SUCCESS STORY

Milwaukee Area Technical College Helps Students Start Careers in Accounting with QuickBooks Certified User

MATC

MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Location:
Milwaukee, WI

Program Enrollment:
100 per year

Success Metrics:
- Helps students start career in accounting
- Validates skills using the most popular small business accounting software
- Builds resumes and prepares students for the workforcebuilds resumes

Intuit QuickBooks
Certified User

Students from all stages of life find confidence and jobs with industry-recognized certification

INTRODUCTION

As a public, two-year technical college, Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) offers educational and training opportunities to a diverse metropolitan area. MATC aims to help students start a new career or expand their current skills with 200 degree, diploma, certificate and apprentice programs, providing multiple paths to success. Enrollment tops 38,000 and an impressive 87 percent of MATC graduates are employed or furthering their education within six months of graduation.

The MATC School of Business offers a wide array of programs to meet student needs, including an Accounting Associate Degree and an Accounting Assistant Technical Diploma. The department focuses on preparing students for the workforce and has been training accounting students on Intuit QuickBooks as part of the program for many years.

"We have advisory committees made up of high level industry professionals in our local area and they tell us knowing QuickBooks software is extremely valuable and essential for getting a job in accounting," said Dr. Katherine Collins, Associate Dean in the School of Business at MATC.

A few years ago the advisory committee took their recommendation one step further and suggested MATC help students validate their QuickBooks skills with certification.

"These are the people that are going to be hiring our graduates, so we know that they are going to be more successful if we add certification to our program," said Dr. Collins.

SOLUTION

Intuit offers the QuickBooks Certified User (QBCU) program through exam provider Certiport. MATC was already a Certiport Authorized Testing Center for other certifications, so adding QBCU was simple. MATC made QBCU certification an integral part of their accounting programs, giving students a tangible achievement no matter which program they complete.

"We have a one-year program and then students can choose to go on for another year to earn an Associates Degree, enter the workforce, or transfer to a University to

"In addition to having the knowledge and skills provided by education, QBCU certification allows students to come out of our programs and really prove on a resume and in an interview that they have the skills necessary to do the job," said Dr. Collins.

MATC Accounting Instructor Tammy Metzke agrees and says after running the QBCU program for three years she has seen more than 100 students come through and find jobs based on the fact that they have their QBCU certification. "We have a lot of students with no accounting work experience, so we have to give them a

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> **Dr. Katherine Collins**
> Associate Dean
> School of Business at MATC

further their education," said Erin Dischler, Accounting Instructor for MATC. "QuickBooks certification is right there for them the whole way through, so they can earn that tangible certificate no matter which path they choose."

QuickBooks was originally taught as part of another class, but once they adopted QBCU the department decided to make it a required, standalone course. Now all students in the accounting programs take QuickBooks certification.

RESULTS

Dr. Collins believes the MATC students who earn QBCU certification are at an advantage for finding employment since the credential sets them above other candidates.

skillset on their resume that puts them in the yes pile. One of those things is absolutely QuickBooks Certified User certification."

QBCU certification helps MATC students in various stages of their lives. Some are earning an education for the first time, others are going back into the workforce. Sandy Rivers is retired but taking QBCU certification has allowed her to start a second career working from home helping a CPA. "The thing I like about QuickBooks certification is it gives you a good opportunity to find a job that fits your life at that point," said Rivers. "Being retired from my full-time job, I wanted something that fit into my life and QuickBooks certification helped me to find that."

ABOUT CERTIPORT

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