



The First Society in Computing

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ACM LAUNCHES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM TO ADDRESS MEMBERS' CAREER NEEDS

Professional Development Centre Offers Technology Courses At No Charge

New York, September 17, 2002 -- ACM has inaugurated an educational program to help members keep up with the latest Information Technology developments. The new benefit, available through the newly created Professional Development Centre, offers professional members unlimited access to nearly 200 web-based technology training courses at no charge. ACM is partnering with Sun Educational Services for this program, which also offers more than 500 additional courses to professional members at a discount. The program is designed to help members advance their technical knowledge in their current specialties, learn new skills in related fields, and improve their prospects for a satisfying career in the IT field. When offered on a retail basis without an ACM professional membership, these courses average about \$200 each, with some costing up to \$600.

These web-based courses, accessible from a desktop computer 24/7, offer individualized instruction, allowing participants to learn at their convenience and at their own pace. Many courses feature state-of-the-art audio and animation as well as interactive tools to enliven the learning process, including progress maps, glossaries, discussion and chat rooms, quizzes, messaging capabilities and mentoring. The PD Centre also offers ACM student members a limited number of courses at no charge, as well as access to all of the discounted courses.

"We've selected course topics that members have told us in surveys and focus groups are of significant value to their professional development, ranging from basic levels to cutting edge content," said ACM Associate Director Fred Aronson, who oversees the Professional Development Centre program. Among the topics to be offered are Java, C and C++ Programming, Object-Oriented Programming, and Web Publishing as well as Telecommunications, e-Business Applications, Networking and Security, and Project Management.

These courses will enable ACM professional members to manage their career development with an exciting array of choices,” said Lillian Israel, Director of Membership. “For example, if you want to pursue programming, you can choose from courses on the basics of Java technology to advanced courses for designing graphical user interfaces in Java,” she said.

To launch its Professional Development Centre, ACM is partnering with Sun Educational Services (SES), a recognized leader in technical education programs, as well as other course providers who offer the caliber of courses that are consistent with the high quality members expect from ACM programs. To help maintain these quality standards, participants will be asked for feedback on particular courses they have taken, as well as other topics of interest.

As part of ACM’s partnership with SES, the PD Centre offering includes courses provided by DigitalThink and Telecommunications Research Associates. Both of these companies are experienced purveyors of e-learning and greatly expand the range of free courses available to professional members.

About ACM

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) is a major force in advancing the skills of information technology professionals and students. ACM serves its global membership of 75,000 by delivering cutting edge technical information and transferring ideas from theory to practice. ACM hosts the computing industry’s leading Portal to Computing Literature. With its journals and magazines, special interest groups, conferences, workshops, electronic forums, Career Resource Centre and Professional Development Centre, ACM is a primary resource to the information technology field. For more information, see www.acm.org.

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