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**NEW CAREER COLLEGE MEMBERS EXEMPLIFY DIVERSITY OF SECTOR**  
**From the technology field to careers in education, industry experts teach**  
**specialized post-secondary education programs**

(TORONTO – JANUARY 9, 2006) What do technology, health care, animation and automobiles have in common? They are all courses being taught by leading industry experts in career colleges throughout Ontario, and they are a snapshot of the growing diversity of the sector.

“There is a wide range of programs that our colleges offer,” said Paul Kitchin, Executive Director of the Ontario Association of Career Colleges (OACC). “What’s great to see is the growing number of talented leaders at the helm of our member institutions that teach unique and specialized courses in diverse fields such as animation, automotive trades, health care, and business, to name a few.”

One example of such a leader is Rima Aristocrat, President of Willis College of Business & Technology, an Ottawa career college which recently joined OACC. An accomplished concert pianist, Aristocrat immigrated to Canada from the former USSR in 1972 and put her fingers to a different use as a keyboarding instructor. Today, under Aristocrat’s guidance, Willis offers a variety of business and computer programs as well as a unique course in Renewable Clean Energy. “By offering specialized programs in a setting that has a very low student to teacher ratio, career colleges are able to provide students with the individualized attention they value,” said Ms. Aristocrat. “Career colleges are becoming more in demand because they give students meaningful and relevant hands-on training in today’s fast paced, ever-changing environment.”

The Canadian College of Educators (CCE) is another example of a career college leader. The College specializes in the field of education offering diploma programs for teachers of English as a Second Language and Early Childcare Assistants and is currently working on the introduction of an advanced program for Education Assistants and Educational Resource Workers. “Training individuals to educate others requires vast knowledge and experience. Many of our instructors hold Master’s or Phd.’s in the field,” said Garry Densmore, M.Ed, OTC, a CCE Program Director who has 34 years experience in Ontario’s public education system. “Our graduates will become our future educators, so what we do here is extremely important. We aim to offer the highest level of education training through a faculty that cares and puts teaching first,” said Densmore.

In anticipation of the proclamation of the Private Career Colleges Act in 2006, the OACC has experienced a surge of new members who are eager to ensure the sector has a strong voice with government. The new Act, which received Royal Assent last December, will pave the way for new program standards and a credential framework for career college training. It will also mark the introduction of a unique Training Completion Assurance Fund to protect student investments in their education.

“Right now our institutions are graduating over 40% of the students from all post-secondary diploma programs in Ontario, and that’s why it’s important that despite the diversity in our programs, we show unity as a sector,” said Cynthia Cooper, President of the OACC. “We are thrilled that such quality colleges have recently joined our Association.”

On Thursday, January 12, 2006, OACC will be hosting a member seminar with Richard Patten, MPP (Ottawa-Centre), the Parliamentary Assistant to Ontario's Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities. A reception featuring an address by Mr. Patten will be held at Trattoria Café Italia, 254 Preston Street, in downtown Ottawa, at 5:30 p.m. Media are welcome to attend.

*Established in 1973, the Ontario Association of Career Colleges represents Ontario's career college sector graduating 35,000 students each year. The sector has been providing Ontario youth and adults with quality and diverse post-secondary education, in hundreds of program areas for the past 137 years. For a complete list of member career colleges, visit the OACC website at [www.oacc.on.ca](http://www.oacc.on.ca).*

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