

CASE STUDY: Algonquin College builds custom program for the Building Owners and Managers Association of Ottawa

The need

The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) Ottawa is the voice of the commercial real estate industry in the National Capital area. The organization's more than 450 members include individuals who own, manage, service or support more than 60 million square feet of commercial, office, retail, industrial and institutional property in the region. BOMA identified the need for a flexible training solution that it could offer to its members on an ongoing basis.

The solution

BOMA Ottawa asked Algonquin College to build a program that would provide its members with the knowledge and know-how to safely operate buildings, including improve the buildings' overall energy efficiency and environmental management, and incorporate standard workplace competencies.

Algonquin's specially customized Building System Essential program includes a series of eight half-day seminars that address BOMA's needs. Content for the program was developed collaboratively by Algonquin College staff and the BOMA Education Committee. Each of the eight seminar topics is offered three times over a three week period to accommodate the schedules of the building operators.

The implementation

The program was launched in the fall of 2012 starting with Building Systems and Concepts. Other courses included: Air Conditioning Systems; Heating Systems; Air Handling Systems, Water Treatment and Fire Protection Systems, Building Control Systems, Energy Efficiency for Buildings, and Building Electrical Systems.

The outcome

Since its inception, the full program has run twice with each course accommodating up to 15 participants. Due to demand, several of the courses have run more than twice and a third program delivery began in April 2015.

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