

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE SIGNS TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE WITH IBM

OTTAWA, November 21, 2002: Algonquin College has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IBM Canada Ltd. to create a unique alliance that will enable various technologies throughout the College, and will result in a state-of-the-art technology briefing centre in the new Advanced Technology Centre.

IBM is investing PC, server and storage technologies into the briefing centre facility that will be housed in the new Algonquin College Advanced Technology Centre. IBM and its Business Partners will have access to IBM's new high-speed servers, storage solutions and e-business and application software for customer briefings, testing and benchmarking. Algonquin students will have access to the briefing centre and the state-of-the-art technology as well.

“Algonquin College and IBM are working together to establish a mutually beneficial, long-term strategic technology alliance agreement that will feature IBM technology at Algonquin College's state-of-the-art Advanced Technology Centre,” said Algonquin College President Robert Gillett.

This two-year strategic technology alliance, valued at \$2-3 million per year, also recognizes Algonquin College's expertise in e-learning and the importance of the Advanced Technology Centre to Ottawa's IT industry. As part of this new relationship, IBM Learning Services will be working with ACERRA, Algonquin College's Corporate Training Division, to jointly provide e-learning consulting, services and solutions to customers in the Ottawa region.

“Together, Algonquin College and IBM will work to enable faculty to integrate various software and hardware technologies into programs to enhance students' learning experience, and to develop joint business ventures with Algonquin,” said John Kutcy, General Manager, Education Industry, IBM Canada Ltd.

With this alliance, IBM becomes Algonquin's preferred vendor for all laptop, server and printer requirements for the next two years and will be making annual cash contributions to an Algonquin College IT Fund for Students, proportionate to Algonquin's acquisitions.

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1385 Woodroffe Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K2G 1V8

Public Relations,

Communications,

Alumni and

Development

Department

Office: 613-727-4723

ext. 7664

Fax: 613-727-7610



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"This alliance with IBM helps ensure that Algonquin College continues to offer cutting-edge technology-based education, and demonstrates the College's commitment to building the talent pool required by this whole region," said Algonquin College School of Advanced Technology Dean Morris Uremovich.

Algonquin College is one of the first post-secondary institutions in Canada to integrate wireless laptops into its curriculum. IBM will work with the College to further develop these technologies and provide Algonquin with the opportunity to access IBM's expertise in this area.

About Algonquin College

Algonquin College's 120,000-sq. ft. Advanced Technology Centre houses 30 labs and 18 classrooms; all but one of which are "e-classrooms". This gives the professors in the Advanced Technology Centre cutting-edge presentation capability through computer-projection screens, DVD's, VCR's, and full audio. There are approximately 800 computers in the Advanced Technology Centre, 60 of which are available 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week to students in the Access Centre.

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For more information on this media release, contact:

Dawn Dubé
Director, Public Relations
Algonquin College
Tel: (613) 727-4723 ext. 5192
Cell: 220-5291

Vanessa Benedek
Public Relations Manager
IBM Canada Ltd.
Tel: (905) 316-2815

1385 Woodroffe Avenue

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Canada

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