

## Meeting the Needs of the 21st Century

UMBC recently opened its first ever limited liability corporation, the UMBC Computer Certification Training Center (CCTC). With more than 18,500 square feet of space, this new company is reaching out to corporations in an effort to meet the needs of a technology-driven society.

With already more than 600 students, the mission of the CCTC is to build the bridge between education and information technology (IT) workforce needs. Students benefiting from the CCTC are varied and diverse, from career changers and those wanting to return to the workplace to IT veterans interested in promotion or increasing their employment opportunities. Many students have already earned a degree in technology and are looking to supplement the theoretical study with practical technology certification.

CCTC's new state-of-the-art facility, located just off the Baltimore Beltway, offers such programs and services as A+ certification, Network+, i-Net+ certification, MCSE, Cisco CCNA, Oracle OCP and the Certified Internet Webmaster (CIW) program. The CCTC also hosts a series of career fairs to give students an opportunity to interview with employers from the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., area.

"The programs at the CCTC are invaluable to career changers," says **Doug Kendzierski**, information systems '86 and '93, president/CEO of CCTC. A recent national ITAA workforce study indicated that employers consider technology certification equivalent to a degree in terms of validating readiness for a job. "Employers want to see some form of demonstrated performance, which is either experience or a credential," says Kendzierski. "The certification validates that someone is functional within a very specific vocational track."

Kendzierski, also an associate vice provost of UMBC's Division of Professional Education and Training, spent many years as a student at the university and believes in the vision that has positioned UMBC as a national leader in technology education. "UMBC's strategy of rooting its efforts in industry-engagement is a primary factor in the institution's success," says Kendzierski. "The CCTC exemplifies what will become the natural evolution of a successful university continuing education program in the economy of the 21st century."

For more information about CCTC, call (410) 594-CCTC (2282) or visit the CCTC website at [continuinged.umbc.edu/cctc](http://continuinged.umbc.edu/cctc).