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– **Ing. Alvaro Viquez**  
*VMware IT Academy Program Manager  
 for Brazil & Mexico*

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HELPS MEET THE NEED FOR CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS

### *Serving a Growing Region*

As virtualization technology continues to be a driving force in innovation, the need for trained and certified instructors is seen throughout Latin America (LATAM). Costa Rica is at the forefront as home to more than 80% of VMware’s LATAM employees, with the highest number of VMware IT Academies in LATAM as well.

As VMware IT Academy Program Manager for Brazil and Mexico, based in Costa Rica, Ing. Alvaro Viquez participated in a course that not only helped enable him to earn his VCP-DCV certification, but also to gain better insight into the challenges faced by instructors, “I wanted to learn what instructors go through, part of my job is to help institutions adopt our VMware IT Academy (VITA) curricula, to enable me to understand the effort needed to get certified and teach.”

### *Collaboration to Drive Success*

Through collaborative efforts with VMware IT Academy, Stanly Community College (a VMware IT Academy, located in North Carolina, USA), and Network Development Group, a scholarship program enabled a group of instructors to have access to the resources and technology needed to work towards their VCP-DCV certification. Learners were also provided access to the VCTA-DCV labs, which proved to be a good introductory step as preparation before pursuing the more rigorous VCP-DCV certification.

**Learn more about NDG’s IT training solutions, NETLAB+ and NDG Online:**

<https://ndg.tech/Which>

**NETLAB+ supported content:**

<https://ndg.tech/NETLABcontent>

**Labs and courses available on NDG Online:**

<https://www.netdevgroup.com/online/courses>



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Initiating efforts that provide train-the-trainer opportunities are particularly rewarding, as they enable participants to “pay it forward” by earning the skills and certifications needed to instruct the learners in their community. Viquez reports that out of a total of 25 learners, 14 were from LATAM, with 7 of those being from Viquez’s region - 3 of whom have already gone on to offer the training themselves as instructors in Brazil.

### **Hands-on Access to Labs is Key**

Learners were given access to the NETLAB+ system hosted by Stanly Community College, enabling them to complete hands-on lab exercises designed to help build the skills they need to become certified. Viquez explains, “The VCP-DCV certification is for those who will be installing, configuring, managing, optimizing, and scaling a vSphere environment; it is essential that, if you will be in charge of a vSphere environment, you have the hands-on experience to do so! NETLAB+ does that: it gives you a stable and robust platform to practice in a safe environment.”

For VMware IT Academies who are committed to growing their IT training program and serving their region, the investment in a NETLAB+ system will provide opportunities for training students at all

levels. Viquez says of his experience, “When I started managing academies via the IT Academy Program, I thought that NETLAB+ was a luxury mainly for US-based academies but, now that I have seen it in action, other academies have asked me to introduce them to the platform, now I am able to fully recommend it to those institutions who have the infrastructure to offer it.”

Another option to consider, particularly for IT Academies that do not have the resources to support their own NETLAB+ system, is to provide the benefits of hands-on training to their learners through the hosted NDG Online platform.

As remote learning continues to be a critical component for the success of any IT training program, the benefits to learners having access to the hands-on lab environment that NETLAB+ provides are clear. Viquez explains, “NETLAB+ is well documented, stable, safe, and rich in content. VITA and NDG offer more than 50 labs that prepare any student willing to put the effort to actually get VCTA-DCV and VCP-DCV certified.”