

Northwest State Community College integrates ICDL into Database Programmer Certificate

Northwest State Community College is a public two-year college that offers 44 degree and 28 certification and non-degree programs. The college also offers non-credit classes on over 300 subjects through Custom Training Solutions, a division of Northwest State. These courses are delivered in face-to-face classes and through the use of distance learning technology.

Northwest State Community College integrates the ICDL program into the short term Database Programmer Certificate. They choose to include ICDL certification in the course because of its international recognition and its vendor neutrality. Entry requirements to the program are a pass rate on four ICDL diagnostics tests—Modules 1, 2 4 and 5. Coursework for ICDL certification tests are supplemented with classes on more advanced database programming so that upon successful completion of the program, candidates receive a data programming certificate in addition to their ICDL certification. The intensive 15 week course is full-time, Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm.

The course has attracted a mix of students, with ages ranging from 20 to 40 years. Many of those coming into the program have little formal training in computers. With the downturn in the economy, some had been laid off and were looking to retrain. The program had its first graduation on the 24th January 2011, with all of the class finding employment. The second class graduated in March 2011, and all that class found employment as well. In order that students who are still employed will be able take this certificate course, the college plans on offering this program in night classes and Saturday classes.