

Learning Impact Awards

The Challenge

Technology is changing what it means to be learn at an exponentially increasing pace. Most classroom learning currently consists of “chalk and talk” lectures and video-based online curricula. However, for technical colleges and students pursuing roles in IT and engineering, passively listening to theory and watching someone else go through examples is not enough.

Universities must be able to keep up with not just what students need to learn, but what tools they need to learn it. The impact of guiding students to learn the latest technology, using the latest technical tools, is a generation of graduates who will be able to gain hands-on experience, secure jobs, keep up with workforce competition, and gain confidence for their future careers.

The Solution

XtremeLabs partnered with the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary, Canada to deliver its extremely successful Fast Track IT program for students ranging from undergraduates to mid-career professionals. The key part of the curriculum was Xtremelabs’s digital hands-on learning Labs platform in two rich and accelerated programs for learners to gain expertise as Technology Analysts or Business Intelligence experts. The Technology Analyst program runs once a year and the Business Intelligence program runs twice a year.

XtremeLabs Digital Hands-On Learning labs utilize LTI to integrate with various Learning management systems and other technology organizations with the educational technology ecosystem. The integration support high stakes performance-based testing and results are seamlessly passed by to the LMS.

Learning Impact Outcomes

Both programs have a learner job placement rate of 92%. Seven distinct courses use 40+ The Digital Hands-on Learning Labs spanning 100+ exercises to complement and enrich synchronous and asynchronous learning.

The Fast Track IT program is one of the most successful programs the SAIT. The ability to continuously practice scenarios, build solutions and then tear them down and start all over again develops not only the skills but also confidence in the learners. The Fast Track IT program has a placement rate of 92% and has a 0% drop out rate. After completing the program, the learners continue using the XtremeLabs Digital Learning Labs 3-6 months after completing the program. This allows them to further solidify skills and knowledge even when they are back in the workforce or upon starting their new career.

Return on Investment

Integrating XtremeLabs digital hands-on Learning Labs platform has been a seamless and low-cost initiative for SAIT. With zero-cost LTI connectivity, XtremeLabs learning labs were integrated into the institution’s already existing LMS, resulting in easy adoption by instructors and students. The pricing model was based purely on consumption, with *no recurring, upfront or one-time costs*. Costs were incurred only for enrolled students. The simple interface, instruction guides, training videos allowed for minimal time spent by teaching staff to master the XtremeLabs platform.

As outlined earlier, SAIT programs have been very successful based on student outcomes as well as allowing SAIT to gain additional students through direct enrollment and partnerships, yielding a great ROI by using XtremeLabs.