

# University of Winnipeg Partners with Willis College!

## Willis College graduates receive course credits from University of Winnipeg

Willis College of Business & Technology's newest partnership with the University of Winnipeg will make it the first institute in the Ottawa area to combine university accredited management studies within its IT career programs.

The ability of individuals and companies to compete and thrive in our modern knowledge-based economy depends on current knowledge and skills. The highly successful ones are those that possess both strong technical and business management competencies. Increasingly, universities and high-tech training organizations are forming partnerships to complement each other's areas of expertise. The Division of Continuing Education of the University of Winnipeg and Willis College of Business & Technology have proven histories of assisting businesses and industry with their workforce development needs and of providing skills gap training. This synergy will greatly benefit the new mega city of Ottawa.

"By providing the University of Winnipeg's Management Certificate, our Ministry of Education approved diploma and industry recognized certification programs will set our graduates apart from other graduates in Ottawa. At the same time, we will be contributing even higher qualified resources to meet the ever-increasing demands of Ottawa's high tech sector," said Rima Aristocrat, President and CEO of Willis College.

The Management Program is designed and approved by the University of Winnipeg's Continuing Education. This program is designed to provide individuals with the essential management skills required in today's competitive market. The curriculum includes: Administrative Theory, Organizational Behavior, Finance, Human Resource and Project Management as well as Communications. Willis College graduates will receive two unallocated Faculty of Arts full course equivalents from the University of Winnipeg, which are then transferable to any other university.

"It is good to see another institution that takes pride in and is committed to offering high-quality training programs. I believe that this partnership would make Willis College the first institution in the Ottawa area to offer a university accredited Management Certificate Program within its technical career programs. As a result of the additional business knowledge and communication skills Willis College graduates will no doubt have advantage when entering the workplace." Richard Nordrum, Director, University of Winnipeg.

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



From Left to right:  
Richard Nordrum, University of Winnipeg, Willis 2000 award of excellence recipients, Merle and David Nicholds, Rima Aristocrat, President and CEO and Chris Bissylas, Vice President of Willis.

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.

ing 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 cooperation 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 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".

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.

**"Willis is not a community college but rather a college for the community"**

President and CEO  
Rima Aristocrat.



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.

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 understand-



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AND TECHNOLOGY  
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