

Developing Perspective

Learning from each other

Quality, flexibility, accessibility. Those are the three elements that are most important to Ashley MacPherson in a professional development program. She found all three in the ***Master's Certificate in Project Management*** at Saint Mary's University.

Ashley, a manager with the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, was new to her job when she took the Executive and Professional Development program and had concerns about the timing and the fit. Those concerns were quickly allayed.

"All of my apprehensions disappeared after the first 15 minutes. I learned that I, too, had a lot to share and could participate wholeheartedly," says Ashley.

"The atmosphere fostered candid discussions, laughter and a sense of community, she adds. "I really loved spending time with the people in the room."

Learning from expert and engaging instructors was a key factor in the success of her program, says Ashley. And, she notes, so were the participants themselves. "Our group had new graduates as well as project managers who had been in the field for over 20 years. It was great to hear and share in the experiences and knowledge around the room. The perspectives were always balanced extremely well with the facilitator's knowledge and coursework."

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For Ashley, the real value derived from the Master's Certificate in Project Management came after the program ended. "Since taking the course," she says, "I have a better understanding of procurement documents, evaluations, and contracts."

On a personal level, Ashley notes, the certificate program helped reaffirm her career path. "This course provided me with the opportunity to think outside of the box in terms of my career path. I have an arts degree and an education degree and never thought that I would be involved in project management.

"Now that I have had the opportunity to hear stories and share experiences at Saint Mary's," says Ashley, "I know this is the path for me."

