

# Building bridges to the future of learning with Cisco

*Renee Patton, Global Director of Education, Cisco Systems, Co-authored with Olivia Langborn, Education Industry Specialist, Cisco Systems - ANZ*

It's hard to believe that 18 months ago, a major global pandemic turned our world upside down and resulted in unimaginable consequences. Overnight, we had to re-think learning, work, and healthcare. In education, students were moved online; teachers were forced to find new ways to deliver learning, and people had to consider careers of the future. Now, a year-and-a-half later, education is at another critical turning point as we look toward the future of learning.

Student and teacher expectations, the fear of security breaches, and uncertainty about the future are creating the realisation that technology can be used in new and different ways to deliver learning. This realisation is accelerating the digital transformation of education, unlike anything we've seen in the past.



Technology is being used to support new learning models, and the possibilities seem endless. Cisco has been at the heart of education and supporting the digital transformation of education since the founding of our company on the Stanford University campus in 1984. Today, we continue to work closely with educators as they imagine the possible and build bridges to the future.

## With rapid transformation comes challenge

The digital divide continues to grow between those who have access to devices, connectivity, and digital literacy – and those who do not. Add to that, the pandemic has exacerbated a longstanding global mental health crisis among students, and teachers are struggling with burnout. This crisis is driving the need to develop new ways of experiential, engaging learning.

And, unfortunately, schools are some of the best targets for cyber attacks. According to the Australian Cyber Security Centre and for the period from July 2019 to June 2020, “Malicious cyber activity against Australia’s national and economic interests is increasing in frequency, scale, and sophistication” with ransomware becoming one of the most significant threats<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC), in its bi-annual report on privacy breaches, listed the education sector as third on the list of notifications of privacy breaches, after health and financial services<sup>2</sup>. Unfortunately, this was demonstrated in the recent attack on the NSW Department of Education in which contact information may have been compromised<sup>3</sup>.

So, how can your educational organisation prioritise investments in and prepare for the future of learning?

**No matter what goals you are trying to achieve, Cisco can help build the bridge to get you there.**

Now more than ever, we believe that technology can be used to provide an opportunity for all, make a meaningful impact, and bring about a future that is better and brighter than today.

Our commitment to education goes beyond our

leading products and services. To date, Cisco has positively impacted more than 527 million people through social impact grants and signature programs. In the last year, we donated 53 million dollars in cash and personal protective equipment to nonprofit organisations and first responders [during COVID-19](#).

For 23 years, [Cisco Networking Academy](#) has provided a bridge to career opportunities to more than 12.6 million people in 180 countries. And, we recently announced our new [Skills for All](#) program, delivering free IT education to empower all people to pursue careers of the future. Across Australia we have over 23,000 students enrolled in the Cisco Networking Academy program and since its inception, 94% of students who have completed a CCNA or higher have obtained a job or education opportunity.

With technology changing the way we work, live, play and learn, there is no better time than now to connect with your peers, locally and around the region, to share, learn and collaborate in this digital era. Powered by Cisco Webex, [The Digital Schools Network](#) is a thriving, peer-to-peer digital network, where schools can connect, collaborate and share – anchored by University Partners to help support teachers. [Register](#) your school to access virtual excursions, communities of interest, professional development, sharing practice, expert tutorials and virtual classes



As we look towards the future, I am also pleased to reinforce Cisco's commitment to education with a few announcements.

### **Simplifying learning with Webex Education Connector and Webex Classrooms**

Now Cisco is pleased to [announce](#) the next wave of hybrid learning with an end-to-end secure collaboration platform for hybrid learning and services. This platform is based on our award-winning Webex product line and includes our latest web-based interactive solution, [Webex Classrooms](#).

Webex Classrooms allows educators and students to manage learning with a dedicated place to attend classes, view previously recorded lectures, and access course material. This solution brings greater flexibility and mobility to enrich the learning experience for teachers and students.

With Webex Classrooms, teachers can safely and securely teach from home, manage classrooms, schedule courses, and host and monitor classes. Students can join classes with easy-to-find links, view recordings, and schedule video meetings with instructors and classmates. They can also access a personalised calendar of upcoming classes, meet one-on-one with the entire class or in small breakout rooms, and stay organised from within Webex Classrooms.

For schools or universities already using a Learning Management System (LMS), the [Webex Education Connector](#) allows for the integration between Webex and Schoology, Canvas, Moodle, Blackboard, Sakai, and D2L. This integration simplifies the classroom experience by making sure everything teachers and students need to schedule and record courses and to access course materials and recordings resides within the LMS.



Finally, our complete set of Webex Devices, including [Webex Board](#) and [Webex Room Kit Pros](#), complements our integrated platform, merging the virtual and physical, and allowing teachers and students to connect and collaborate from wherever they might be.



### Recognising our everyday education heroes

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise our frontline teachers and administrators for helping us to get through an incredibly challenging year-and-a-half. You are our [heroes](#), and we applaud your unwavering efforts in keeping students engaged and learning. Thank you for helping us to build a bridge to the future of learning.

If you'd like to learn more about Cisco education solutions or programs, please contact:

**Olivia Langborn**

email: [oedholml@cisco.com](mailto:oedholml@cisco.com)

Phone: 0438 151 155

### Reference:

<https://www.cyber.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/ACSC-Annual-Cyber-Threat-Report-2019-20.pdf>

<https://www.oaic.gov.au/assets/privacy/notifiable-data-breaches-scheme/statistics/2020-2/Notifiable-Data-Breaches-Report-July-Dec-2020.pdf>

<https://www.itnews.com.au/news/nsw-education-says-cyber-attack-may-have-compromised-contact-data-568046>



## Links to the future of learning with Cisco

Cisco has an online community of interest for educators called the Digital Schools Network (DSN) (see attached PDF file) which is a free membership and peer-to-peer network where schools can communicate, connect and share knowledge with other schools in Australia, the Asia Pacific region or even globally.

Here below are some links about Cisco's programs, events and initiatives for education that will also be shared within our community for K-12 schools, the [Digital Schools Network](#):

Through the Digital Schools Network, Beechworth Secondary College teachers connect with other teachers and schools in Australia and Asia Pacific: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCXtFGkFYh0&t=1s>

Cisco's Networking Academy (free courses in cybersecurity, IoT, programming etc, over 20,000 students enrolled): [https://www.cisco.com/c/m/en\\_sg/partners/cisco-networking-academy/index.html](https://www.cisco.com/c/m/en_sg/partners/cisco-networking-academy/index.html)

Women Rock IT (Community to inspire more females to ICT/STEM as a future career): [https://www.cisco.com/c/m/en\\_sg/partners/women-rock-it.html](https://www.cisco.com/c/m/en_sg/partners/women-rock-it.html)

Future Voices (hear from educators and students who are teaching and learning with technology): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDqIS7fGFME> [https://www.cisco.com/c/en\\_uk/solutions/online-distance-learning/future-voices.html](https://www.cisco.com/c/en_uk/solutions/online-distance-learning/future-voices.html) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHFO9nEa2A4>

Cisco Connected Educator (for teachers, Cisco partner together with CILC): <https://www.cilc.org/Professional-Learning-Network/Badges.aspx>

Cisco Connected Country (connecting regional and remote students and teachers): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H\\_lm2ZCueeE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_lm2ZCueeE) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kdHTaiFPhQ>

