

'I never would have believed...': A TeKnoWave success story

Two TeKnoWave students, Philip Vanevery-Albert, from Six Nations, and Angela Valley, from Manitoba, have been chosen to represent the Canadian Pavilion at next month's ITU Telecom Asia conference in Busan, Korea. The Asia Pacific region is the world's largest, fastest-growing and most innovative market.

The TeKnoWave program to develop 1,000 Aboriginal IT professionals nationally has been having great success.

Here is the story of one TeKnoWave student:

BY ANDREW SOUTHWARD,
MCSE student
TeKnoWave Pilot Program

As I sit here looking over the exams, essays and tests that I have completed over the last seven months, I find myself filled with a quiet satisfaction thinking about what I have accomplished in such a very short time.

I never would have believed that I was capable of achieving the grades I have obtained of late, such as 92 per cent in HTML and Web Design, 94 per cent in Business Management, 91 per cent in Computer Concepts, not to mention becoming certified in A+ Hardware as well as Microsoft Certified Professional Windows XP Professional.

Now, for the first time in a very long time, I am beginning to catch a glimpse of a very bright future that awaits me.

As I continue attending classes, studying every night, writing exams, etc., I find myself getting closer and closer to realizing my main goals: becoming MCSE certified by Microsoft, getting a Network Engineer diploma from 107-year-old Willis College and receiving a Business Management Program Certificate from the University of Winnipeg.

All of my above mentioned successes are due largely in part to having joined a program called TeKnoWave.

Without TeKnoWave, and having met some wonderful people such as Rima Aristocrat, Linda Zaluska, Glenn Myatt, John Leggett and Shellie Matthews, I am not sure where I would be right now.

These people have helped me to continue believing in myself and have encouraged me to persevere when I simply wanted to throw in the towel. Now, I cannot wait for the future, and I feel ready to conquer anything. "Don't tell me it's impossible!" I did not always believe that statement, but the TeKnoWave program has given me an incredible opportunity and has changed my mind and spirit.

My journey began a few years ago when I was feeling down and my life was going nowhere. I quit university to stay with my mother who was sick and needed to be cared for.



Riding the Wave: Left to right: Rima Aristocrat, President, TeKnoWave Inc.; Nicholas Shawanda, Odawa/Ojibway from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, Ontario, TeKnoWave student; Angela Valley, CREE from Fisher River, Manitoba, Student; Norah Gravelle, Algonkian-Ojibway, Temagami, Ontario, student; Andrew Southward, student; Philip Commonda, Algonquin/Anishnawbe, Kitigan Zibi Anishnawbe, Quebec, student; Jason Peltonen, CREE, Kapuskasing, Ontario, student; Christopher Brinklow, Mohawk, Tyendinaga, Ontario, student, and Charles S. Coffey, Executive VP, RBC Financial Group, TeKnoWave champion.

She was a very strong and spiritual woman who taught me about kindness, how to find the good in any situation, spirituality and to have and maintain a firm pride in whom I was as an individual. Although I was not improving myself academically at that time, we spent many a great moment talking with one another. This time with her will have an impact on me for the rest of my life. I became very complacent and satisfied in my little niche until one day her illness got the better of her.

While holding her in the hospital, she looked me square in the eye and at that moment, I could see the love she felt for me. There was nothing I could do to help her as the life left her body and her skin went cold in my hands. The next day I scattered her ashes into a river alongside where we used to talk and talk. As the current washed her away, I remember feeling that there was something that I must do for her. Most people would say that it was impossible to have helped her at this point. "Don't tell me it's impossible."

Shortly after my mother's death, I got a call informing me that my father had fallen ill with cancer. I immediately rushed to Montreal to be at his side.

If there is anyone out there that is feeling discouraged and thinks that

things are just too tough to handle, I have just one thing to say to you; "Anything is possible!"

I thought about quitting several times, and if it were not for Rima and her constant support and willingness to help, I would have. She gave me hope and pointed me in the direction of people like Shelley Hill at OFFC-GREAT Initiative. She did everything she could in order to help me through my crisis. I have an enormous amount of respect for Shelley Hill. She is a firm supporter of the TeKnoWave program and its students, and she is a true friend.

With all that was going on in my life, people were telling me that it would be impossible to finish my course under such conditions. I think back to what they said to me and find myself saying the words, "Don't tell me it's impossible!"

It's now the month of March and although things remain difficult I continue to persevere. I have overcome the obstacles that faced me and have come out on top. I now live with a young woman named Shellie Matthews who saw much more in me than a homeless Aboriginal. I love her with all my heart and I foresee a long and wonderful future together.

School is going well and I am starting to feel that nothing can stop me, no

matter what comes my way. I believe that the challenges and adversity I have faced have made me stronger and more dedicated both as a person and a student.

There is very little that I am afraid of anymore. I feel as though I can now handle whatever the future has in store for me and will be able to overcome anything.

TeKnoWave has grown into something that I could never have dreamed of. It is now a non-profit organization. The Pilot students are developing through TeKnoWave business opportunities of our own.

With Willis College's Entrepreneurship Centre mentorship, we are forming an Aboriginal corporation, voting on things such as who will be president, vice president, head of the IT department, etc and participating in business simulations.

TeKnoWave began as a course and is now becoming a way of life and opening doors to a future for me as well as everyone else involved. The people that I have met, have been an integral part of my journey and I credit the TeKnoWave program for giving me the opportunity to have a future that looks brighter each day. If there is anyone out there that is feeling discouraged and thinks that things are just too tough to handle, I have just one thing to say to you; "Anything is possible!"

The recipe for success in childcare – A blend of personal qualities and valuable education

It takes more than a nurturing personality to provide children with proper care.

While personal characteristics such as patience, understanding, enthusiasm and an inherent love for children are extremely significant, it is also becoming more important for childcare providers to have specific training in the field. Childcare workers fulfill a combination of basic care and teaching duties in childcare centres, kindergartens, nursery schools and centres for exceptional children.

While creating a safe and supportive environment, they play a key role in a child's intellectual, physical and emotional growth.

Having knowledge in child development, guiding techniques, health and safety, and how to cope with emotional demands are vital aspects of providing competent care – and quality education makes a huge difference. Childcare employers and parents alike are looking for this blend of personal qualities combined with learned skills.

To satisfy this demand, CDI College offers an Early Childcare Assistant program designed to equip childcare workers with valuable knowledge, skills and experience for employment as assistants in day care or early learning centres.

Students enrolled in this 780-hour program are instructed in early childhood development, program planning, communication, first aid and CPR, and other vital topics in childcare.

"Two main factors have spurred an increase in demand for trained childcare workers," said Diane Clement, Director of CDI College – Ottawa East campus. "First, more women in the workplace are of childbearing age, increasing the overall need for caregivers. Second, many parents feel more comfortable knowing that their child's caregivers are educated."

For additional information about the Early Childcare Assistant program offered at CDI College, call 866-426-9167, visit online at www.cdi.ca, or visit the campus at 1200 St. Laurent Blvd., Unit 261. CDI College is a member of the Corinthian Colleges, Inc. Global Network.

TeKnoWave www.teknowave.ca

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For further details, please contact the campus of your choice.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Tuesday, September 7

The Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board reminds students that **Tuesday, September 7** is the first day of school.

New to Ottawa?

If you are new to the Ottawa area we invite you to contact the Planning Department at 224-4455, ext. 2321 to find out which school your child should attend. New students should provide:

- Parental baptismal certificate, AND child's birth certificate or other government document to show proof of age;
- A record of immunization; and
- A report card from the student's previous school.

Kindergarten Eligibility

Junior and senior levels include children who will be 4 or 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2004.

Transportation

Transportation is provided for senior and junior kindergarten students who live at least 0.8 km from the school. For students in grades 1-8, the minimum distance is 1.6 km, while the distance for grades 9-12 is 3.2 km. Eligible secondary students who take OC Transpo buses to school will be provided with passes or tickets for the months of September to June.

Bus schedules are available on the Board's website at www.occsb.on.ca. Midday kindergarten schedules and regular am/pm routes will be made available at elementary schools on August 30. Schools may be contacted directly after that date. Information regarding school bus routes can also be obtained by calling the Board's Transportation Department at 224-4455, ext. 2336.

Adult Education

The OCCSB also offers a full range of learning opportunities for adults. For details, please call the Continuing Education Department at 224-4455, ext. 2503 or St. Nicholas Adult High School at 228-8888.

Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board
Catholic Education Centre
• 570 West Hunt Club Road, Nepean K2G 3R4 •
Telephone: (613) 224-2222
Website: www.occsb.on.ca

June Flynn-Turner
Chairperson

James G. McCracken
Director of Education

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

School Holidays

- Labour Day: September 6, 2004
- Thanksgiving: October 11, 2004
- Christmas Break: December 20 to 31, 2004
- Back to School After Christmas Break: January 3, 2005
- Mid-Winter Break: March 14 to March 18, 2005
- Good Friday: March 25, 2005
- Easter Monday: March 28, 2005
- Victoria Day: May 23, 2005
- Last day of school year for Secondary: June 28, 2005
- Last day of school year for Elementary: June 29, 2005

Professional Development Days
(all schools unless otherwise noted)

- Friday, October 22, 2004
- Friday, December 3, 2004
- (Elementary only — excludes all grades 7 & 8 except St. Michael, Fitzroy)
- Friday, February 4, 2005
- Wednesday, June 29, 2005
- (Secondary only — includes all grades 7 & 8 except St. Michael, Fitzroy)
- Thursday, June 30, 2005

High School Exam Schedule
(all schools semesters)

- January 28 - February 3, 2005
- June 22 - 28, 2005

Believing,
Discovering,
Achieving