

## **AU to Become Regional Training Center for CISCO Networking Academies**

6/03/99

Alfred, NY – The College of Business will become a hub of training for CISCO Academies. CISCO, a leader in networking technology, is naming Alfred University a certified area training center, said Dr. David Szczerbacki, dean of the College of Business. As a Certified Area Training Center, he explained, Alfred will be training the instructors who will, in turn, be training others through the regional academies. Alfred was designated a regional academy a year ago, and, as such, provides training in CISCO networking systems to high school and vocational school programs throughout Western New York. Now, as the Certified Area Training Center, AU will be instructing those who teach at approximately 30 other regional academies in New England and New York, excluding the metropolitan area. Among the regional academies already assigned to Alfred's Certified Area Training Center are those at Clarkson University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Rochester Institute of Technology, as well as academies in Rhode Island and New Hampshire. "We are only the fourth or fifth certified area training center in the country," he noted. "We, in effect, will be managing the regional academies for CISCO," said Szczerbacki. "We will be assessing and monitoring quality (of programs) at the other regional academies," including conducting site visits. Alfred will gain some funding and some equipment as a result of the new designation, but the "exciting part about it is that this really positions us as a school at the heart of the internet and networking industry," said Szczerbacki. He also pointed out that many of the regional academies are located at two-year schools. "This will allow us to really cultivate relationships with those schools," and that, in turn, may stimulate transfers into AU. Alfred gained its new designation for several reasons, said Szczerbacki. "CISCO liked the speed at which Alfred adopted both the local and regional academy concept. They liked the speed at which we geared up." In addition, he said, the feedback from those trained at Alfred has been "very good." Alfred now has four instructors, certified to teach all four levels: Frank Duserick and Dr. Wilfred Huang, both professors of management information systems; Thomas McDowell, associate professor of computer science; and Dr. Jianxin Tang, associate professor of electrical engineering. Laurie Hallenbeck, who is assistant dean of the College of Business, as well as director of the MBA program, will be gaining her certification as well. She will serve as director of the Certified Area Training Center at AU.