



Developing Strategies

Learning made convenient

Learning is about engagement and relevancy. It's also about convenience. Anna Maria Brown finds all three elements in the courses she has taken through Saint Mary's Executive and Professional Development.

Anna Maria, financial administrator for the Canadian Center for Vaccinology at the IWK Health Centre, has been participating in these programs since 2005. "Saint Mary's makes it easy to learn," says Anna Maria. "There is an extensive offering of courses in the fall, winter, and spring. That flexibility fits with my work – and my life."

For Anna Maria, taking courses like those in the certificate program also enable her to conveniently meet the continuous professional development requirements of her membership in the Certified Management Accountants of Canada.

That convenience is complemented by relevancy. Learning must mirror the real world and offer solutions that can be applied when you're back at your desk, says Anna Maria. "It's the real-life learning experiences that keep me coming back."

The instructors also earn high marks from Anna Maria, who has completed her *Certificate in Team Building and Group Dynamics*. "They are so knowledgeable and provide us with valuable materials and an interactive learning experience," she says. "Interaction is especially effective for helping participants understand and absorb what we're learning."

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Anna Maria remembers one course on managing diverse personalities in the workplace that was "especially relevant" for her. "It provided me with a great framework for dealing with the differences between members of a team that can result in conflicts," she says.

Her classmates are also an important factor in effective learning. In fact, Anna Maria says she was surprised by the wide range of sectors and industries that participants' represented. "In one class, you can have a mix of IT, energy, manufacturing, and government professionals. This provides an excellent opportunity to learn from each other."