

ICC Leads World in "Web Systems Degree"

Web Programs Attract Students Seeking New Career Options, Enhancing Current Job Skills

It's not by chance that Illinois Central College was the first college in the world to offer a degree in web systems in early 2000. The leadership of faculty members Mark DuBois and Shari Tripp and Mark's strong ties with the World Organization of Webmasters (WOW) cleared the path. ICC was also the first to offer a Rich Internet Application Developer Certificate program in 2004 and has been recognized as a WOW Academy, meaning its curriculum prepares students to meet standards established by those in the industry (with input from such organizations as Adobe, IBM, Verizon, and Microsoft) Only eight colleges in the world hold the WOW Academy designation.

DuBois says many students enrolled in web courses already have a bachelor's, master's, or even doctoral degree, but need additional web training to do their jobs. Some seek the additional education to change jobs or pursue a second career.

Rob Mounts, East Peoria, is currently enrolled in his final class before he graduates this December with an associate's degree in web systems. He started the program in fall 2005 because he was burned out working as a middle manager dealing with material handling.

"I knew it was time for a career change," he says. "In management, I used computers a lot and saw

what the IT person was doing. I always found it fascinating to pick their brain. I'm an organized and methodical person so all the coding is a good fit. Plus, it keeps me out of the hot warehouses."

He credits the support of his wife, Melody, and children, Jessica and Connor, with helping him go back to school. Mounts left his job behind and pursued classes as a full-time student. "My wife had a decent job and was very supportive. Once I made the decision to go back, we did have to cut some things, and I make sure the kids get where they need to be," he says. "I'm basically Mr. Mom."

Jessica and Connor smile with pride when talking about their dad in his role as a student. "It's a good example for us," says 14-year-old Jessica. Seven-year-old Connor adds, "He has more homework than me so I really like it."

Now, Mounts seeks his first job in the web field, but admits it's not easy. "Many want someone with a bachelor's degree and two-years experience," he says of potential employers.

With WOW accreditation and a hands-on approach that emphasizes practical experience and the opportunity to work with real clients, the ICC web program provides students the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the marketplace. For those who seek a bachelor's degree, ICC has agreements with several colleges which allow the students to transfer their ICC credits.

Monique O'Reilly, Peoria Heights, is a full-time database administrator at Caterpillar Inc., Peoria. She takes web courses part-time. She was first drawn to study web courses when, as an administrative assistant, she took an HTML class to learn the basics for updating a web site. "I was hooked," she admits. "It combines programming and creativity."



For now, she is developing her own web design business on the side, but once she's earned her degree, she hopes to be considered for a job at Caterpillar where she can put her web skills to use.

"I enjoy making things work – like creating an input form that is both functional and creative," O'Reilly says. She has completed volunteer projects as well as paid projects for individuals, non-profit organizations, and small businesses and is developing her portfolio.

Currently, O'Reilly holds a web design certificate from ICC and continues working on her web developer and e-commerce certificates which she hopes to complete in Spring 2008. Her web administrator certificate and associate's degree should follow in Spring 2009.

DuBois said O'Reilly is typical of students in his programs. "These programs build on one another," he says. "Many of our students have more than one certificate. I always recommend that students start with 'web designer' to see if it's for them. I also suggest they get at least two certificates. Having at least two means they have more tools to use to solve business problems."

Another essential trait for students entering this field is the desire to be a life-long learner, DuBois says. "That is an absolute requirement. What you learn in the fall of 2007 will be ancient history by the fall of 2010. It's important that our students establish a network for continued learning and to foster the skills to develop that network," he says.

In addition to being a life-long learner, DuBois said human interaction is an aspect of web work that may surprise some. It's not enough for a webmaster to be holed up in a dark room creating, designing and updating pages. "It's important for web professionals to understand the business side and be able to interact with people. They must communicate and interact. Project management is a very important part of the work," DuBois says.

O'Reilly says web work is problem solving. "If you have an aptitude for solving puzzles... that's what it's like working with code," she says.

Both O'Reilly and Mounts are members of the ICC chapter of the World Organization of Webmasters. In fact, O'Reilly is the president and Mounts is the vice president. O'Reilly says being able to network with other professionals is a huge advantage. "If I need fast help with a coding problem, I know who to call," she says. "I can also learn more about the web professionals in the Peoria area and get more exposure for myself at the same time."

Rob Mounts, far left, credits the support of his wife, Melody, and children, Connor, center, and Jessica, right, with helping him go back to school.

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Web Programs

The groundwork for ICC’s world leading web programs was laid when DuBois started at ICC teaching C++ in 1999 and noticed there were no regular course offerings dealing with the Internet or World Wide Web. He developed a web technologies advisory committee who endorsed the program that was approved by the college and state. The college also added a second full-time faculty member, Shari Tripp, to teach web courses. Both DuBois and Tripp bring strong business backgrounds to their classrooms, and both continue their ties to business and the web industry with DuBois an invited presenter at the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) conference in Beijing, China, in April 2008.

All classes in the web programs are offered in both traditional formats as well as web-based, and students can choose the class that best meets their schedule and learning style. DuBois is quick to admit the online option is difficult and not for everyone.

Students who complete the degree or certificate programs should also be prepared to pass the corresponding WOW certification exam, and ICC has agreements with several four-year colleges and universities so students can transfer their web systems courses and pursue a bachelor’s degree.

For more information on web programs at ICC, contact Mark DuBois at mdubois@icc.edu or phone (309) 694-8432 or Shari Tripp at stripp@icc.edu or phone (309) 694-5402. ■

ICC Offers Classes to Fit Every Need!

For a class schedule, go online to www.icc.edu, or complete the form below, enclose in an envelope, and mail to:

Illinois Central College Marketing Services
1 College Drive, East Peoria, IL 61635
or call (309) 694-5-ICC or e-mail your request to info@icc.edu.

☐ **Send me a current Class Schedule!** www.icc.edu

☐ **Send me the PDI Computer Training Schedule!** www.icc.edu/pdi
indicate which version: ☐ Workshops for computer administrators or programmers who maintain, support, or develop software for computers or computer networks
— OR — ☐ Workshops for users looking to learn or improve their skills with software programs such as Microsoft Office, Dreamweaver, and Crystal Reports

☐ **Add me to the ICC FUNshopsSM Mailing List** www.icc.edu/funshops

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What are your interests (optional) _____

COMPLETE THIS FORM, ENCLOSE IN ENVELOPE, AND MAIL TO:
Illinois Central College, Marketing Services
1 College Drive, East Peoria, Illinois 61635-0001

ICC Web Programs at a Glance...

Web Designer – Certificate

This is a good starting point for those interested in the web field. You’ll learn about the basic look and feel of web sites, including color schemes and the use of images. You’ll also learn about usability and accessibility, which involves making sure that web sites can be used effectively by those who may have poor vision or who may use other assisted technologies.

Web Developer – Certificate

In this program, you learn about connecting web sites to databases. The course-work focuses on more programming and interactivity (like creating and completing online forms). Online security of sites is also a major focus of this program.

Web Administrator – Certificate

This program focuses on the “behind the scenes” portions of web sites and working in the server environment. Students will get a more in depth look at domain names and the legal implications of registering names as well as learning how to administer both Windows and Linux web server environments.

E-Commerce – Certificate

This program focuses on buying and selling online, both from a business and personal standpoint. Students will learn how to create “shopping carts” and the details of secure credit card use. Students will also take coursework to understand the scope of business, including accounting and marketing.

Rich Internet Application Developer – Certificate

This program uses more modern technology (such as AJAX and Flash) to make web pages look more like a computer “desktop” which means the navigation of the web page is more easier and more user friendly.

Web Systems – Associate in Applied Science Degree

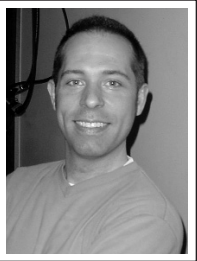
This degree program allows students to specialize as a web professional by choosing one of three tracks – designer, developer or administrator and prepares students to create and maintain web sites, including intranet, extranet, and Internet sites.

On the first day of classes at ICC on September 18, 1967, tuition was **\$5 per credit hour**, a first class stamp cost **5¢**, and the price at the gas pump was **33¢ a gallon**.

2,486 students registered to attend classes taught by 56 full-time faculty.

Stephen Stone Joins ICC as Manager Of Performing Arts Center

Stephen Stone joins Illinois Central College as manager of the Performing Arts Center on the East Peoria Campus. He will oversee the operations, production design, events and performances held at the college’s Performing Arts Center.



With a background that includes both performing as an artist and teaching at the college level, Stephen brings a unique perspective to the position. His first taste for being on stage occurred in high school where theatre and dance sparked his interest. He focused on ballet and modern dance while studying at the North Carolina School of the Arts and continued at the University of North Carolina – Greensboro where he earned his bachelor’s of fine arts in dance performance. For nearly 10 years, he performed full time on cruise ships, in Las Vegas, with the world-class Baltimore Opera, North Carolina’s High Point Ballet, several modern dance companies in Washington D.C., and more.

His experience in higher education includes positions at Governor’s School of North Carolina, Towson University (Baltimore), Western Kentucky University, and Wayne State University.

“Here in Peoria, I hope to integrate the arts community on both the administration and production plane as well as the performance side of it all,” Stone says. “I have found that there is a strong and discerning artistic community here which is in character with the historic vaudeville euphemism – “If it will play in Peoria, it will play anywhere.” ■

What Was Happening in 1967

- Green Bay beat Kansas City in the first Superbowl game
- PBS (the Public Broadcasting System) began
- Peggy Fleming won the World Figure Skating Championship
- Wilt Chamberlain sank 35 consecutive field goals and made 41 rebounds, setting NBA records
- Mickey Mantle hit his 500th home run
- Thurgood Marshall became the first African American named to the Supreme Court
- United States population exceeded 200 million
- First human heart transplant performed by Dr. Christian Barnard
- The movie “The Graduate” opened and was an immediate success

What was HOT in 1967

Go-go boots

Turtleneck sweaters

Bellbottom slacks

Mini-skirts

Granny glasses

Love beads

Tie-dyed shirts

“Flower Power” stickers

