

Historic Ottawa College to offer career seekers modern IT edge

The world of work is constantly changing. For career seekers and people in transition, opportunities can be almost endless. The real question is how to gain entry into new and exciting fields of endeavour. The high-paced information technology (IT) industry poses great potential in Canada, but many career seekers don't have the right transferable employability skills to move into this burgeoning field.

The Information Technology Professional (ITP) program can be just be the answer.

Created by the Software Human Resource Council (SHRC) with industry partners, the ITP program is offered at colleges and universities across Canada. The newest delivery centre is Willis College in Ottawa.

ITP is a full-time interactive 12-month learning experience, including a three-month work term. Students in the ITP program work together in a leading-edge business simulation model called The Millennium Corporation®. As both managers and employees, they develop new skills and use prior experience to solve real business challenges.

ITP provides the most up-to-date practical business and technical experience, along with:

- National ITP certification
- Microsoft certification
- CompTIA's Project+
- Recognition from your college or university
- Optional certification in CompTIA's A+ and Cisco Systems' Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)

"Returning from a three-year adventure in Asia, I was looking for a comprehensive high quality IT program that would offer me an entrance into the world of high technology. I found that curriculum in the ITP Program, sponsored by the SHRC. In an intensive year, I was transformed from a functional user into a competent administrator. ITP provided the excellent mentorship and practice that I was seeking, said" Lynn Andrea Gariepy, B.A, M.Ed., ITP Technical Analyst.

Throughout its 108-year history, Willis College of Business & Technology has been a leader in recognizing and responding to emerging job market demands through the development and delivery of comprehensive training to meet those needs. Willis College stands as an ongoing testament to the creativity, tenacity, and strength of Canadian private career colleges by preparing the best IT, Business and Clean/Renewable Energy professionals to meet today's challenges.

As a partner with the IT business community, SHRC plays a major role in the resolution of issues directly related to IT education and employment in both industry and the government.

"Willis College is pleased that the Council has recognized the important role of the private education sector. We are even more proud to be selected as the first Canadian private college to partner with SHRC to deliver the ITP Program in Eastern Ontario and in the Nation's Capital," said Rima Aristocrat, President and CEO of Willis College.

"It is important to engage the private education sector as we address the many issues that face technology and employment. Innovative partnerships and targeted, effective programming are the keys to the development of skills that Canada needs. These partnerships are also beneficial to the 're-tooling' of employees in a time of layoffs and rapid change."

The SHRC ITP Program addresses the need for post-graduates to enhance their market worth and it will create a wealth of opportunities for a career in the 21st century. Through a unique and interactive learning experience, students become familiar with how to deal with real business experiences that are related to IT. These students also become aware of the ways that they may succeed and excel in the real world as professional IT business leaders.

“The ITP Program, offered by SHRC, is an excellent compliment to our other programs and course offerings. It provides for our current students and alumni, a unique career advancing opportunity,” says Chris Bissylas, Vice-President of Willis College.

Willis College is looking forward to beginning its new ITP Program in September of 2005. Applications for this limited-entry program are now being accepted. For complete program information, please contact Ms. Kim Gay at (613) 233-1128 or by e-mail at kim.gay@williscollege.com.

“SHRC is proud to partner with Willis College to deliver the ITP program,” said SHRC Career Awareness and Skills Development Director Denyce Diakun. “It is only through this type of collaboration with leaders in education and industry that we can use our collective resources to ensure the most beneficial programs are available for people in career transition.”

The Software Human Resource Council (SHRC) is a non-profit sector council, established in 1992, that speaks for the Information Technology industry throughout Canada. SHRC is a catalyst for change, pushing for innovations that will provide labour market intelligence, lifelong career development and quality education for Canadians active in software fields.

SHRC seeks out products, partnerships and business opportunities to support the Canadian IT industry in developing the number of quality of IT professionals needed to maintain and improve Canada’s position as a leader in the global marketplace.

SHRC’s vision is to have Canada recognized as the best place in the world to develop software and establish an IT business. SHRC actively supports initiatives that will ensure Canada has the infrastructure in place to guarantee a continuing supply of IT professionals.

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