Certiport IC³

Provides High School Students with Industry-Recognized Credential for School Credit and Workforce Preparation

IC³

CTEC

Canyons Technical Education Center

Location:
Utah

Total Enrollment:
140 per year

Success Metrics:
- Prepares students for advanced certification
- Satisfies high school tech course requirement
- Valued by employers and colleges

CERTIPORT®

Canyons Technical Education Center Validates High School Students' Basic IT Skills with Internet and Computing Core Certification

CHALLENGE

Every year, more than 1,000 Utah high school students spend part of their day in college and career training at the Canyons Technical Education Center (CTEC). The Sandy, Utah campus offers 19 programs ranging from Criminal Justice to Medical Assisting, including 4 technology programs: Digital Media, Network Systems, Programming/Software Development, and Web Development.

When Jeannie DelRio joined CTEC as the instructional assistant and test administrator seven years ago, the school had implemented Certiport's Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³) in the Academy of Information Technology (AOIT), which includes the school's four technology programs, however only a few students per year were earning the certification.

"We are unique for offering this industry-valued credential that will help students in the future and I wanted to make sure every student earned a certification to build their resume," says DelRio. "Students who come to CTEC have worked hard to make room in their high school schedule to spend their time with us, and our goal is to get them on the right path for the career of their choice."

DelRio set out to expand the IC³ program at CTEC by ensuring that every student in the AOIT earned certification.

SOLUTION

When Certiport made IC³ site licenses available, CTEC quickly switched from a voucher system to the site license to offer unlimited IC³ testing for one flat fee so every AOIT student could earn certification. As a result, the Business Management Program also adopted IC³ into their curriculum.

"The site license really made it feasible for us to expand the IC³ program," says DelRio. "Since we were already doing certification, implementation was simple, we just expanded the number of students who could test. Plus, students could retest if necessary without a strain on our budget."

The Utah State Office of Education gives high school credit for the IC³ certification, so students who pass can waive the high school computer tech requirement. DelRio and

her team created a tight curriculum where students work to get certified during their first quarter at CTEC so they can go on to focus on the more advanced certifications for their specific programs such as A+, CompTIA Strata IT Fundamentals, or Adobe Certified Associate.

Lezlie Harper, the AOIT department head, explains how they implemented IC³ in their curriculum at CTEC. "Each technology instructor teaches IC³ concepts and we set aside Mondays as certification day. On certification day students are expected to be dressed professionally. Wearing a suit or slacks helps students take this exam seriously, and helps them to understand that IC³ certification is preparing them for a career."

CTEC teachers emphasize the IC³ curriculum during the first quarter, and the students' study, take practice exams, and brush up on their weaknesses until they are ready to pass the exam.

Harper was impressed with how simple implementing the IC³ solution has been for many types of students and abilities. "The way we implemented IC³, students can jump right in and take the exam their first week at CTEC if they have tech experience. Or, they can study and we can work with them for months if necessary to get them ready."

RESULT

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"IC³ allows my students to demonstrate their competencies right out of the gate," says Harper. "I have several students who have landed jobs and scholarships with the help of certification."

"Earning certification became the main part of my resume, and I think IC³ is a great opportunity for anyone wanting to get ahead and have a better job."

– Will Frakes
Student,
Canyons Technical
Education Center

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