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Recognized as the Premier e-Learning Enterprise Facility in Ottawa, Willis College of Business and Technology is known as one of the most distinguished private colleges in Canada. Since 1896, Willis College has been an undisputed leader in recognizing emerging job market demands and then developing and delivering the training required to meet those needs. More importantly, Willis College is proving consistently that the "power of knowledge" is the engine for life long learning.

Willis College is focused on providing a wide variety of clients with the very best IT training. The College provides technical career training for people who are changing their careers by combining their transferable skills such as management, sales and customer service with the latest technical skills. The result may be lucrative IT careers.

Willis also reaches out to corporate, government and public sector organizations, evidence that partnerships are the best solution in providing meaningful technology education in today's fast-paced, ever-changing environment. Programs have been designed strategically to include Ministry of Colleges and Universities approved diplomas and internationally recognized certifications which set them apart and exemplify Willis' overall attitude that successful education must be a multi-level partnership between the individual, the public institution, the government and industry. Willis has created evening versions of its popular regular daytime offerings, which are geared towards working professionals wishing to upgrade or expand their skills while remaining in their current jobs.

Willis College is the only Canadian training institution chosen from over 1,300 universities and colleges in North America to become a member of the Microsoft Education Council. Willis is one of the first colleges in Ontario to provide Ministry approved diploma and Microsoft approved certifications in the MSCE program, one of the first colleges in Ottawa to provide Oracle Certified (OCP) Developer

training using Oracle Official Curriculum, the only post-secondary institution in Canada to partner with "Online Digital University" providing alternatives for just in time learning, the only Ottawa/Hull Recipient of the 1999/2000 Consumers' Choice Award for business excellence in computer training and the first college in Ottawa to provide Certified International Webmaster (CIW) certification in the E-Commerce Developer program.

In July, Willis, Ottawa, was the only school in Canada, joining just 22 institutions in the US, selected by Microsoft to host the first Canadian Microsoft AATP/APDC (Authorized Academic Training Provider/Authorized Professional Development Center) Summer Training Initiative. Sponsored by Microsoft, the course prepared faculty from across North America to train students on the Windows 2000 Operating System. Microsoft's involvement is substantial - due to their subsidization, participants paid only \$500 Canadian to attend the week's session. The same level of training would typically cost upwards of \$1800 Canadian.

When asked why Microsoft chose Willis to host this event, Rima Aristocrat, President and CEO of Willis College responded: "The mission of the Microsoft Education National Advisory Council is to answer the challenges of running technology courses in academic environments and to design a Microsoft AATP planning and implementation guide. During my past three years as the only Canadian member of the council, I have developed a deep understanding of the mission of AATP, and a great appreciation of the philosophies behind AATP and APDC."

Janie Schwark, AATP Marketing Manager writes of Willis College and Ms. 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."

Educators from across North America gained valuable skills through Willis College's AATP that will enable them to train others to prepare for jobs that demand proficiency with Microsoft products

and technologies. Feedback from the students has been tremendous, with many commenting favourably not only on the quality of the program but on Willis' superior hosting and facilitating skills. Many American participants stated that they would welcome an opportunity to attend further training in Ottawa, at Willis College, due to geographic convenience and program excellence.

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

The success of the AATP/APDC session has led to an exciting announcement for Willis College. They have created a new initiative, the Canadian Academic Development Institute (CADI), which is designed to provide leadership in Information Technology training by ensuring the integration of industry requirements with academic standards. This is spearheaded by the professional development of faculty, research efforts in the area of curriculum design, setting standards, applying technology to learning and the articulation.

For Willis College, CADI is the fruition of 5 years of development effort. Long known for its close co-operation with industry, Willis has actively courted feedback from companies hiring its graduates, to ensure that the training delivered continues to match the industry requirements. Willis' highly regarded e-commerce developer program was one of many spawned in this way. Ultimately, CADI will cement Canada's reputation as a world leader in the training and development of the workforce by expanding Canada's leadership roles as it bridges the knowledge divide. Leadership will be provided through the development of superior IT trainers. CADI will promote the best IT training practices worldwide, to the benefit of the global community.

The development of CADI has naturally greased other intellectual

wheels at Willis College. Dr. Keith Wilson, the founder of Healthnet.ca and the Director of Willis Enterprise Solutions and Dr. Gilles Seguin, the founder of K2000 are diligently finalizing the development of Willis' much-anticipated Smart Engines, which will premiere during the fall of 2000. This will be yet another evolution in the College's comprehensive e-knowledge learning strategy. This Smart Engine technology will be used in the research of training, and will be a cornerstone of the CADI initiative.

The partnership approach of which Willis College is justifiably proud continually manifests itself in new ways. Recently, Willis formed an alliance with a local firm, Alcea Technologies, which enables their students to work on real Oracle database development projects while studying at Willis College. This enables students to gain the practical work experience that is demanded by employers today. As explained by Alcea's President, Robert Lacasse, "We at Alcea find Willis College graduates ready, willing and most importantly able, not only to meet but also to exceed the demands of the challenging Oracle environment. The Alcea and Willis College partnership recognizes the necessary fusion of industry and education that has become essential for both parties to maintain the cutting edge".

The lifelong love of learning extends far beyond the College's classrooms. In May, Willis College quietly donated technology support and training to the Kanata Seniors' Centre. Praised by Kanata Mayor Merle Nicholds she acknowledged: "Congratulations to Willis College for showing leadership in taking on this innovative partnership program to advance education in new technologies. Once again, Willis is demonstrating their strong commitment to the community. Thanks to Willis, Kanata seniors are going to receive the computer training and support they need to get connected to technology, and the opportunities this would open up to them.

Willis College is truly an e-Learning Enterprise facility. This College leverages its 104-year history of academic integrity with an unapologetic, high tech mandate, "What Willis College teaches, gets people jobs." The Willis message is clear - to keep pace in the 21st century, it is critical to "unlock your potential with e-knowledge - timely advice indeed.