

media release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Award-winning software company partners with UCC CSOM students

KAMLOOPS – A local software company that's been recognized internationally by Microsoft and expects to start trading publicly soon on the Canadian Venture Exchange has recruited a class full of UCC computer students to undertake some important research and development.

eOptimize, which develops scheduling software for corporate environments, began working in January with Computer Systems: Operation and Management (CSOM) students in their final term to complete three projects involving programming languages.

The 15 students have been divided into four groups, three of which are building software, and one, which is acting as a quality assurance team that tests the work.

eOptimize has generously donated 15 licences for the most recent version of Microsoft Visual Studio.NET software – a gift that has gone through the UCC Foundation – so students are able to use cutting edge technology in these program-building projects.

Jack Mathews, UCC instructor in the Projects Management course, says the opportunity to work in this type of team environment using up-to-date software is extremely beneficial for students because it so closely mimics real world situations in the industry.

"Most of the time, the students are dealing with clients who are users of a product. In this case we have a team working with clients to develop a product. It's providing students with experience in a real working condition," he said.

The venture is also a first in terms of its scope. Usually the Projects Management course has students working in small groups for a number of different clients. In this circumstance there is only one client, eOptimize.

Dave Harestad, eOptimize's CEO, sees the partnership as something that could continue to evolve, especially given his confidence in the CSOM program. Harestad and the company's Chief Technology Officer Barry Baker, along with their Product Manager Dan Porter, are all graduates of CSOM and the company has worked with individual students on other ventures and projects in previous years.

T H E U N I V E R S I T Y C O L L E G E O F T H E C A R I B O O

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The atmosphere has given eOptimize the chance to get a first hand look at potential employees and this year's partnership will only add to that, said Harestad. "This is a good opportunity to have our product plans accelerated and creates potential for hiring."

It is also a great example of a joint venture between business and higher education, something that the provincial government is continually advocating, he added.

About CSOM

The Computer Systems Operations and Management Diploma has been offered through UCC since 1981 and is designed to produce graduates competent in programming languages, data structures, databases and files, hardware components, networking methodologies and other systems.

The main emphasis of the program is around the importance of problem solving methodology as well as hands on instruction in the most popular computing software and hardware, industrywide.

The Projects Management course has been offered since the inception of the program and has attracted clients from British Columbia and beyond. In 1999 CSOM students in the Project Management course were recognized for their innovation through a provincial executive organization in computing for a venture involving in-house training for an Alberta-based oil company, Suncor.

About eOptimize Inc.

eOptimize Inc. was founded in 1999 and has operations in Kamloops, Vancouver and Kelowna.

Their award-winning software company creates intelligent resource management solutions and components for healthcare and other industries. eOptimize delivers the only Web-based patient scheduling and resource management solution in the world that employs mathematical optimization to find the best solution for allocating resources in real-time.

In 2001, eOptimize received Microsoft's MEC Solutions Award for Best Vertical-focused Solution, honouring the company's About:Time(TM) for Healthcare scheduling product from a group of more than 700 nominees worldwide.

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