



Information and Communications Technology Council
Conseil des technologies de l'information et des communications

Developing Tomorrow's
Workforce Today



RED RIVER COLLEGE CASE STUDY

The Challenge

Red River College (RRC) is a leader in applied learning and innovation, focused on contributing to Manitoba's economic and social prosperity. The college aims to meet as well as exceed the labour market's ever-changing requirements, and does so through regular student and employer feedback.

In order to continue to meet this goal, Geoff Bresch, curriculum planner for RRC is currently working to revamp the college's Information Systems Technology program curriculum to better suit today's multi-skilled workforce. Recent feedback has led to a need to refocus RRC's curriculum, in order to allow it to adapt to the changing ICT environment. The educational requirements of their students are dictated by industry and becoming more and more sophisticated. Mr. Bresch needs to design a curriculum to match.

The institution's main challenges are to:

- Find a comprehensive way to upgrade the ICT program curriculum
- Ensure graduates are being taught the essential knowledge, skills and abilities to succeed in the workforce
- Continue to analyze the ICT sector, and position themselves to deliver on the needs of industry

The Solution

Red River College had previously looked into a variety of models to help them redesign their curriculum, but the one that truly suited them was ICTC's ICT Competency Profiles Framework. Based on the learning outcomes, the framework offers post-secondary institutions a unique and cost-effective way to complete their curriculum. It not only

defines critical competencies needed by students to become ICT professionals now and in the future, but also puts a structure in place to assist educational institutions on how to teach those competencies. More importantly, as the framework was developed in consultation with ICT influencers, it can be used as a way to validate the college curriculum and ensure that it responds to the needs of industry.

"We were in need of a framework that would offer us not only the tools necessary to refine our curriculum, but also the means to confirm that our program is in line with industry requirements. The ICT Competency Profiles Framework fulfills both of those requests."

The Impact

Mr. Bresch expects the new framework to have a significant impact on the college's curriculum. The learning objectives will be the basis for class planning, and assist in textbook selection. It will also identify possible gaps in the teaching mechanism, and offer guidance on how the faculty can address these gaps. In essence, the framework offers a guarantee to students that the institution is delivering a program in support of producing ICT professionals with the necessary technical, business and interpersonal skills they require.

"The framework's learning objectives can act as a contract between the learning institution and the student. It becomes an assurance as to what we will teach them, and the knowledge, skills, and abilities they can expect to have once they complete the program."

Mr. Bresch anticipates the framework will help students become more knowledgeable about the ICT market, and assist them in making informed career decisions. Rather than the onus being on the individual to find a way to obtain the necessary skills, it allows RRC to work in partnership with students in order to ensure that they are well-prepared for the workforce. Industry employers can also be confident in the knowledge that RRC graduates will be appropriately qualified for any position. Mr. Bresch believes that with a rapidly changing industry such as this one, this essential framework has the potential to ensure success for everyone involved.



Canada

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RED RIVER COLLEGE
OF APPLIED ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY