

CIITE Phase 3.2 Project Status Report

Preamble

CIITE has demonstrated that the Ontario colleges, as a system, can facilitate access to relevant employment for immigrants. CIITE benefits communities in that it equips colleges to work with internationally trained immigrants to lead to an improved labour force. CIITE benefits colleges in that it equips colleges with the abilities to deliver products and services that are relevant to communities and bring additional students to college programs. MTCU has demonstrated its commitment to the continued provision of immigrant serving activities through the college system by granting \$8 million in funding for CIITE for the period April 1, 2009 until March 31, 2011.

MTCU Deliverables

Advise Internationally Trained Immigrants (ITIs)

MTCU Objective: To continue to effectively implement and refine an advisement system in Ontario's Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAATs), enabling the Project to support ITIs in attaining entry into the Ontario labour market.

MTCU Measure: Serve and track at least 10,000 ITIs who have been in Canada/Ontario 0 to 5 years and whose education/training was obtained outside of Canada over the course of the project.

Status:

- As of October 31st, 2009: 20 CIITE-funded advisors have served 4631 ITIs at 15 colleges.
- As of November 16th, 2009: 25.75 CIITE-funded advisors will serve ITIs at 18 colleges.
- The Advising Working Group is being established to inform project direction and will address topics such as remote advising, standardization of services, and sharing of best practices.
- The Technology Solutions Working Group is being established to inform project direction and will address topics and solutions to meet the needs of the Advising project. OCAS is a key partner in this aspect of the project.

Create, support and maintain the Record of Education and Experience (REE) / My Record system

MTCU Objective: Develop the REE/My Record and Employer REE systems to achieve the project objective.

MTCU Measures: (1) Create at least 300 new REE/My Record system client records. (2) Pilot the Employer REE system in sectors outside of the Build IT initiative. (3) Develop the REE/My Record system to include new access sites for a broader Ontario presence in addition to the 4 existing pilot sites. (4) Conduct a Privacy Impact Assessment of the REE/My Record system. (5) Incorporate the recommendations arising from the Privacy Impact Assessment into the system architecture within a reasonable timeframe.

Status:

- On September 20, 2009: the Phase 3.1 Credential Recognition pilot project ended; a report is forthcoming. The four colleges (Algonquin, Fanshawe, George Brown, Sheridan) that participated in the Phase 3.1 pilot are being asked to maintain their project activities until Phase 3.2 project activities are determined.
- As of November 12, 2009: 82 ITIs are participating in various stages of the REE development and completion process.
- OCAS has included aspects of the REE in its Legacy Redesign project to build an automated method to receive files from Credential Evaluation Assessors to process the information and share course by course evaluation information with the colleges.
- The Credential Recognition Working Group is being established to inform project direction and will address topics such as developing the employer version of the REE, expanding access of the academic version of the REE to non-applicants, including language assessment descriptors in the REE, and including additional PLAR information in the REE.

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- The Technology Solutions Working Group is being established to inform project direction and will address topics and solutions to meet the needs of the Credential Recognition project. OCAS is a key partner in this aspect of the project.

Marketing and promotion for advisement services and REE / My Record system

MTCU Objective: To promote and increase the visibility of the project in Ontario.

MTCU Measure: Develop and implement marketing and outreach plans that promote the Project to ITIs and stakeholders.

Status:

- The project marketing and communication plan is drafted and will be completed once the project sustainability plan is finalized.
- No official announcement regarding project funding beyond July 31, 2009 has been made by MTCU; therefore, the project is unable to make official announcements and statements pertaining to this phase of the project. However, colleges and the project office are free to speak about CIITE project activities that occurred in earlier phases.
- Recently, the REE was the focus of a positive Toronto Star article. This generated interest from other media and two interviews were conducted with CBC radio. Recently, presentations regarding the CIITE project were made at the ACCC Metropolitan Colleges Symposium and the TESL Canada Conference.
- The Marketing and Communications Working Group is being established to inform project direction and will address topics such as internal communications, external communications, and linking marketing and communications strategies with project sustainability planning.

Project Evaluation

MTCU Objective: To evaluate the achievements of the Project.

MTCU Measures: (1) Develop and submit a mid-project evaluation report to the Ministry in April 2010.

(2) Develop and submit a final evaluation report to the Ministry in March 2011.

Status:

- A call for proposals for a vendor to initiate and implement this activity has been developed and will be posted by CON*NECT on or before November 4, 2009.

Project Sustainability

Project Objective: While direct project funding for CIITE activities will end on March 31, 2011, the need for the products and services of CIITE will not. Given that CIITE funding will end in less than two years, the project will develop a sustainable vision for the CIITE project that is system-wide, fits Ontario's needs, and can be supported by the college system and structure.

Project Measure: Develop a sustainability plan that meets the needs of colleges and immigrants throughout the province and is endorsed by senior college leaders.

Status:

- On October 23, 2009: consultations were held with the CIITE Steering Committee regarding the development and promotion of a project sustainability plan. The feedback and input from this consultation is being compiled for review by the CIITE Executive on November 3, 2009. Once the plan is fully approved by the CIITE Steering Committee, it will be presented to the Committee of Presidents and other stakeholders.

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