The Institute For Computer Studies

by Barry Eames

Don't bother bringing an apple for the teacher to this school nobody has time to eat it! How does 22 weeks in a full-time immersion program with approximately 1,100 hours of instruction, lectures, and extensive practical computer time and hands-on workshops whet your appetite?

That's the main entree that students and instructors consume at The Institute For Computer Studies, 10 to 15 hours a day, five days a week. Then, for desert, they work some more on the weekend. The result? Results!

Consider this.

Information Technology (IT) is one of the hungriest, and fastest-growing industries in Canada with well over ten thousand career opportunities currently awaiting new qualified applicants. Other industries are downsizing, but the IT world is growing at a phenomenal rate.

"We have found (the graduates) to be well trained and motivated and our positive experiences with these graduates has led Linian to notify the Institute whenever we have an opening."

**John Oly,
Linian Systems**

As a member of the Microsoft Authorized Academic Training Program, the Institute's AATP membership allows them to offer diploma students Microsoft Official Courseware delivered by Microsoft Certified Trainers, a real competitive edge for the graduates. Under the Microsoft Skills 2000 initiative students are trained to support all aspects of Local Area Networks and Internet technologies and are prepared to achieve Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) designations.

"The Institute graduates that

To fill that technology gap, close to 4,000 professionals have graduated from the Institute's Diploma programs in the past 16 years. In fact, the Institute is the leading provider of these key people.

Instructors Brian Gray and Garth Miller of the Institute's North York campus, describe their classes as being about 75% men, mostly in their 30¹s, with over 80% having a post secondary education. They characterize their students as being typically very fast learners and hard workers, possessed of speed and intelligence, but not all of them necessarily with technical skills. Since many are in a career transition, they must start from "ground zero" to learn the language and infrastructure of the business.

we have hired...are hardworking and mature...that's been important to us. Their previous business and educational experience is definitely a positive added dimension to their technical skills."

**Ron Davidson,
Manager, Technology Transfer,
Footprint Software**

Students acquire more than just programming languages, operating systems or business applications. They learn how to apply the technology to achieve practical solutions while simultaneously developing the learning skills they need to acquire new expertise in unfamiliar environments.

All this within a dizzyingly short time. The intensive learning experience offers students unparalleled preparation for their new careers. As Linda Lilley, school Director for the North York campus says, "Graduates hit the deck running. Employers get a quick return on their investment."

And that, is a very tasty meal indeed.

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