Educating the IT Workforce for the Greater Fremont Area

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

With campuses in Fremont, Omaha, and Blair, Nebraska, **Metropolitan Community College** has many workforce enhancement offerings, including a Green Data Center Management Degree. In collaboration with IBM, this is the nation's first to offer a Green Data Center Management Degree through the IBM Academic Initiative. This two-year associate's degree prepares students for careers in design and management of energy-efficient data centers. Other relevant courses of study offered by Metropolitan Community College include the following:

• Computer Technology Training
• Homeland Security
• Professional Skills Development

MIDLAND UNIVERSITY

Midland University is an undergraduate, liberal arts college that offers over 50 majors and pre-professional programs. They also have a Masters Degree program. Their list of majors include Computer Science and Business with a concentration in Management Information Systems. Students receive real world IT experience through work study opportunities in the IT department and Internships are encouraged. Students are able to combine a mathematics and computer science background in software development, programming or technical support preparing them to work in a variety of business settings.

Strategic Location

Fremont, Nebraska (population 26,397), is strategically located at the crossroads of major highway links to Omaha and Lincoln. Fremont's local educational institutions combined with the nearby metros provide a well-educated workforce to draw from. Fremont is 20 minutes west of the Omaha metro area (population 849,517) and 50 minutes north of Lincoln (population 258,357).

In addition to Fremont's local higher education schools of Metropolitan Community College-Fremont Center and Midland University, a strong system of IT programs exist at area colleges and universities. The University of Nebraska at Omaha, for example, is certified as a **Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance by the National Security Agency** and is also home to the nationally acclaimed **Peter Kiewit Institute College of Information Science and Technology**. Combine these facts with the much-admired and respected Midwest work ethic, and it's easy to see why so many technology-focused organizations have a presence in Greater Omaha.

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Below are brief descriptions and web links to the **Peter Kiewit Institute**, **AIM Institute** and the **Scott Technology Center** in Omaha. These are incredible resources for IT businesses and for producing outstanding candidates for employment in the IT Industry.

Scott Technology Center - www.scott-technology.com
The Scott Technology Center represents an environment optimized for the development and growth of technology driven businesses. From the incubator program designed for the purpose of assisting entrepreneurs to our heavily fortified and redundant datacenter designed to store business critical data, the Center has the programs and facilities to meet the ever changing needs of the information technology and engineering community.

The AIM Institute - www.aiminstitute.org
The AIM Institute is a not-for-profit membership organization that provides information technology leadership to Nebraska and the surrounding region. We help our business, educational, and community partners to focus and coordinate their IT resources. Working together, we help initiate the changes and improvements necessary to meet emerging information technology needs, build a strong workforce, and expand economic growth in our communities.

> **Recruit Talent - http://www.aiminstitute.org/community/community-growth.html**
> AIM fosters talent recruitment in Nebraska by helping employers, job seekers, entrepreneurs and communities connect with each other. AIM works with employers and communities to attract talent through its robust, online job-posting service; assists college students in finding jobs; is developing tools to attract and support entrepreneurs; and researches labor requirements.

Nebraska WorkForce Index -
http://www.aiminstitute.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=573&Itemid=617

The AIM Institute and Creighton University College of Business produce the Nebraska WorkForce Index (WFI) each quarter to reveal shifts in job availability versus labor availability in Nebraska. The WFI combines the AIM Institute's employer data with unemployment data from the state's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The index also reveals career field trends in the state.

Infotec® - http://infotec.org
This annual conference is the region's premiere event for individuals and companies interested in staying at the forefront of business technology. For many years, AIM worked with the founders of Infotec, AITP Omaha, to produce this event. Beginning with the 2009 conference, Infotec began operating under the new direction of the AIM Institute

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Fremont's Fortunate Proximity to Omaha, Nebraska

http://www.visitomaha.com/ is a link to many of the assets and opportunities available from our neighbor just 25 miles away; Omaha, Nebraska. Fremont's fortunate proximity to Omaha gives access to an abundant IT workforce and to numerous amenities for employees by way of a very short commute.

Affordable and Educated Talent Pool

The chart below shows an average wage comparison chart for Information Technology occupations in the Omaha Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes a 50 mile radius and Fremont is within 25 minutes of Omaha. With a large, local talent pool available from the existing employer base and college graduates within this 50 mile radius, Fremont offers both an affordable and abundant workforce at a cost that is less than the national average.

Computer Science Occupations
Annual Wage Comparison*

Occupation Title	Omaha AVG	U.S. AVG	Differential %
Computer Programmers	$65,360	$73,470	-11.0
Computer Software Engineers, Applications	$78,810	$87,900	-10.3
Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	$76,490	$94,520	-19.1
Computer Support Specialists	$39,250	$46,370	-15.4
Computer Systems Analysts	$69,230	$78,830	-12.2
Database Administrators	$73,930	$72,900	1.4
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	$62,890	$69,570	-9.6
Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts	$67,090	$73,830	-9.1

Source: May 2008 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, Bureau of Labor Statistics
* Estimates only. Not all occupations for this category are listed.

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