

CompTIA A+ in Nunavut

The Challenge

Nunavut was created in 1999 as Canada's newest territory, spanning the eastern Arctic from north and west of Hudson's Bay to the North Pole. While the territory is making rapid advances in economic development, technical challenges remain such as providing ready local informatics support. With the recent introduction of broadband internet access, maintaining PC's is a critical factor in commerce and communications.

The Solution

The Nunavut firm Kiggavik Services contracted me to deliver a series of preparatory courses for CompTIA's A+ certification requirements. A+ is an industry-recognized benchmark of expertise in maintaining personal computer hardware and operating systems. Successful completion of these courses would allow students to set up their own businesses in PC maintenance or be hired by firms as recognized computer technicians. Funding for the courses was provided by Kivalliq Partners in Development, a regional economic development agency.

The Results

The first course was delivered in Rankin Inlet over eleven weeks, employing a curriculum provided by Willis College of Business and Technology. Four out of an eventual seven students received passing marks in the A+ Core Hardware and Operating Systems domains; three of them also received degree credit from the University of Winnipeg for their work. The second course was offered in Baker Lake over eight weeks, with three of eight students meeting the CompTIA A+ benchmarks.

Thanks to these courses, Nunavut is gaining valuable technical depth to promote real economic and cultural development.