIS Online, a self-paced learning program, helps to prepare students to pass the Micro-

soft Certification exams. After successfully passing a certification exam, the student is presented a Microsoft Certified Professional certificate. Upon completion of six selective certification exams, the student attains the Microsoft Certified Engineer (MCSE) designation.

There are presently four types of certifications available from Microsoft. These are Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer Plus, Microsoft Certified Trainer, and Microsoft Certified Developer. The Microsoft certification exams are difficult to pass. However, JobLink is exploring some com-

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Heating/Air Classes Move to Ivy Tech



Brian Boyce, John Johnson and Wilbert Reeves attend heating/air-conditioning classes at Ivy Tech

By **Manuel Hernandez**

In our basements or utility rooms is located one very important home accessory. It is such an essential part of our lives that when it breaks down we scurry to have it repaired. However, some JobLink students don't have to pay others to

do those repairs. They are learning to fix that home accessory themselves by taking classes in heating and air-conditioning. JobLink has been offering classes on this topic for a number of years. The first

heating and air-conditioning classes were offered in a garage by Plant 4. Since last fall, however, these classes are being offered at Ivy Tech State College in East Chicago. They include training in analyzing mechanical and electrical problems so that the average homeowner can learn to trouble-shoot and repair his/her own units.

Manuel Nunez, a 30 year Inlander working out of Plant 4 Mechanical, is taking advantage of these classes. Not only will he develop a thorough knowledge of heating and air-conditioning; he will also learn sheet metal and duct fabrication. Manuel thanks his instructor, Gary Capriotti, saying, "The instructor is really thorough and offers a lot of hands-on training."

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— Your link to lifelong learning



From Diane's Desk

by Diane Lentz, JobLink Coordinator

As the year draws to a close, it's hard to believe that JobLink has been here for eight years. Watching the students take the variety and quantity of courses has

been an exciting time for all of us. When we look at the students' course history, we are amazed at the amount of individual courses that have been taken.

In 1999, we are going to try to bring a greater variety of courses that will lead to certification of skills. This will verify the students' expertise. But what else should we do? That answer lies within you.

Recently, you received a survey with your November flyer and directory. It is very important that you respond to that survey. As you are always reminded, your comments on evaluations, suggestions from the interested list, and the survey are what drive JobLink. This is your program, but it can only meet your needs if we hear your voice. So, please, if you have not had the time to fill out the survey, please do so. The union, company, and JobLink staff need to know what your educational needs are, and what you see in the future for JobLink, Please return your survey immediately. We're counting on you!

To Be, or Not to Be, That is the Question

By Steve Wagner
Local 1010 Representative

1999 contract negotiations will be here before you know it! We have been getting many questions concerning what "The Union" is requesting or demanding in this next round of bargaining. Let me say that we, all of us here at 1010 and our brothers and sisters in the Steelworkers Union throughout the nation, are "THE UNION."



The sound-off meetings we had at 1010 on September 22, 1998 allowed input from all 1010 members who desired to state what is important to them in the next contract. With regards to our Career Development Program, JobLink 2000, yes it was brought up at the

sound-off meeting to keep the educational benefit.

JobLink participants have been asking what they can do to insure that we maintain and improve this benefit. The most important thing we can do is to encourage our co-workers to use JobLink. Another is to let President Tom Hargrove know that education and personal enrichment is important to you!

This round of bargaining will present a significant challenge to all of us, and with solidarity I know we will come out with a fair and equitable contract.



Hats Off to...



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puter instructional programs that will help prepare the student to successfully pass the exams.

Students are usually allowed up to six months to complete an ARIS Online course. Before enrolling in an ARIS course, students should have an Internet Service Provider so that they can access the online classroom. Students can use their TAP funds to pay for ARIS classes.

Lester Petty for stepping forward and volunteering to complete the handicapped washroom at the Girl Scout Little House in East Chicago. When class ended and the project wasn't completed, Lester took responsibility for overseeing the work. Working with a group of Local 1010 volunteers over a six-week period, Lester saw the project to completion.

And to the Local 1010 members who on their own time moved the two sheds made by JobLink to the Haven House Women's Shelter.

Try our web site - www.joblink2000.

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"Friends" Help School and Community

By Tom Zmigrocki

Do you have a friend who would help you build a house, guide your guest around the world and even make a video telling everyone about you? JobLink has a friend like this; in fact, it has 29 super "Friends."

The Friends of JobLink participated in construction on the Habitat for Humanity and the Girl Scout Little House projects. They helped at JobLink's Open House, acting as guides and answering questions, helping visitors to explore the Internet and serving refreshments. Their most recent project has been the design and production of a video about JobLink.

You are probably wondering, "Who are these Friends of JobLink?" The Friends are your co-workers, classmates, neighbors and friends who share a common bond. They strongly support and believe in the principles that JobLink was founded on (continuing adult education).

Founded in April 1995, the Friends were trained to become Learning Advocates. Their original purpose was to encourage their fellow workers to take advantage of the educational opportunities that JobLink provided.

Heating Classes

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Classes are taught as lecture in a classroom with a lot of hands-on learning in a shop area. Students are taken to a work site to do actual installations for real on-the-job training. The main benefits of these classes, according to John Madrigal, Ivy Tech Counselor, are that "These classes are offered in both the morning and late afternoon to accommodate shift workers and all of them provide college credit."

Participants may earn a Technical Certificate or an Associate Degree in Heating and Air-Conditioning. This semester four classes are offered in this program: Refrigeration 1, Refrigeration 2, Commercial Refrigeration, and Heating Fundamentals.

Today they act as the eyes and ears of JobLink in the workplace. They keep JobLink informed about the needs and wants of their fellow workers while keeping the workers up-to-date on all the new classes. The Friends answer questions about JobLink's policies and procedures so there is less confusion concerning class registration, tuition assistance and the everyday operation of JobLink.

Phillip Rodriguez, one of the original members, feel that "the Friends have helped JobLink expand to meet the needs of the people." He

is especially proud of helping co-workers with a language barrier make their lives better by utilizing JobLink's training programs.

Jill Hammel an instructor at JobLink since its start, has noticed the growth of the Friends in both size and responsibility. She says, "They are always willing to take on new challenges and duties. They give freely of themselves, helping whenever they can."

So remember, the Friends of JobLink are your friends too!

Staff News

Who's Doing What At JobLink?

By Joe Woessner

There are several new faces at JobLink. Among these are teachers Jon Bisnett, Mike Daly, Steve Stefanovich, and Brian Swann.

Jon Bisnett began teaching computer classes here in September. He has his own computer consulting and insurance business, Advantage Marketing. An avid golfer and a Lions Club member, he lives in Hartford, Michigan with his wife of seventeen years and two sons. When asked what he likes best about teaching at JobLink, he replied, "the students willingness to learn."

Mike has been teaching generators, power washer and small engine classes since the fall of 1997. His hobbies include designing and building projects out of steel. Speaking of buildings, he likes ours. Mike says JobLink is "well lit with plenty of room." He also praises the "cooperative students." A native of Gary, Mike currently resides in Portage.

Teaching woodcarving since September is Steve Stefanovich. Woodcarving and fishing are among the hobbies of this retired truck driver. He is married with two adult children. Steve says he likes the "friendly atmosphere and willing-



Jon Bisnett and Brian Swann, talk "shop."

ness to learn" found at JobLink presently in Orland Hills, Illinois.

Instructor Brian Swann presents the entire Furnituremaking program. Brian has worked in the cabinetmaking business for over 16 years and owned and operated his own business, Swann Design for the last 10 years.

Brian and his wife, who is also a teacher, reside in Crete, Illinois and have one daughter.

Stop in and meet these new staff members. While you're at it, sign up for a class.

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JobLink Subcommittee: Diane Lentz, Larry Rodimel, Steve Wagner

JobLink 2000

Happy New Year!

From the Links Staff

