



Offering Critical IT Skills to Students in North Carolina and Beyond

Stanly Community College partners with the VMware IT Academy to help students master foundational virtualization and cloud skills that drive change

VMWARE IT ACADEMY—BUILDING IT EXPERTISE IN THE DIGITAL FUTURE

The VMware IT Academy Program provides students with the skills and education needed to succeed in a software-defined future. IT Academy creates a collaborative relationship with approved academic institutions around the world and provides them with software content, labs, and course materials developed by VMware. This enables their students to become knowledgeable on VMware technology and equipped with technical skills so they can obtain VMware certifications and jump-start their careers.

Capitalizing on today's top technology

Located in Albemarle, North Carolina, *Stanly Community College* is an accredited, two-year public institution offering a variety of seated and online college degrees. Stanly serves more than 10,000 students annually in programs such as general education, occupational training, and adult literacy, as well as offers a comprehensive online degree program.

“Stanly Community College is a small college in a rural area that was devastated by the loss of textile jobs. As a community college, we are always trying to offer new courses and new skills that will help students land jobs in areas other than textiles.”

KELLY CAUDLE, PROGRAM HEAD, ASC/ITC AND IT ACADEMY, STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

When virtualization and cloud rose to the top of the IT technology ladder, Stanly wanted to add courses in these areas to its IT Academy program. Knowing that VMware was the virtualization industry leader, Stanly reached out to join the VMware IT Academy.

Offering VMware®, virtualization, and cloud courses at Stanly was a logical fit, as Stanly already used a VMware virtualization backbone to run all of its online courses in Microsoft Windows, Linux, Cisco, and other technologies. With 24/7 access to virtual online equipment, students can complete course work and hands-on labs according to their schedules.

“Many of our students have either part-time or full-time jobs. They don't have the time or ability to attend on-site classes or labs. Offering students 24/7 access to a virtualized environment is a huge advantage for a small school like ours.”

BRANDON CRUMP, INSTRUCTOR, IT ACADEMY AT STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

“Virtualization is everywhere! Without virtualization and cloud, a company is behind the technology curve. Business of all sizes, in all sectors, will use virtualization to affect change. Our students who participate in the VMware IT Academy can help companies in our area adopt virtualization, move to cloud, and grow.”

KELLY CAUDLE, PROGRAM HEAD,
ASC/ITC AND IT ACADEMY,
STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

EXTENDING STANLY'S REACH

After receiving a Golden Leaf Grant, Stanly was able to build and install a virtualized data center to run all of its online programs, including VMware IT Academy. In 2019, Stanly received another grant from the National Science Foundation to create a portal that will enable students to access any resources available to complete a lab—regardless of whether the resources are in the Stanly data center, at the University of South Carolina, or another Regional VMware IT Academy partner.

Today, Stanly proudly serves not only students in the Albemarle, North Carolina, area, but also students from all over the U.S. and as far away as Jamaica and Switzerland. With its VMware virtualized network and the services provided by the VMware IT Academy, Stanly is able to extend its reach, better serve a wider student population, and stay ahead of the technology curve.

Since launching the VMware IT Academy at Stanly, student enrollment has grown steadily, and additional funding/grants have been secured. As a result of this ongoing success, Stanly has become a Regional VMware IT Academy, partnering with other institutions such as the University of South Carolina. As a Regional VMware IT Academy, Stanly enjoys the prestige and acknowledgment that they are teaching timely topics such as virtualization and cloud—preparing students for satisfying careers in these top digital or software-defined technology areas.

Benefits that matter most

Students who participate in the *VMware IT Academy* at Stanly are afforded a wide range of benefits that will help them jump-start careers in the digital-defined future.

- After successfully completing the courses, students receive certificate vouchers. These vouchers enable students in rural North Carolina to access certification exams they could not otherwise afford.
- Exam vouchers are valid for one year so students can study and prepare for certification in virtualization, cloud, and other IT areas.
- Evaluation software is available to students at no charge for one full year after completing the online courses. Students can use the software to build their own environments on a personal PC or laptop, enabling students to:
 - Gain hands-on experience
 - Build problem-solving skills
 - Gain an end-to-end understanding of a working VMware environment, which they can apply later in a corporate environment
- Online badges/certificates can be added to students' resumes and profiles, making the students' qualifications more attractive to hiring companies.

Benefits are also extended to the businesses that hire graduates of the VMware IT Academy. These organizations can hire skilled employees who are ready to hit the ground running on day one. With foundational knowledge of VMware, virtualization, and cloud, the graduates will drive change by suggesting how VMware can enhance their employers' IT environments.

VMware's "best-kept secret"

The VMware IT Academy has been operating on a global level for many years. Up until now, it's been VMware's best-kept secret. With the growing success of the IT Academy program at organizations such as Stanly Community College, however, more people are talking about the value of the IT Academy.

- Proven educational program for training students and trainers
- Offering complete curriculum, as well as setting up hands-on labs, at minimal cost
- Fueling broader technology labs to be delivered to students; for example, one VMware license on a laptop can run Red Hat Linux, enabling students to learn that technology, too
- Providing local program support to institutions through Regional VMware IT Academies, offering training to instructors at other area institutions
- Educating and empowering tomorrow's digital leaders and entrepreneurs with the digital skills required for today's jobs

Learn more

Discover more about how VMware IT Academy students can align with the leader by visiting <https://www.vmware.com/company/research/it-academy.html>.

