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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World class accreditation model for engineering technology and applied science profession launches full operations

Technology Accreditation Canada (TAC), a new, world class accreditation model for the engineering technology and applied science profession, has officially launched full operations following the successful completion of its pilot project with a Canadian college.

TAC is the brainchild of Technology Professionals Canada (TPC), a partnership of provincial technology associations in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, which realized that a review was long overdue for the decades-old accreditation system in Canada. TPC approached the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) to undertake a comprehensive third-party evaluation. The establishment of TAC is the direct result of that evaluation combined with three years of development and testing to achieve rigorous and consistent national accreditation.

TAC takes the accreditation process to the next level through objective documentation, competency definition/measurement and quality assessment, and ensures auditor competency through specialized training, testing and monitoring. Accreditation decisions are based on the program meeting clearly defined criteria and not on the subjective approval of a board of directors. Second-level process and annual reviews by TAC's governance and audit council guarantee consistency and integrity in TAC's national accreditation process.

"What this means is unprecedented quality assurance in the accreditation process for our educational institutions. Graduates from TAC-accredited programs are ready to start exciting, fulfilling careers in a diverse range of Canadian technology industries," said Sam DiGiandomenico, TAC executive director.

TAC accreditation gives colleges the confidence that their programs meet diligent third-party approval and directly embody the standards of the profession. Students will know that the program chosen reflects excellence in education, and offers an opportunity for learning and professional status after graduation. Employers will be satisfied that graduates are ready to contribute and bring real value to their businesses. Provincial professional associations (PPAs) will recognize that graduates from TAC nationally accredited programs have the necessary academic preparation to join the profession and that no further technical education is needed for certification.

TAC, a national organization with offices in Toronto, recently wrapped up work on its pilot project with Georgian College in Barrie, Ontario. Georgian College's electrical engineering technology program was the focus of the pilot that resulted in it receiving the inaugural accreditation.

Georgian College began participating in TAC's pilot project in late 2013 after applying for accreditation online through TAC's website. The pilot took place over the course of several months and included completion of a self-assessment by Georgian College, preparation of a draft audit report by the TAC audit team, and a site visit by the audit team along with representatives from TAC and OACETT in August 2014. Georgian College representatives attended TAC's board meeting in Toronto on March 11 where the accreditation was officially recognized.

"Georgian College is proud to have the first TAC-accredited program in Canada. It further demonstrates our commitment to quality education. TAC was wonderful to work with throughout the process and we appreciate their endorsement. We were impressed with TAC's effective and efficient approach to the audit process. While we have enjoyed excellent relationships with other accrediting bodies, TAC exceeded our expectations. We would have no hesitation referring TAC to our college colleagues across the system," said Kevin Weaver, dean, technology and visual arts, Georgian College.

TAC looks forward to assisting all educational institutions in accrediting their programs as it continues to receive enquiries and applications for accreditations from Canadian colleges.

Incorporated in 2013, TAC accredits engineering technology and applied science programs at post-secondary educational institutions. Its goal is to be a leader in the delivery of improved, efficient and effective national accreditation, using trained, specialized auditors, maintaining an uncompromising degree of quality control and assurance, and rigorously applying national technology standards. For more information about TAC, please visit www.technologyaccreditation.ca.

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