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## **CCP Grads Take the HighGround**

Does Boston University's Computer Career Programs (BUCCP) prepare students for high-tech careers? You bet, according to HighGround Systems, Inc. of Marlboro Massachusetts.

HighGround develops storage resource management software. A young, fast-growing company, HighGround is always on the lookout for skilled, high-tech professionals like the seven CCP graduates the company has hired over the last several months.

One of those hires is Stephen Levinson, a former math teacher and massage therapist who is now a Software Engineer with HighGround. Looking for a career change, he chose Boston University's Computer Career Programs because he'd heard it was very good, and settled on the C++/Windows program because it was the best match for my interests and background. I wanted a course that involved logical reasoning, not just facts. Stephen says he found the 20-week daytime program challenging and rewarding. The instructors were very knowledgeable. I learned a lot and met some very nice people. Above all, it prepared me to achieve my goal of getting a great job at a great company.

Maura Fitzgerald, another HighGround Software Engineer, is also a big fan of CCP and its results. I know four people who want to enroll in the program. It's the best buy for a quick career turnaround. Maura had a degree in Finance and was studying for a Ph.D. in Meteorology at M.I.T. when she decided programming was what she really wanted to do. My brother is a programmer and I asked him to recommend a school. He told me BU's CCP was one of the best. When I looked into it further, I had to agree. As a full-time day student, she found the C++/Windows program to be hard work but well worth it. It prepared me to get the job I wanted.

After being laid off in a corporate downsizing, Juliana Blaser turned to CCP to get onto a new career track. I had always wanted to try programming since high school, but never pursued it seriously. The layoff and subsequent federal high-tech grant funding provided me with an opportunity to go back to school. I enrolled in BU's CCP because it offered the best C++/Windows Application Development program in the area. The instructors were excellent and were one of the primary reasons that I decided to enroll in the program. The course covered a tremendous amount of material in the 6 month time frame, so it was intense but well worth it. The instructors equipped me with the tools to continue the learning and problem-solving processes out in the industry."

Brian LeBlanc agrees with Juliana on the quality of the instruction in CCP. A graduate of the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Brian spent five years working for Fidelity and earned a brokerage license. He took the C++ component as a part-time evening student, and then took Windows Development as a full-time day student. He was especially struck by the knowledge and enthusiasm of his instructors. I had taken an extension school programming course at another university in a class with 225 other students. After that experience, I was afraid the CCP course would be dry, but the instructors really knew how to make it exciting. I found the program to be an excellent opportunity to develop skills that are in high demand in the job market.

Those sentiments are echoed by Chris Seibel who enrolled in the C++/Windows program shortly after finishing his Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of California. After returning to Mass., I was already considering a possible career change from my previous profession. I received some literature from BU and decided to check into it. This program offers all the tools needed to break into the industry, but you have to be willing to work for it.

Boston University's C++/Windows Masters Certificate program is an excellent way to get a foot in the door of the software industry, concludes Chris's colleague David Smith. David was managing a

restaurant/bar when he decided to look into programming. I was really looking for something I wanted to make a career of. A friend of mine had attended BU's Client/Server program and had raved about it. I researched the C++/Windows Masters Certificate program and was extremely impressed with the program and enrolled. If you are looking for a fast-paced environment and are willing to work hard then it can be a great opportunity.

Steve Glassman, a Director of Engineering at HighGround, is the man responsible for hiring Chris, David, Brian, Stephen, Juliana and Maura. And it was the quality of the program and its graduates that started him hiring CCP graduates. We hired a person who used to be one of the Teaching Assistants for the program. He knew all about the program, the graduates' capabilities, and their availability as well. When asked if he planned to hire more CCP graduates, Glassman's answer is short and to the point: Of course!

If you're looking for a career change that will ensure your marketability, learn about the unprecedented demand for individuals with hands-on skills in today's emerging technologies. Boston University's Computer Career Programs can help you discover the career path that's right for you. For more information, visit our web site [www.BUtrain.com](http://www.BUtrain.com) or call 1-800-BU-TRAIN and become a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Information Technology professional.

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