Technical Career Paths & Outreach Program South Suburban College is a community college institution of higher learning founded in 1927 as Thornton Junior College. The Illinois Community College Act of 1965 has created our Community College District 510 which includes High School Districts 205, 215, and 228. South Suburban College is seeking funding to upgrade for the following: 1. Aging college infrastructure for WAN equipment 2. Remodel two connecting labs which are extremely out dated and with little use 3. Purchase new work benches, PC work stations, and Cisco Lab equipment for the two labs stated above. 4. Purchase new PC workstations for our Job Search program and support our new Rebound Program 5. Training to sustain and upgrade faculty certification skills Intellectual Merit of This Project Cisco & Microsoft Academy Our purpose is to provide a resource center for our district high schools and establish new technology career paths for high school and college students through the Cisco and Microsoft Academy programs. South Suburban College has established programs to support this funding: a new associate degree program in computer & network technology; a new one year computer network certificate; and a number of hybrid industry certification classes. These short term certificates will provide our students as well as returning adults with entry level computer skill sets for those seeking employment quickly. South Suburban College has been an authorized Cisco Academy for 12 + years. In-district high schools have expressed an interest in creating a partnership for this type of program and to further enhance their adoption of 'Project Lead the Way' which is a pre engineering program. South Suburban College would start planning/implementation with Thornton High School and expand the program to include the two other in-district high schools, District 205, after the fall semester of 2010. Expansion would continue to seven other high schools in our other three districts. Cisco has designed a version for its CCNA certification program that is engaging to high school age young people. The College would establish dual credit for high school students in the Cisco Discovery CCNA program and students would receive credit for Cisco Exploration CCNA module one college level. The College would also offer Cisco IT Essentials (A+ Prep). High school students would be bused to and from our campus for afternoon classes. Our College would estimate an increase enrollment of 200 students per semester and the saving of one full time faculty position with the possible addition of one adjunct position. Our College requires the renovation and addition of the two labs with network equipment summarized above to handle the additional influx of students. Rebound Program ' Unemployed The College has implemented a program offering tuition-free classes to our in-district community who have been unemployed since January 1, 2008 and are still currently unemployed. The College has advertised this as our 'Rebound Program.' The College established the program in the summer of 2009 and as realized 253 unduplicated students enrolled in the Rebound program. Our College requires the
equipment summarized above to handle the additional influx of students, especially those seeking careers in computer and network technology. Career Center Program The College needs to replace its aging PC workstations used for our community Job Search program. The Career Center serves students, alumni and community members reaching out to 21 south suburban communities. Services are: 1. Sigi3 software for research & printing of the most up to date career information including employment outlook, salary information, education requirements, etc. 2. Win Way Resume software allows job seekers to review resume guidelines, create and print fine quality documents. 3. OCS 121 classes attend Career information presentations in the Center. They use the computers/printers for a specific career research project. 4. www.collegecentral.com/southsuburbancollege is the primary paid website for SSC and the partnership of 13 community colleges and provides the most current (printable) employment opportunities, create personal portfolios, and upload their resume for employer viewing. 5. Illinois Skills Match internet link provides state wide job search information. Matches job seekers' qualifications to employers' personnel needs. The Career Center assists approximately 6,000 people per year and is expected to increase by another 500 + this summer with the influx of the 'Rebound Program.' In addition the College would be able to retain one position due to low funding. Faculty Training Faculty training to maintain industry certifications in Cisco and Microsoft Academy classes This project will headed by the following: John McCormack, current Director of Network System Dennis Spivey, recently retired Executive Director of Network Systems at South Suburban College, retained as Technology Consultant/Cisco and Microsoft Academy Programs. Total Cost of these programs: $508,031