

For Immediate Release

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Computer Science at Heritage College - Most Promising Occupation

Despite the downsizing trend in the IT industry over the past few years, Heritage College Computer Science graduates are considered valuable assets. As demonstrated in the following placement rates, graduates of the Computer Science Program continue to be highly employable.

Year	Placement Rate
2000	100%
2001	100%
2002	90%
2003	*More than 50% of students received job offers prior to graduation

Heritage College graduate employability is directly linked to the specific skills and learning focus of the Computer Science Program. This three-year career program has been designed to produce well-rounded information systems professionals for business, industry and the public sector. Small class size contributes tremendously to the success of students as does the co-op component of the program (i.e. 100% placement of co-op students in 2003). Carol MacDonald (CGI - Manager Consulting Services) states that:

As a Systems Integration Delivery Manager at CGI, I have hired Heritage graduates because they have a solid base in information technology concepts plus practical experience in current technologies based on coop and classroom work. They are enthusiastic, productive members of our team from day one and equipped with the tools to continue the learning process.

Heritage College continues to consult with their Program Advisory Committee in order to remain current regarding the demands of the IT sector. Comprised of professionals from the public and private sector, members reported at a recent meeting that entry level positions exist in both the public and private sector. Employers want strong junior programmer/analysts. As members indicated, "the IT market in this area is fairly vibrant compared to other areas". This position is further reinforced by Karen Snider in a recent *Ottawa Citizen* article, "Ottawa is thriving with an increasing number of small to medium sized enterprises. The number of technology companies has increased by 50% to 1500" (June 9, 2003).

In the publication, *Job Futures: World of Work*, by Human Resources Development Canada, Information Technology is cited as a most promising occupation in terms of future employability while Computer Science at the College/Cegep level is cited as a most promising field of study.

Students interested in applying to this program for Fall 2003 should contact Student Services or visit our web site at www.cegep-heritage.qc.ca for more information.

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