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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgian College program first in Canada to receive national accreditation by TAC

Georgian College in Barrie, Ontario has made history by being the first Canadian college to be granted national accreditation for one of its programs by Technology Accreditation Canada (TAC) – a new, world class accreditation model for engineering technology and applied science professionals. Georgian College’s electrical engineering technology program was the focus of a TAC pilot project that resulted in it receiving the inaugural accreditation.

“We are delighted to be awarding our first accreditation to this very deserving Georgian College program. It is the final step in the development of TAC,” said Sam DiGiandomenico, TAC executive director.

TAC was established by Technology Professionals Canada (TPC) in direct response to recommendations in a 2011 report made by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) which identified opportunities for enhancement in the existing accreditation system, such as clear, auditable processes and documentation, standards development, and training of auditors. The aim of TAC is to revitalize the national accreditation system for the engineering technology and applied science profession.

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.

During the site visit, the TAC audit team met with college administration, faculty, representatives from program advisory committees, alumni, and the graduating class, and had exposure to college facilities including labs and support services. They examined equipment, students’ graded work, safety components and student accessibility to equipment and labs.

Following the site visit, the audit team revised the audit report and it was submitted by TAC to its governance and audit council (GAC) which conducted a second level review of the audit process and approved the accreditation. TAC grants accreditation for five years only after which time a new accreditation must take place.

“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.

Georgian College representatives attended TAC’s board meeting in Toronto on March 11 where the accreditation was officially recognized.

TAC continues to receive enquiries and applications from other Canadian colleges for accreditation, and officially launches full operations this month.

TPC is a partnership of provincial professional associations in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Saskatchewan which together represent approximately 85 per cent of the technology profession in Canada.

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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