

New programs introduced at Algonquin

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Anyone with an eye and heart for entrepreneurship would do well to take a new course at Algonquin College in Perth.

In one year - 48 weeks - students graduate with a diploma in business and the skills to start and run a small business.

Business teacher Monique Cochrane helped develop the program after running her own accounting, computer consulting and training business for 13 years.

"This is the nuts and bolts of establishing and running your own business," she explained.

She said she has seen many people invest money, time and energy in a small business only to end up with a business which doesn't reach its potential or, worse, fails. With an

leaving the Canadian market every year, Ms. Cochrane said business owners would have a clearer understanding - and a better chance of success - after taking this course.

"There are so many people I see learning on the fly," she noted.

Business students will learn how to set up an accounting system and learn how to manage a business effectively. Government regulations, business law and using the Internet to improve a business are also important topics covered in the program. At the end of the year, a two-week work placement gives students the opportunity to see a small business in action.

"They gain hands-on knowledge," explained Ms. Cochrane.

Class sizes will remain small to ensure students receive individual atten-

tion from teachers.

"We're committed to our students' success," she said. "Our doors are always open."

The course starts in August.

New carpentry course

Also new at Algonquin College Perth campus is the construction carpentry - advanced housing course. The two-year diploma program begins in the 2004 school year.

The first year of the program focuses on traditional construction carpentry, while the second year concentrates on modern housing techniques. In addition to mathematics, blueprint reading and drafting, students of the construction carpentry program will learn the sciences of healthy housing.

Healthy housing promotes resource efficiency

while constructing a building which will be energy efficient and environmentally responsible. Students are also exposed to science principles related to heat, moisture and air. The idea is to teach students how residential or commercial buildings operate as a system, and how properly sealing and insulating a building makes it more efficient.

Communication skills is also a course in the construction program, because it's important for workers on the job to make knowledgeable suggestions and provide informative feedback.

"We want them to be able to apply the skills they've learned and also communicate effectively," said program instructor Andy Cockburn.

He explained because the program's first year

covers the basics of building, someone with little building experience could still take the course. But he suggested the course is ideal for someone who has some building experience, and who wants to learn more about modern building techniques.

"It (experience) is going to be a definite bonus," he noted.

Construction carpentry graduates will be equipped for a variety of jobs.

"They can pretty much fit anywhere into the construction or housing market today," Mr. Cockburn said.

To apply for either of these programs, students must have a Grade 12 diploma. Mature students without a high school diploma are required to take an eligibility test.

Algonquin College is hosting an open house on Saturday, April 17.

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