



DEITER ANTONIO ESTRADA SANDOVAL

Synergy between Private ICT School and Guatemalan Government Helps to Train and Certify Indigenous Population

In addition to certifying more than 700 students in Guatemala City, Centro de Computación works with government to provide computing-skills training and certification throughout Guatemala

PATHWAYS HAWAII—July 2008

Deiter Antonio Estrada Sandoval knows Guatemala is a small country with great potential. With that vision, Estrada founded and manages Centro de Computación IMB-PC, an independent information and communications technology (ICT) school in Guatemala City. As his business has expanded over the past ten years, primary and secondary school students and teachers throughout Guatemala have developed and certified vital digital literacy skills. Estrada anticipates these skills will give Guatemala's—and the world's—future workforce life-changing employment opportunities.



Working with the Guatemalan government, Centro de Computación teachers provide computing-skills training and certification to public school teachers nationwide. "They get a lot of computers to use in the schools, and the government has asked our teachers to help teach other teachers throughout the country. Through these initiatives, more than 5,000 teachers will have computing skills. From there, they will be motivated to prepare the students to earn certifications, too."

The Guatemalan government recognizes Centro de Computación as a leader in providing digital literacy skills. "The government has been very interested, because they see how we have prepared our students," Estrada said. "They asked for our help training their teachers because they want students throughout the country to be certified."

In Guatemala City, more than 700 Centro de Computación students attend ICT courses each year. Estrada said Certiport® Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³®) is part of the center's training solution because students need relevant skills that are validated against an international standard. "The world recognizes certifications," he said. "Students need to be able to go to any country and apply for employment. With their certification, they can end up anywhere."



When Centro de Computación first offered training and certification courses, parents of students didn't always understand the need for computing-skills certification. "Now, they look for it," Estrada said. "They know their children are going to have better opportunities with these skills. They realize if their children are going to graduate and be computer users, they have to be certified."

Centro de Computación students are often-imitated examples for other schools in Guatemala. "They know we offer very good training in this area," Estrada said. "Our students have IC³, and we are working to include Microsoft® Office Specialist as well. We give our students more than a basic knowledge of computers, because we know they



have to be able to meet standards. Certification is going to help them in the jobs they get in the future. They will be able to work in any kind of company because they will have this knowledge.

"In our country right now, we have many companies that are recognized throughout the world. To prepare our students to get jobs in these companies, we prepare them with ICT knowledge. It's very important for students, and they are going to get better salaries with these skills."

And, that, Estrada believes, will help improve Guatemala's struggling economy and increase the potential of his homeland.

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