



**DERYCK NUTLEY**

## Scottish Colleges Incorporate Certiport IC<sup>3</sup> into IT Curriculum, Aligning National Qualifications with Global Standards

***IC<sup>3</sup> digital literacy implementation in 76 percent of Scotland's colleges that teach computing empowers students with national and internationally recognized certifications***

### **PATHWAYS TORONTO – July 2009**

When Deryck Nutley first listened to a presentation about Certiport Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC<sup>3</sup>®) in 2004, he quickly recognized the potential the program had to develop the computing and internet skills necessary for bridging the Digital Divide in his native Scotland.

"It really became quite apparent ... that it was very, very suitable for what we were trying to do in Scotland to meet basic digital literacy needs," said Nutley.



As manager of the IT Providers Consortium in Scotland (ITPCS), Nutley saw the potential for implementing IC<sup>3</sup> into the IT curriculum as a launching pad for more complex courses and to provide students—some of whom have little or no computing skills—with training that meets both national and international standards of excellence.

ITPCS, formed in 2004, was created to link the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) national certifications to other more widely recognized industry certifications, so that students undergoing training and certification would participate in and receive the benefits of both, said Nutley. The role of "lead centre" to spearhead the effort was awarded to Cardonald College of Glasgow following a tender submitted by Nutley. Since then, he has managed and helped grow the consortium to triple its initial size to include 76% of the colleges that deliver

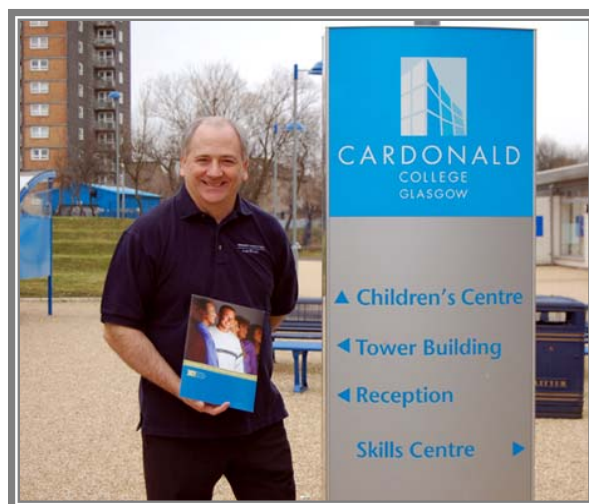
computer learning in Scotland. The consortium now boasts 25 member colleges and may still be growing with others that have expressed interest in joining.

The consortium focuses on two main objectives—to raise the digital competency of Scottish students and to give learners the technical support to develop their skills. Nutley provides administrative, technical, curricular and marketing support to the ITPCS member colleges. As the expert for colleges interested in implementing a digital literacy program, he recognizes Certiport IC<sup>3</sup> as one of the premier programs for obtaining Scottish and international certification.

The road to developing digital skills sufficient to earn IC<sup>3</sup> is not easy for everyone, Nutley said. Though keenly aware of the gap in knowledge and skills for those with no prior computing skills, he said IC<sup>3</sup> helps fill the skill gaps and meets the needs of not only adults who did not grow up with the technology but also younger students who never had the opportunity to learn.

"For some of these kids it may be their first certification success ever," said Nutley. "One thing that is important if you're going to ask someone to undergo certification is that it has to be obtainable and it has to be achievable starting from a zero skill-set. IC<sup>3</sup> meets that need nicely."

Nutley endorses IC<sup>3</sup> in part because of its attainability. The certification, made up of just three component exams, is generally easier for students to complete than other available





programs. He said IC<sup>3</sup> sparks students' interest and provides them with a good foundation for further skill development once they have achieved a basic digital literacy. Most of the students in the consortium colleges tend to seek more advanced IT training after obtaining IC<sup>3</sup>. In addition, he said the training makes students aware of the skills they need for success. With IC<sup>3</sup> and Certiport's well recognized and respected name in global certifications, students that achieve certification are job-ready.

"The actual achievement of IC<sup>3</sup> gives them a confidence boost and it validates the skills they're now really possessing. What we're looking for is empowerment of individuals—that they then feel competent," he said.

## ABOUT CERTIPOINT

Certiport prepares individuals with current and relevant digital skills and credentials for the competitive global workforce. These solutions are delivered by more than 12,000 Certiport Centers worldwide and include Certiport Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC<sup>3</sup>®), the official Microsoft® Office certification programs and the Adobe® Certified Associate certification program. For more information, visit [www.certiport.com](http://www.certiport.com).

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