

## **Willis College To Host First Canadian Microsoft AATP Summer Training Initiative That Prepares Faculty To Train Students on Windows 2000 Operating System**

**Nationwide Program Provides Training for Hundreds of Teachers this Summer**

**OTTAWA, ON - July 24, 2000**

Willis College of Business & Technology, Ottawa's 104-year-old institution announced today that the Microsoft AATP summer training initiative for Canada is scheduled to take place at Willis College of Business and Technology from July 24-28th. A Willis Microsoft-certified academic instructor will deliver in-depth training in Microsoft Official Curriculum Course 2152, "Implementing Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional and Server," at a drastically reduced price to a total of 20 educators. **This is a first for Canada, a first for Ottawa and a first for Willis College.** Educators will be attending from such places as Syracuse University, Ryerson Polytechnic University, College of the North Atlantic, Graduate Centre of Applied Technology, Canadore College, Novatech Computer Careers, Hainze Institute, Champlain Regional College, Seneca College and Forsyth Technical Community College.

There are only twenty-two schools across the US and one in Canada participating in this prestigious training that is subsidized highly by Microsoft. (Participants are paying only \$300 US or \$500 Canadian for the week! The same level of training otherwise could cost \$1,200 US or \$1,875 Canadian at minimum.)

All host sites are either compliant or pending members of Microsoft AATP or APDC. (Microsoft Authorized Academic Training Providers, Microsoft Academic Professional Development Centers.) Willis College of Business & Technology is a compliant Microsoft AATP member.

Microsoft created the Academic Professional Development Center (APDC) program in response to educators' requests for a program that would enable schools, whether small institutions or large educational systems, to offer technology training on Microsoft developer and networking technologies. One benefit of the program is that it allows faculty and technical staff to be trained in their local communities with other faculty and staff, cutting down on travel expenses and time away from jobs.

The Microsoft Authorized Academic Training Program (AATP) is offered through high schools, colleges, and universities to help full-time and part-time students prepare for jobs that demand proficiency with Microsoft products and technologies. AATP also offers convenient and affordable programs to train faculty members and IT support staff on Microsoft technology.

When asked why Microsoft chose Willis to host this event, Rima Aristocrat, President and CEO of Willis College responded: "Willis College is the only Canadian member of Microsoft Education National Advisory Council. The mission of the council was to answer the challenge of running technology courses in academic environments and to design a Microsoft AATP planning and implementation guide specifically for AATP. During my past three years of membership, I have developed a deep understanding of the mission of AATP, a great appreciation of the philosophies behind AATP and APDC and a profound admiration for the members of AATP/APDC. Their selfless contributions and ongoing efforts have ensured the success of Microsoft's mission to provide affordable, high quality educational options for today's educators in tomorrow's IT community. In particular, a very special thank-you is due Gay Robbins and her staff."

Janie Schwark, AATP Marketing Manager writes of Willis College and its president and CEO Rima Aristocrat: *"Your work on the AATP Advisory Council certainly exemplifies its mission. You are one of our most active members and certainly exemplify the spirit of sharing to make AATP a better program for everyone. The Willis curriculum that you have shared with the Council is outstanding and will serve as a framework for many schools across the U.S. and Canada."*

*"Education and certification are the passport to the future,"* continued Aristocrat. *"Together, in partnership, Public educations and Willis College are working to create this passport. It is our hope that this partnership will encourage other Canadian education institutions to embrace Microsoft's highly subsidized initiative, recognize the importance of partnerships between public and private education institutions, and realize the importance of the articulation that allow students to transfer credits between Canadian high schools, colleges and universities."*

In addition to the training, Microsoft will be sponsoring all the breaks in training (coffee and muffins in the mornings, catered lunches and afternoon refreshments). Each attendee will also receive a copy of Windows 2000 Professional and Server, a MOC kit, a Curriculum and Implementation Planning Guide for Educators and a Windows 2000 polo shirt. Guests will receive welcome kits donated by Ottawa tourism and personal greetings from members of the Canadian governments and IT community as well as enjoy an evening of hospitality sponsored by Willis College.

Willis College and its staff members thank Microsoft AATP/APDC for giving them the opportunity to contribute to this noble endeavour. They would also like to thank the Canadian government along with the education and IT communities for recognizing the importance of the AATP/APDC mission and for welcoming their guests to the first Canadian Academic Development Institute (CADI).

Willis College of Business and Technology is located in Ottawa and Kanata, Ontario. This 104-year-old college specializes in Ministry of Universities and Colleges approved and Microsoft Certified, Oracle Certified, Certified Internet Webmaster Certified, SUN Java training and e-Commerce/e-Business programs. For additional information on Willis College or the products it offers, visit the Willis College website at <http://www.williscollege.com> or call (613) 233-1128.

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**For more information, contact:**

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The related web links are:

Microsoft AATP Summer Training Initiative Registration Online:  
<http://www.aatptrain.net/registration>

Microsoft AATP Summer Training Initiative Welcome:  
<http://www.microsoft.com/aatp/summerTrain.htm>

Microsoft AATP Summer Training Initiative Schedule:

<http://www.microsoft.com/aatp/summerSched.htm>

Microsoft's Training and Certification Page:

<http://www.microsoft.com/trainingandservices/default.asp>

September 25th, 2000