STS
المدرسة الثانوية الفنية
Secondary Technical School

SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Location:
United Arab Emirates

Program Enrollment:
3,000

Success Metrics:
- Validates IT skills for high school students
- Prepares students to enter workforce or seek higher education upon graduation
- Meets academic objectives for IT skills development

IC³®
INTERNET AND COMPUTING CORE CERTIFICATION
GLOBAL STANDARD 4

Secondary Technical Schools Equip United Arab Emirates High School Students with Industry Standard Basic Technology Skills

Internet and Computing Core Certification Helps Graduates Enter Workforce or Higher Education

INTRODUCTION

Secondary Technical Schools (STS) is one of seven schools under the umbrella of the Abu Dhabi Vocational Education and Training Institute (ADVETI), established in 2007 as an initiative of the Abu Dhabi Government. STS is a technical high school that provides training and education to more than 2,400 United Arab Emirates nationals in grades 10 through 12, with enrollment exceeding 3,000 during the 2013-2014 school year.

The STS vision is to be the leading provider of skilled UAE nationals for the local market and empower youth with the competencies needed for employability and lifelong learning. To those goals, STS provides students with a UAE high school technical certificate, which qualifies them to continue their higher education or enter the workforce and obtain rewarding employment.

CHALLENGE

The UAE has made giant leaps in the use of technology not only in academic settings but also in industry in recent years, leading to IT competency being one of the basic criteria to select employees. Since its establishment in 2010, STS has faced the ongoing challenge of graduating UAE technical high school students who are highly qualified in IT skills and can cope with the increasing demands of the workforce or higher education.

Another major challenge for STS is that industry requires graduates with internationally accredited certificates, particularly in IT and English. As a result, STS

"IC³ increases the employability skills of STS graduates and provides them with the ability to compete successfully in the employment market."

Dr. Adel Al Ameri
Managing Director
ADVETI

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continues to work to prepare students to obtain these certificates to attract top companies to hire their graduates.

SOLUTION

STS sought an internationally recognized certificate in IT to satisfy industry requirements and decided on the Certiport Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³) as the best choice

for STS students. The IC³ Certification includes three individual examinations: Computing Fundamentals, Key Applications, and Living Online. IC³ is not only a globally recognized certificate, it also includes a well-designed training package that equips students with in-demand IT skills. In addition, the IC³ learning outcomes perfectly match the objectives of industry in the UAE. Therefore, IC³ helps STS serve the twin focus of meeting industry needs and academic objectives.

In order to implement IC³ at STS, all ICT teachers became certified trainers, computer labs were designed to qualify as Certiport Authorized Testing Centres, and STS adopted e-learning. All hard copy textbooks were transferred into i-book format and students were provided with extra classes on Saturdays for extra training and support.

RESULTS

STS teachers are using industry best practices to prepare their students for the IC³ exams, and the certification is now a requirement for graduation. The first batch of STS students who took IC³ graduated in 2013, and all 300 students passed the exam. More than 3000 students are expected to graduate with IC³ certification next year.

ADVETI Managing Director Dr. Adel Al Ameri is pleased with the added value the IC³ certificate gives to students. "IC³ increases the employability skills of STS graduates and provides them with the ability to compete successfully in the employment market."

Director of Secondary Technical Schools Dr. Khodair Abid has also praised the IC³ program. "IC³ is not only a recognized certificate that adds to our students profile, it is also teaches important computing skills that positively contributes to the performance of students in all of the other vocational and academic subjects."